

SHNEY LUCHOT HABRIT

של"ה הקדוש

on the written Torah

by

Rabbi I. Horowitz

translated and annotated by

Eliyahu Munk

Volume One

BERESHIT

...

EXTRA DIMENSION

(Appendix at end of Volume Three)

by **Max Munk**

...

Lambda Publishers

Jerusalem • New York

1999 / 5759

Table of Contents

- 1) Dedication
- 2) Endorsement
- 3) Index of Subject Matter
- 4) Biographical Data on Author
- 5) Editor's Preface
- 6) Author's introduction (Pages I-XXII)
- 7) Commentary on Book of Genesis (Pages 1-385)

Volume Two

- 8) Commentary on Books of Exodus and Leviticus
(Pages 386-822)

Volume Three

- 9) Commentary on Books of Numbers and Deuteronomy
(Pages 823-1263)
- 10) Extra Dimension
- 11) Indexes of Sources used by the Author
- 12) Short Bibliography of commentators quoted.

PAGE

INDEX OF SUBJECT MATTER

- II Relationship of the oral to the written Torah.
- VII How many of the 613 commandments can be observed nowadays?
- IX What is meant by **ביצה** in **הכנה דרבה** 4?
- XI When is **vicarious מצוה** performance considered as equal to **actual** performance?
- XIX-XXII How are the 613 commandments counted?
- 1,22 Why failure to try to have children is equivalent to murder.
- 5,25 On the relationship between G'd-Torah-Adam.
- 5 On the relationship of **צלם** and **דמות**.
- 8 The prohibition of eating from the tree -or fruit of the tree of knowledge.
- 10 How did the serpent manage to trick Eve?
- 11 On the relationship of the soul to various interpretations of the Torah.
- 12 How many "souls" are there?
- 14 On the meaning of the *Midrash* that G'd created many worlds only in order to destroy them.
- 15 Did G'd change His mind when He co-opted the attribute of Mercy before creating man?
- 16 What is a "true judgment?"
- 18 On the nature of *Torah hakdumah*, the Torah that preceded the one revealed at Mount Sinai.
- 21 On the "timetable" for the **גאולה**.
- 22 How can man become the **מרכבה**?
- 26 About two words meaning "hidden." Why are two separate words needed to describe the same phenomenon?
- 27 Why is the **ב** in **בראשית** written in larger script?
- 31 On the shape of the letters used for G'd's name.
- 34 On the meaning of Rabbi Yitzchak quoted by Rashi on Genesis 1,1.
- 37 On the **כתנות אור** in Rabbi Meir's text of the Torah versus the accepted spelling with the letter **ע**.
- 38/47 On the **repeated** commandment to be fruitful and to multiply.
- 45 On the significance of spelling *Toldot* plene.
- 48 How does **זוג ראשון** and **זוג שני** relate to the difference between **מזמור לדוד** and **מזמור**?
- 2 Why was Noach really saved?
- 53 On the inadequacies of Abel.
- 58 The ark as a Sanctuary.
- 64 Why is the possession of the land of Israel promised **three** times in this portion?
- 65 How does the Torah's report of the *Brit Beyn Habetarim* differ from the historical sequence of events?
- 69 On the wording of Noach's curse.

