

Summary of Contents

A. Walfish's article, which opens this issue, notes difficulties regarding the redaction of Mishnah Horayot Chapter 1, and suggests that differences between the presentations of the subject in the Torah and in the Mishnah reflect the halakhic and conceptual emphases of the Mishnah redactor. The author compares the Mishnah with parallel passages in the Sifra and suggests an understanding of the development of the halakhic subject under discussion.

D. Fixler presents a new translation of the Rambam's Mishnah Commentary to three mishnayot in tractate Avodah Zarah. The translation is based on the Rambam's own manuscript, to which Rav Yosef Kafih had no access when he prepared his edition of the Rambam's Mishnah Commentary. The author explains the passages from the Mishnah Commentary and points out significant variants contained in this manuscript.

Y. Witztum deals with the discussion in BT Bava Kamma 17a of the laws derived from the mourning practices observed after the death of King Hizkiyahu. The author suggests a solution to difficulties in the talmudic passage, basing himself on careful investigation of textual variants and a comparison with a parallel passage in the Talmud Yerushalmi.

A. Schremer investigates the meaning of the expression "*akshei lei v'okmei*" (Bava Kamma 117a) and supports his view, which he suggested in an earlier article, that this expression should be understood as: "he raised a challenge which cannot be resolved".

I. Rozenson notes chronological discrepancies in the list of sages cited in the first two chapters of Avot, focusing in particular on the omission of Rabban Gamaliel II. According to the author, the order in which the sages are cited reflects the Mishna's aim of underscoring the centrality of Rabban Yohanan ben Zakkai in the transmission of the Oral Law.

K. Kirschenbaum discusses the word "Epikarsin", which appears in Talmudic sources with two distinct meanings - an outer garment and an inner garment. The two meanings are derived from two different Greek words, which appear in other ancient sources as well.

A survey of articles dealing with the Mishnah is the last article in this issue .

In the translation section, we present a translation of an article by R. Avraham Epstein, originally published about one hundred years ago in German, about the Talmud commentary attributed to Rabbeinu Gershom Me'or HaGolah. The article describes the earliest European Talmud

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Commentary and notes its importance for understanding the history of Talmudic commentary in Germany and Northern France during the period of the Rishonim. He discusses the dating of the commentary and the identification of its author, as well as its relationship to the commentaries of the "Notebook" (Rashi) and of Rabbeinu Elyakim and its influence on later commentaries.

