

Pe'amim

Studies in Oriental Jewry

158

The Hand and the Gaze

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**Ben-Zvi Institute for the Study of Jewish
Communities in the East**

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In This Issue

Orit Abuhav's paper seeks to paint a portrait of Dr. Erich Brauer (1895-1942), an ethnographer, anthropologist, and folklorist who was one of the pioneers of anthropological research in Palestine. Brauer's scientific work in the 1930s and the early 1940s in Palestine focused on the Jews of Yemen and Kurdistan. His multiple talents are reflected in his diverse methodology: ethnography and documentation through interviews and observation, measuring and photographing his subjects, and drawing landscapes and portraits. Despite many challenges and pitfalls along the way, he conducted meticulous, well-founded and inspirational research which has been neglected in the academic sphere of Israel.

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The hand, the book and the dream are key symbols in the traditional Jewish medicine of the Maghreb. This paper examines the dynamic nature of these key symbols through the personal story of three professional-traditional women healers. A narrative analysis of these stories shows that the healers adopted these key symbols due to their important status in traditional Maghrebi medicine. In their personal stories, the healers turned the key symbols into key motifs by emphasizing certain aspects that allowed them – considering their personality and life experiences – to express themselves as exceptional subjects in the Israeli sphere.

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Talmudic Literature supplies us with plenty of indications about pre-Islamic Arabs. This article analyzes the Arab's figure according to mentions in the Talmud dating to the pre-Islamic period, with the aim of making optimal use of this source. The article classifies these mentions into sub-categories for the first time.

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The interest of Jewish communities in Europe and the French colonial rule in the past of the Moroccan Jewish community led R. Avner Zarfati of Fez (1827-1884) and R. Shlomo HaCohen-Etzban of Debdou (1881-1949) to engage in historical research and writing. They used a variety of early sources, historic-maskilic literature and Judaic Studies. They took a critical approach to the sources and even internalized modern research methods. Thus Jewish historiography in Morocco in the modern era deviated from traditional historical writing and presented a new kind of historical writing.

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