

Wishing You A Happy Purim!

The Kustanowitz Kronikle

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Special Purim Edition

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NEW TALMUD FRAGMENTS FOUND BY UN WEAPONS INSPECTORS

'Documents of Mass Confusion' Unearthed; Scholars Mystified

Special to the Kustanowitz Kronikle

BAGHDAD, March 18 — In a stunning, unexpected discovery while searching for Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction, United Nations weapons inspectors have once again stumbled upon a cave containing previously unknown tractates of what has become known as the Talmud Baghdadi. The first collection of rabbinic disputations was discovered after the Gulf War, and more documents were found by the UN inspection teams of 1998. These tractates — Fressin (the laws of preparing and partaking in a shul kiddush), Nappin (the laws of taking Shabbat afternoon naps), and Meetin (the laws of conduct during shul meetings) — were discussed and samples printed in this publication in 1991 and 1998. (See www.kustanowitz.com for these archived Purim issues.)

The new cache of manuscripts includes Tractates Tantzten (the laws of mixed dancing — see sample below), Patchen (the laws of child discipline), and a tantalizing fragment of a Tractate whose name seems to be Sht_pp_n. Not all of the letters can be discerned, but experts believe this to be either a compendium of the laws of pushing and shoving in crowds or stuffing a turkey for Thanksgiving. Some scholars believe that it is an allegorical work alluding to more intimate behavior. Other non-Talmudic documents were also found in the cache, including the one shown here, but scholars have not yet been able to decipher their purpose or meaning.



MYSTERY DOCUMENT: Also found among Talmud fragments

It's Oscar Time! The Kronikle Presents:

ESTHER'S & SIMMY'S PICKS FOR THE 2002 ACADEMY AWARDS



CATCH ME IF YOU CAN: A 9 year-old boy escapes from the shul's Shabbat morning children's group, and the group leader spends two hours chasing him around the synagogue.

IGBY GOES DOWN: Isaac Gavriel Bar Yosef leaves his Meah Shearim yeshiva in Israel to explore the world of modern Orthodoxy in America.

TWO WEEKS NOTICE: After a particularly grueling day of hamantash baking, a single balabusta falls asleep and wakes up a mere 14 days before Seder night.

ADAPTATION: A group of feminists hack into the computer system at ArtScroll, and write their own version of the Passover Haggadah.

DIVINE SECRETS OF THE YAYA SISTERHOOD: The Sisterhood of Kehilat Yaya in Teaneck plan a secret social dance with the members of the Men's Club.

ATTACK OF THE CLONES: Confusion abounds as thousands of male teenagers return from their year of studying in Israeli yeshivot, all looking and acting exactly the same.

THE SUM OF ALL FEARS: A wave of panic comes over an Orthodox rabbi when he realizes — over breakfast — that the day is, in fact, Tzom Gedaliah.

THE TALMUD BAGHDADI Tractate *Tantzten*: A Sample Page

MISHNA: From what time is mixed dancing permitted at a wedding celebration? The Gilui Rosh says: From when the sages put on their hats and head for the coatroom. The Farkrimpte Punim says: From when the Viennese table is brought out.

GEMARA: The Nechtiger Tog asks in the name of the Farbissener Kop: Why would the sages go to the coatroom while the band is still playing? The Vilde Chaye answers: Because they have to check to see if anyone is using the coatroom to engage in premarital sex. [The Gemara asks] Why should they be checking just at this time? The Unge Potchker answers: Because premarital sex could, chas vechallah, lead to mixed dancing. The Etzba B'AF asks: What does the Viennese table have to do with mixed dancing? The Regel BaPeh answers: The waltz was invented in Vienna, so anything Viennese can bring on a sudden urge to dance with a partner of the opposite sex. The Grobber Yung takes up the questioning: But what if two wedding celebrations occur at the same time — can a guest attend both in the same evening? The Punkt Farkert brings a proof from a famous B'raita [external source] — "Mit einem tuches ken men nit tantzen of tzei chassenes."

(Editor's note: The sages of the Talmud Baghdadi were blessed with miraculous vision that enabled them to know future languages and cultures.)

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