R. SHINNAR YOHAI

Chapter 1
RABBINIC STORIES

(b) He went out and sat at the mouth of the cave. He saw a hunter hunting birds. As he spread his net he heard a heavenly voice say "Pardoned!" and it escaped. He said, "Even a bird does not perish without Heaven. How much more so a human being?"

(c) When he saw that matters had calmed down, he said, "Let us go and bathe in the public baths in Tiberias." He said, "We should do a service [for the city] as our patriarchs did. And they were gracious to the city (Gen 33:18)." They set up stands for selling in markets." He said, "Let us purify Tiberias."

(d) He took lupines, cut them up and threw them down. Wherever there was a corpse, it floated and rose above.

(e) A Samaritan saw him and said, "Why don't I go and make fun of this sinner of the Jews?" He took a corpse. He went and buried it where he [R. Shimon b. Yohai] had purified it. He came to R. Shimon b. Yohai and said, "Did you not purify such-and-such a place? Come and I will raise up [a corpse] for you from there."

(f) R. Shimon b. Yohai saw with the holy spirit that he had placed it there. He said, "I decree that those above should descend and those below should rise." And thus it happened to him.

(g) When he passed by Migdal he heard the voice of a scribe say [sarcastically], "Here is Bar Yohai who purified Tiberias," He said to him, "May such-and-such befall me if I did not hear [a tradition] that Tiberias would someday be purified. And in any case, were you not one of the assembly?" He turned him into a heap of bones.

HOLY MEN AND RABBINIC MASTERS

B. The Education of R. Shimon bar Yohai
(Bavli Shabbat 11b-11a)

[A] R. Yehuda and R. Jose and R. Shimon were sitting, and R. Yehuda b. Gerin 1 was sitting beside them. R. Yehuda opened and said, "How pleasant are the acts of this nation. [Rome]. (1) They established (topa) markets. (2) They established (topa) bathhouses. (3) They established (topa) bridges. R. Jose was silent. R. Shimon bar Yohai answered and said, "Everything they established (topa), they established (topa) only for their own needs: (1) They established (topa) markets—to place prostitutes there; (2) bathhouses—to pamper themselves; (3) bridges—to take tolls." R. Jose b. Gerin went and retold their words, and it became known to the government. They said: (1) R. Yehuda who extolled—let him be extolled. (2) R. Jose who was silent—let him be called to Sepphoris. (3) Shimon who disparaged—let him be killed."

(B1) He went with his son and hid in the academy. Each day his wife brought him bread and a jug of water and they were. When the decree became more severe, he said to his son, "Women are simpleminded. They may abuse her and she will reveal [as]."

(B2) He went, and they hid in a cave. A miracle happened for them and a carob tree and a spring were created for them. They sat up to their necks in sand. By day they sat and studied, and they took off their clothes. When the time came to pray, they went out and dressed and covered and went out and prayed and again took off their clothes, in order that they not wear out. They dwelled in a cave for thirteen years. Elisha came to the opening of the cave. He said, "Who will inform Bar Yohai that the emperor died and the decree is annulled?" They went out and they saw men plowing and sowing. They said, "They abandon eternal life [Tora] and busy themselves with temporal