PAGE	INDEX OF SUBJECT MATTER
73	On the deeper meaning of the commandment: "from your land, from your birthplace, from your father's house."
74	On כתובות 110 that "anyone residing outside the Holy Land is equivalent to someone who has no G'd."
75	On different kinds of <i>Merkavah</i> , carriers of G'd's glory.
80	Why is the word הקריב used by the Torah in Genesis 12,11 instead of the regular word for "approached," i.e. קרב?
85	On Abraham's offering Lot the choice of where he wanted to settle.
88	On Abraham as the end-purpose of Creation.
89	The three gifts which resulted from performance of the circumcision.
93	On the inner connection between Abraham hosting the angels and the eventual binding of Isaac.
98	Abraham's dilemma of how to treat his visitors, 1) if they were angels; 2) if they were humans.
101	Why didn't Abraham serve the bread he had promised?
104	The significance of the tree whose shade Abraham's visitors were to enjoy.
105	What do angels "feed" on?
109	Meaning of Genesis 18,10: כַּעַת חיה ולשרה בן.
110	The attribute of Justice as the ultimate sign of G'd's love.
111	Why the ram Abraham offered in lieu of Isaac could not have been born by a mother-animal.
114	The mystical dimension of the עקדה.
121	On the difference between <i>Yir-eh</i> and <i>yera-eh</i> .
135/51	On Eliezer's experiencing חסד and אמת. How to reconcile the apparent differences in his report of what occurred at the well.
141	When is <i>Nichush</i> no <i>Nichush</i> ?
160	On the 100 sockets used in the Tabernacle and the 100 benedictions we are to recite daily.
163	On the names given to the wells dug by Isaac's servants.
169	On Isaac's affinity to Esau.
174/77	Allusions in the name יעקב.
178	Abraham's impact on the sons of Chet.
187	A strange <i>Aggadah</i> in עבודה זרה יא.
193/96	How could Jacob accept his mother's offer: "May your curse come upon me my son?"
198	Why did Rebecca say: "Take for me two young kids, instead of: "Take for your father , etc.?"
199	On the nature of the fragrance of Esau's garments Genesis 27,27.

PAGE	INDEX OF SUBJECT MATTER
207/13	On the dimension of "time" and its role in Jacob's service for Rachel.
216	How could Jacob "save" Abraham?
218	Two Midrashic versions about the ladder in Jacob's dream.
231	On the difference between prayers offered up in the Holy Land, and prayers offered in the Diaspora.
236	On the benediction over bread.
240	On <i>Shabbat</i> 30, that in the future women will give birth daily.
245	On the mystical dimension of the גיד הנשה.
249/50	On the schizophrenic nature of Samael. (cf.268)
254	Why does the Torah quote Jacob repeating himself so much before meeting Esau?
258	On a contradiction in Hoseah 12,13.
271/77	On <i>Taanit</i> 5 that "Jacob did not die."
287	On the mystical relationship between the ten scholars who became martyrs under the Roman Emperor Hadrian and Joseph's brothers.
290	Why semen, a necessary ingredient in fulfilling the Torah's first commandment, is called "an evil smelling drop" by our sages.
295	On the nature of מרכבת המשנה in Genesis 46,29.
301	Is Genesis 45,1: "Joseph was unable to control himself" a compliment or a criticism?
306/11	On the "three crowns" mentioned in <i>Avot</i> 4,13.
312	Meaning of ערות הארץ in Genesis 41,9.
314	How was Joseph a "father" to Pharaoh?
317	Meaning of Genesis 49,10: "The sceptre will not depart from Yehudah."
323	Why did Joseph repeat three times: "G'd has sent me ahead of you?"
339	On the mystical dimension of the <i>Chanukah lights</i> .
342/8	On the difference whether a king is anointed from a "horn" or from a "jar."
353/6	Analysis of Psalm 30.
367	A novel approach to ויקרבו ימי ישראל למות; Genesis 47,29.
372	On חסד, אמת, שבועה. Novel approach to Michah 7,20.
377	Who benefits spiritually by being in the Holy Land and under what circumstances.
389	On the competition between Anti Semites throughout the ages to eliminate the Jewish people (based on Psalms 2,2).
405	Who inspired Pharaoh to increase the workload of the Jewish people and why? (Exodus 5,22/3)
410	On G'd manifesting Himself as יהוה.
413	Meaning of Moses being אלהים לפרעה (Exodus 7,1).

