

The Kustanowitz Kronikle

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Special Purim Spoof Edition

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MORE RARE TALMUD BAGHDADI VOLUMES DISCOVERED IN ABANDONED ISIS CITIES

*New Tractates Cover Laws of Supermarket Shopping;
Include Koifin, Hondlin, Kvetchin, Shtuppin, Noshin, and Shleppin*

FAIR LAWN, March 1 – Six months after ISIS forces were driven from Mosul, Iraq, the same team of archaeologists who discovered the long lost Talmudic tractates *Nappin*, *Fressin*, *Meetin*, *Tantzen*, and *Patchen* (reported in the Kronikle Purim issues of 1991, 1998, 2003, and 2016) announced the unearthing of tractates *Koifin*, *Hondlin*, *Kvetchin*, *Shtuppin*, *Noshin*, and *Shleppin*.

These volumes, found rolled up in a cave near the city, describe the debates among fifth-century rabbis about the laws of supermarket shopping – buying, bargaining, squeezing, shoving, sampling, and delivery.

The tractates reveal previously unknown details about the everyday lives of ordinary citizens as they go about their tasks of shopping in supermarkets. Here are highlights of some of the rabbinical debates and discussions in each volume:

Koifin: Can you buy foods that are made from mixtures of dissimilar substances that might be a violation of the laws of *shatnez* and *kilayim*? Does the ban include chocolate chip cookies, fudge swirl ice cream, and raisin bran?

Hondlin: Can you bargain for a lower price with the produce manager or the cashier? Does the store owe you money if you present coupons worth more than the cost of the item?

Kvetchin: Which grocery items are you permitted to squeeze? (See sample on this page).

Shtuppin: If someone is blocking the aisle with a shopping cart, how much force can you use to push them out of the way? How many lashes do you get for shoving your cart into someone's cart in the parking lot? How much compensation does the shovee get?

Noshin: How many boxes of cookies can you open before paying while shopping with your crying, annoying child?

Shleppin: When checking out at the supermarket, should you consider environmental damage caused by paper and plastic bags, or insist on paper in plastic, damn the environment?

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THE TALMUD BAGHDADI Tractate Kvetchin: A Sample Page

MISHNA: When buying grapes one may squeeze and taste one grape before checking out to see if it is fresh and sweet. When buying toilet paper it is forbidden to squeeze the package as it is written in a *baraita* (ancient writing) "Please don't squeeze the Charmin."

GEMARA: The *Etzba B' Af* asks: If you can't decide which of two bunches of grapes you want to buy, can you taste a grape from each bunch? The *Regel BaPeh* says yes, but only if they are the same color (red, green, or black). The *Punkt Farkert* disagrees and says that it is permissible to taste one grape of each color. The *Grobber Yung* interjects that if one checks out and pays with cash, when receiving change one must be careful not to squeeze or even touch the hand of the checkout clerk lest it lead to mixed dancing.

It's Movie Awards Time! The Kronikle Presents:



**THE KUSTANOWITZ KIDS' PICKS
FOR THE 2017
SILVER GRAGGER MOVIE AWARDS**

Complete coverage on page 2

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FOR THE 2017 SILVER GRAGGERS**

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Golden Globes and the Critics Choice Awards were a good warm-up act. Now, before the Oscars are awarded, the Kronikle presents its own Silver Gragger Awards for the outstanding film achievements of 2017.



THREE BILLBOARDS OUTSIDE NEWARK, NJ: When a series of bacon-flavored products is accidentally certified kosher, local rabbis put up billboards to alert the locals in the only location they can collectively afford.

GET OUT: After hosting a three-day *yuntif*, one brave woman makes the controversial decision to be honest with her in-laws.

OY TANYA: *Tana'im* and *Amoraim*

square off in an Olympic battle for Talmudic supremacy.

THE SHAPE OF WATER: A fight breaks out when an ultra-Orthodox Shabbat dinner guest learns that his host made the ice cubes after sundown.

