**English Abstracts of the Hebrew Articles**

**Is It Possible to Break Free from the Shackles of the Narcissistic Mother? On the Relationship Between Narcissistic Mothers and Their Daughters in Two Stories by Savyon Liebrecht**

Revital Shiri-Horowitz

Can daughters of narcissistic mothers break free from their shackles to establish an independent existence and psychological separation in adulthood? Are they able to overcome the stifling of their feelings, in the shadow of those mothers who are manipulative, lucking empathy, and authentically express their inner world? These questions, which involve both a psychological and literary discourse, are examined in reference to two short stories written by Savyon Liebrecht: “Apples from the desert” (1986) and “Crying on mother`s shoulder” (1995). These stories do not depict the figure of the benevolent mother, devoted to her children, and loves them unconditionally but rather present a different kind of model. Analyzing the stories through the lens of maternal narcissism theory supports the claim that those mothers suffer from narcissism personality disorder. Liebrecht uses a dramatic design, which reveals the psychological dynamics between the characters and shows the daughter`s ways of dealing with their mothers as a painful process of disillusionment and rebellion in an attempt to establish an independent adult life.

**Keywords:** theme of motherhood in fiction, mother-daughter relationships in Hebrew literature, Savyon Liebrecht, maternal narcissism, personality disorder

**Jewish Armed Struggle in the Second World War – A Reassessment**

Kiril Feferman

The article concerns itself with analyzing the Jewish resistance during the Holocaust. Particular emphasis is laid on the elucidation of the involvement of Jews in the fighting in the ranks of the armies and partisan movements, as well as on the exploration of the context and connections between specifically Jewish responses and Communism in East Europe.

**Keywords:** Holocaust, resistance, army

**Impoverishment and Disputes as a Background for the Emigration of Eliyahu Silvera and Rabbis Simon and Refael Abraham Dewik HaCohen from Aleppo to Tiberias and Safed in the 18th Century**

Leah Bornstein-Makovetsky

The article discusses the motivations for immigrating to Eretz Yisrael from Aleppo in the first half of the 18th century in light of the settlement in Tiberias of the franco Eliyahu Silvera, and of the two brothers, Rabbi Shimon and Rabbi Raphael Avraham Deweick HaCohen, sons of R. Shmuel Deweick HaCohen. They first settled in Safed, and later Rabbi Shimon then moved to Kfar Yasif and Rabbi Raphael Avraham moved to Tiberias. The motives were personal. The motive for Silveira was his bankruptcy in 1746, while the motive for the members of the Dewick HaCohen brothers was a serious conflict with the Rabbi of the city Rabbi Shmuel Laniado and his son Rabbi Shlomo due to different rulings that ruled on various matters, and mainly a dispute regarding Kiddushin. The article reviews the two cases, their background, and refers to the motivations for immigrating to Eretz Yisrael at that time, especially to Tiberias, due to Messianic expectations.

**Keywords:** Eliyahu Silvera, Ergas family, Bankruptcy, R. Shmuel Dewick HaCohen, R. Shimon Dewick Hacohen, R. Menachem Dewick Hacohen, Halachic disputes, Tiberias, Zefat, Francos, Livorno

**Nachmanides as a Historical Geographer**

Yitzhak Meitlis

This article deals with geographical aspects of Ramban’s (Nahmanides) commentary on the Torah, in which he demonstrates an independent and original position. The first theme is the description of the lands of the tribes as it appears in Moses’ observation at the end of the Book of Deuteronomy. An initial reading of Ramban’s interpretation of the observation made by Moses from Mount Nevo, seems to contradict the description of the land of the tribes as it appears in the book of Joshua. On further examination, however, he seems to have described the tribal lands as they were in the first stage after entering the land, before the field of settlement spread towards the Galilee. This insight is consistent with the Book of Chronicles and with the Archaeological Research of the Iron Age 1.

The second issue was the determination of some rules for the names of settlements mentioned in the Bible: the first rule is that the names of the localities mentioned in the Bible, including in the Book of Genesis, are real names of the period (contrary to Rashi’s opinion); the second rule is that there may be completely different names for the same place but these names must have close meaning – There may be slight changes in place names, these are not different localities (contrary to Ibn Ezra’s opinion); and the third rule is that names with a negative meaning can become names with a positive meaning. These rules were adopted in the modern study of the Land of Israel to identify ancient sites.

**Keywords:** Ramban, historical geography, maps, tribal estates, identification of ancient sites, Land of Israel, Genesis, archaeolog.

**Abstract Equity in Jewish Averroist Philosophy**

Shalom Sadik

This article attempts to analyze the position of Jewish philosophers in regards to the question of “Equity.” That is, in what unique cases it is permissible and even necessary to change the law in order to uphold its purpose. As we can see, there are two different approaches among these philosophers, indicating the philosophical diversity that existed in Jewish Averroist thought during the medieval period. According to R. Yitzhak Polgar and R. Nissim of Marseille, there are cases where a person needs to straighten the law and cancel it in order to preserve its purpose. In contrast, according to R. Levi ben Abraham and R. Menachem of Narbon it is forbidden to straighten the law, apparently because such a possibility would lead to the collapse of commitment to the law, as anyone could argue that they are an exception to the rule.

**Keywords:** philosophy, Maimonides, Averroist, equity, philosophy of law

**Prediction of the Future: The History of the Hebrew Sefer HaPirkus**

Abraham Ofir Shemesh

"Sefer Reffafot" also known as "Sefer HaPirkus", i.e., "Book of Organ Convulsions" is a short work that is based on the belief that a tremor that passes through one of the body’s organs may indicate the fate of a person, for better or for worse (Palmomancy). In several later editions of the essay, the work was attributed to R. Hai Gaon, the last of Babylonian geonim, and the head of the Pumbedita Academy at the turn of the 10th–11th centuries. The current article examines the reliability of attributing the work to R. Hai Gaon, its time of composition, its content, and the origin of the belief that future events can be predicted through body tremors. This belief has no basis in classical rabbinic literature or in the geonic writings. It was mentioned in “Sefer Hasidim” of R. Judah the Hasid, the central figure in the mystical and ascetic Ashkenazi Hasidic movement in 12th–13th centuries. Italian Manuscript of “Sefer Reffafot" from the 15th century as well as the first Italian printings from the 16th century do not explicitly attribute the work to R. Hai Gaon or to R. Judah the Hasid. There are significant differences between “Sefer Reffafot” or “Sefer HaPirkus” and the “Sefer Hasidim.” Although the same belief is discussed, it does not appear that the author of the text relied on “Sefer Hasidim.” It seems that the fact that “Sefer HaPirkus” was attached to R. Hai Gaon’s writings or those which attributed to him contributed to the understanding that the book was written by him.

**Keywords**: Sefer HaPirkus, Sefer Refaffot, Sefer Hasidim, palmomancy, Jewish folklore, R. Hai Gaon