PAGE	INDEX OF SUBJECT MATTER
419	Why does the Torah sometimes accord precedence to Moses over Aaron and sometimes not?
427	Difference between "believing" and "knowing" when applied to intangibles/abstracts.
428	On Pharaoh's freedom of choice.
431	Novel exegesis of Aaron's part in the making of the golden calf.
444	Who were the "mixed multitude" who joined the Jewish people at the Exodus?
446	Who was not included in the commandment to sanctify the firstborns and why?
451	Why is animal sacrifice called עבודה, service of G'd par excellence?
467/70	On Exodus 14,15: מה תצעק אלי ? Why did G'd criticise Moses?
478/81	When does G'd "long" for our prayers? Whose prayers are welcome and whose are only tolerated?
483	On the meaning of הקול קול יעקב .
486	Why did the Ten Commandments have to be engraved on two tablets?
487	Proofs that the first two commandments were addressed to the whole people without Moses serving as intermediary.
491/497	On the mystical aspects of the Ten Commandments.
498	Why did G'd have to add the words על פני in the second commandment?
505	On Yitro's conversion and change of name.
506	On the profound meaning of Rashi on Exodus 18,21.
507	On Yitro misunderstanding why Moses remained seated when dealing with litigants.
510/13	On the nations declining the gift of the Torah in order to harm Israel.
515/17	On the respective meaning of רשע and צדיק בן צדיק .
517/18	On the need to rehearse anything one says before an audience.
524/26	Did G'd change His mind when He co-opted the attribute of Mercy before creating אדם ?
531	Genesis 2,17 as an allusion to reincarnation of souls.
536	Esoteric meanings of the four principal causes of death, injury, or property damage.
541	What is a desirable form of death for man? What is a desirable form of death for beasts ?
544/48	On the significance of the number "ten."
552/55	Which character traits does a judge have to have?
558	Mystical aspects of Exodus 21,7: "a father selling his daughter."
563	Where is G'd's principal residence?

PAGE	INDEX OF SUBJECT MATTER
570	The Tabernacle as a microcosm.
577	The Tabernacle reflecting the act of Creation.
578	On the virtue of giving charity.
581/83	On different kinds of prophetic visions.
585	What does man and the מנורה have in common?
586/89	On the crowns of "Torah-Priesthood-Royalty," and how they were represented in the Tabernacle.
592	On the difference between משכן and מקדש .
594	The different groups of letters in the א-ב .
597	Our table as substitute for the altar.
602	On Moses' function in the Tabernacle.
609/12	Why the dividing curtain was called פרוכת העדות .
614	Why does the Torah start a paragraph with the pronoun ואתה "and you?"
618	When must one read פרשת זכור ?
620	On statements in the Talmud or <i>Midrash</i> such as: "where is Haman mentioned in the Torah, where is Mordechai mentioned in the Torah?"
624	On the need to get drunk on Purim.
627	Which part of the reading of מגלת אסתר is mandatory?
631/32	On the prohibition to eat dairy and meat products simultaneously.
633,649	What is דבקות ה' ?
642	
634	On the prohibition to carry from one domain to another on the Sabbath.
638/43	Mystical aspects of the 1/2 Shekel legislation.
654	On the mystical aspects of the red heifer.
655	On the need for leaders to enjoy popular support.
660	Is the Torah bound by the need to report events in chronological order?
663/4	Does one need to announce the giving of a gift beforehand?
665	Since the Sabbath itself is a gift,- what is the reward for observing it?
672/78	The mystical dimension of sanctifying the moon, sanctifying a woman (betrothal).
678/79	Why men and women should not mingle during funeral processions.
681	Why are some areas holier than others?
699/700	
720	Aaron as rehabilitation of Adam.
711/16	How can animal sacrifice deepen our bond with G'd?
722,736	
726	On the mystical aspects of the days of ritual impurity after a woman gives birth.
728/31	Mystical aspects of incestual relationships.
738	On the interaction between G'd "making" peace in our world and our "making" peace in the Celestial

PAGE	INDEX OF SUBJECT MATTER
	Spheres.
740	On man's centrality in the universe.
742	How does Deut. 8,3: "Man does not live on bread alone," relate to chapter 11 in Leviticus detailing forbidden foods?
744/45	Why are certain forbidden animals named , when the Torah had already given rules how to recognise forbidden species?
746	On the Torah singling out the prohibition to light a fire on the Sabbath.
749,944	On over-reaching oneself intellectually. The quest of Nadav and Avihu.
750/53	Were Rabbi Akiva and colleagues the first to enter the "orchard" (<i>Chagigah</i> 14)?
754	On the virtue of silence praised by Rabbi Shimon ben Gamliel.
755	On the <i>Mishnah Avot</i> 6,1. What are דברים הרבה?
761/63	Israel's sanctity versus the angels' sanctity.
765/68	On aspects of sanctity of time and sanctity of space.
769/71	How to achieve sanctity of one's body.
774	Novel interpretation of Leviticus 19,12.
779	On transmigration of souls based on Job 33,29.
789	A novel interpretation of <i>Avot</i> 5,13: שלי שלי.
792/93	On the spelling of לוא in Leviticus 11,21.
796	On the significance of age (Leviticus chapter 27).
799	On Leviticus 25,23. How can we be both strangers and residents at the same time?
804,806	Why the fire on the altar must not be extinguished.
807	Symbolism in the physical peculiarities of the animals we may eat.
814	On oaths which cannot be annulled.
825	How Israel's encampment in the desert compared with Jerusalem.
834/36,	
845/47	Mystical dimension of the flags in the camp of the Israelites in the desert.
837	When do numbered things not qualify for blessings?
838	Anomalies in the count of the Levites.
850	When is prayer equivalent to sacrificial service?
856	On the distinction between "practical" and "spiritual" Torah.
859	The affliction of צרעת as a positive experience.
862	Why are disputes between Abaye and Rava called "minor differences?"
863	Symbolisms in 5 degrees of ritual impurity.
867	The priestly blessings as a means to recapture the