DARKEST HOUR: The tense family tale of what happens in that last hour of Shabbat, when all the daylight has faded and before three stars are visible.

WONDER WOMAN: The story of every Jewish woman for the weeks between Purim and Passover (and year-round).

LADY BIRD: A lonely man falls in love while swinging a chicken around his head during *Kapparot*.

JEWMANJI: Friday afternoon, four young Orthodox Jews get sucked into a video game and have to figure out how to escape before sundown arrives and they're trapped in the game over Shabbos.

THE BIG SICK: A community suffers the gassy aftermath of a cholent cook-off.

ALL THE MONEY IN THE WORLD: The son of the community's biggest donor has an idea to fund both his extravagant lifestyle and the new shul building, and enlists the shul president to help in his own kidnapping and ransom scheme.

CALL ME BY YOUR NAME: While receiving his first-ever Aliyah, a *baal t'shuva* panics on the *bima*, putting the *gabbai* in an awkward position.

BABY DRIVER: After going into labor on Shabbat morning, an observant couple finds a controversial loophole that allows them to drive home from the hospital.

DOWNSIZING: A mohel is barred from performing circumcisions when he takes a *bris* one step too far.

PHANTOM THREAD: A *shatnez* checker looks the other way when a wealthy customer shows up wearing a suit made from both wool and linen.

THE POST: An Orthodox neighborhood is thrown into turmoil when the synagogue website posts a notice that the *eruv* has been inspected and is up, when in reality there is a gap that renders it invalid for carrying on Shabbat.

THE INSULT: A wealthy congregant storms out of the synagogue when the *gabbai* bypasses him for an *aliyah* on the Shabbat after he completes a trip to Israel.

**KRONIKLE ACCUSED OF FAKE NEWS
REPORTING FOR DECADES**

FAIR LAWN, March 1 – The National Newspaper Association has accused The Kustanowitz Kronikle of reporting false news every year since its establishment in 1988.

Curiously, the issues charged with printing fake news have all been published in the month of March. The headlines in question are nothing short of outrageous, painting a picture of a world turned upside down. Some examples are:

RABBIS TO REQUIRE SHECHITA FOR FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
AMERICA ONLINE BUYS EL AL; NEW AIRLINE TO FLY AS AOL-AL
ALL U.S. SYNAGOGUES TO CLOSE; TO BE REPLACED BY TEXTING
OU DIVERSIFIES; SUPERVISION PLANNED FOR CLOTHING AND PEOPLE
KASHRUT CERTIFIERS RUN OUT OF PRODUCTS TO CERTIFY

A special prosecutor has been appointed to investigate the charges of fake news and collusion with the Jewish Humor Central website. Kronikle publisher Al Kustanowitz was asked by the mainstream media if the charges have any merit. His response? "Fake news? Collusion? Get a life – it's Purim!"

**MEET THE SAGES OF
THE TALMUD BAGHDADI**



We have learned much from the pages of the *Talmud Baghdadi*, but few of us know the sages behind the pages. Here are some brief profiles of the sages quoted in the excerpts from Tractate *Kvetchin* and the other volumes:

The *Groisser Fresser* was one of the biggest of the sages, literally. His positions were strict, but he tended to be more lenient in his opinions whenever they served to permit the consumption of more food.

The *Punkt Farkert* was a regular opponent of the *Groisser Fresser*, and took great pleasure in refuting every one of his arguments.

The *Etzba B'af* was widely known for his penetrating analysis, but did not have many friends because of a lack of personal hygiene.

The *Regel BaPeh* had an uncanny ability to offer soundly reasoned arguments, but somehow tended to use them to undermine his own position.

The *Ohf Hagadol*, always one to seek compromises and find peaceful solutions, was the tallest of the sages but his skin had a yellowish cast, with an almost feather-like texture.

The *Grobber Yung*, as wide across as the *Ohf Hagadol* was tall, made his mark by barging in to discussions among the more revered sages, punctuating his remarks with obscure references.

The *Rodef Kessef* had a sharp mind for business, and always managed to voice opinions that maximized his financial opportunities.