PAGE	INDEX OF SUBJECT MATTER
	sanctity of Paradise lost.
868	Symbolism in the weights of the princes' offerings.
872	Meaning of the dots over letters in the masoretic text.
875	Difference between <i>Tov</i> and <i>Tuv</i> . Relative and objective "good."
878	Which offer did Yitro decline?
882/83	Technical aspects of confession. Confession as one of the 613 commandments.
884	On the meaning and halachic consequences of a "wet" dream.
885	Self-imposed exile as part of atonement procedure.
888/89	Is abstention from wine a virtue or the reverse?
892	What may trigger a vow to abstain from wine, etc.?
895	Was Moses justified in asking to die- if G'd would not meet his request?
897	Why seeing a Torah scholar suffering afflictions should increase our respect for him.
899	On the "spiritual ingredient" in a loaf of bread.
901/05	On the sin of the spies. Why were they sent out at all?
909	Factors which misled the spies who reported negatively.
914/15	On the significance of the "shadow" (Numbers 14,9).
917	On Leviticus 4,2. How can failure to observe a single commandment -even unintentionally- be equated by the Torah with not observing all of the commandments?
919	On the dangers of over-reaching one's physical and spiritual capacities.
923	On the nature of salt.
924,943	
945,948	On the motivation of the 250 men who made common cause with Korach.
930/33	When are תאוה, כבוד, קנאה commendable attributes?
935	Why do we repeat: "holy, holy, holy" in the קדושה prayer?
936	On Samuel combining the outstanding virtues of both Moses and Aaron.
940	A novel explanation of ובתוכם ה' .
944	Nadav and Avihu's sin was לשם שמים!
948	How could the people accuse Moses of killing "G'd's people" (Numbers 17,6)?
949	When is a Divine decree reversible?
956,961	Apparently contradictory views on the origin of ritual impurity.
957	Why are the מצות also called גזרות ?
958	The commandments as representing different worlds in the view of the Kabbalists.

PAGE	INDEX OF SUBJECT MATTER
964/65	Why is the tractate אבות introduced by the truism that Moses received the Torah at Mount Sinai?
968	Author claims that Moses did not sin when he called the people מורים.
969	On עם-עדה-קהל and קהל ה' respectively.
972	Was Daniel a prophet? When did prophecy cease?
981/83	How was Bileam's intended curse transformed?
985/87	A comparison between Moses' and Bileam's prophetic powers.
991	Why did it have to be Bileam who blessed Israel?
1000/01	On the different meanings of ארה and קבה (curse).
1007	When is ignorance no excuse?
1009	Is merriment ever justified in this world?
1015	On Pinchas' elevation to the priesthood.
1021	On the only recorded instance when G'd reversed a favourable decree.
1026	Glory as the source of Israel's ruin.
1029	Why were the daughters of Tzelofchod not content to submit their claim to Moses only?
1032	Murder as an act that terminates the function of the soul prematurely.
1033	How can children be granted to the dead?
1037/38	How many categories of sin was Adam guilty of?
1040	On the fallacy that Gentiles are more tolerant of other religions than are Jews.
1043	On the psychology displayed by Moses when admonishing Israel.
1045	The Tenth Commandment as a sort of thought-control.
1047/48	Why the seven Canaanite nations had to be killed.
1050	Performance of some מצוות as proof of our belief in the Hereafter.
1050/52	Definitions of different parts of עולם הבא.
1054	Death,- a positive or negative experience?
1055	Why Moses felt he personally had to designate cities of refuge.
1057/58	On the difference between <i>Tuv</i> and <i>Tov</i> .
1060/62	Why Moses was anxious to lead the people across the Jordan. Why he thought G'd had rescinded His decree that he could not enter the Holy Land.
1065	Why Moses accepted the "mixed multitude" as converts.
1067	Novel exegesis of Deut. 3,26: רב לך.
1071	How Hillel in his time compared to Moses in his generation.
1076/77	The meaning of לאמור in Deut. 6,12.
1081	Why is the saying of grace linked to ישראל?
1082	Relationship of יראת ה' to humility.
1084	On the value of humility as a virtue.
1085/86	Does G'd elevate the דכא, or does He lower Himself

PAGE	INDEX OF SUBJECT MATTER
1088	to the level of the דכא? A difficult passage about humility in <i>Sotah</i> 49.
1091	Meaning of מתוך שלא לשמה בא לשמה.
1093	On the amount of "pride" a scholar must display.
1096	On the morning prayer רבון...מה אנהנו.
1097	On the effectiveness of זכות אבות nowadays.
1101	Novel interpretation of מצות אדם דש בעקביו.
1104	How can one "burn" a sin (Deut.9,21)?
1112	Why Gentiles outside the Holy land are not considered pagans.
1114	Why the Gentiles may make incisions to mourn their dead.
1115	A different rationale for not eating גבלה.
1119	On the use of the word אשרי.
1120	On the dual meaning of the word שמירה.
1122	On Lamentations 3,38 that curses do not originate in Heaven.
1124	What is more important: Study or performance of the מצות?
1128/31	The meaning of the debate between the moon and C'd in <i>Chulin</i> 60.
1134	How are negative commandments "performed"?
1136	When is sinful intent alone considered culpable?
1146	When is the rule by a king advantageous for the people?
1149/50	When can rulings of earlier Rabbis be reversed?
1152/53	Why are עדים זוממים not punished if their victims were executed prior to their being found out?
1155	Did Solomon really indulge in idolatry (Kings I 11,4)?
1158	Novel reason for breaking a glass during wedding ceremony.
1161	How commission of a murder retards the coming of the Messiah.
1163	The righteous as scapegoat for the sinner.
1169	Why the king must have two Torah scrolls.
1171/72	Do our faces reflect our piety (Psalms 27,8)?
1183	Benefits of marital union with the right person for the right reasons.
1186	Why a divorce decree has 12 lines.
1189	On the difference between "Lilith" and "Machalat."
1190/92	Reincarnation as rationale for the law of the levirate marriage.
1193	Why "innocent" young children die.
1195	On the secret of successful reincarnation.
1198/99	Why one should not marry a woman who has twice been widowed.
1200	Why Moses had to remove his shoes at the burning

- bush.
- 1201 Symbolisms in the חליצה procedure.
- 1203 How are נגעים proof of G'd's love for the afflicted?
- 1207 Does the angel of Death make mistakes?
- 1210 On how to sanctify one's mouth.
- 1213 Why destruction of the evil urge would be impracticable.
- 1215 Meaning of חקול קול יעקב.
- 1216 One of the functions of the פסוקי דזמרה.
- 1219 Mystical dimension of Deut. 21,15.
- 1221 On the logic of קדש עצמך במותר לך, "display your piety by eschewing things the Torah has permitted you."
- 1222 On the importance of returning lost property.
- 1224 Why one must take care of one's body.
- 1225 On Deut. 28,43: "the stranger climbing higher and higher."
- 1226 Is ריח נחוח something physical? Is the concept valid nowadays?
- 1230/38 On the first verse in Kohelet.
- 1241 Why we must not drink wine touched by a Gentile.
- 1248 Is the Torah G'd's, i.e. תורת השם, or is it Moses', i.e. תורת משה?
- 1249 How was Moses "the man of G'd," different from nine other men accorded this title in the Bible?
- 1254 Why is the benediction recited over the oral Torah different from that recited over the written Torah?
- 1259 On the meaning of ויראת מאלוקיך, "You shall fear your Lord."
- 1259 Why did the Torah reverse the order of the names אורים ותומים in 33,8?
- 1262 Can one perform acts of גמילת חסד with G'd?