

## Summary of Contents

The structure of tractate *Kinnim* is the subject of the opening article of this issue. Prof. Moshe Koppel demonstrates that the tractate comprises three layers of redaction: the bulk of chapters 1 and 3 is the earliest stratum, the second stratum is the bulk of chapter 2, and afterwards several additions were appended to supplement chapter 3 mishnah 6.

Motti Perry's article reveals and explicates diverse literary phenomena in Mishnah Yoma. He notes internal structures, internal word associations, and intertextual allusions to biblical texts, which he explains as pointing to the nature of Yom Kippur and to the gap between the ideal and the real in the Temple service.

This issue publishes for the first time a manuscript commentary by the Ra'abad to tractate Bava Batra. The existence of a commentary by the Ra'abad to this tractate was known, based on numerous citations from the commentary by the *Shitta Mekubetzet*. The manuscript published here adds new sections of the commentary, and brings an original version of the already-known sections. Publication of the manuscript by Nethanel Shapira is the product of an advanced course at Herzog College taught by Dr. Uziel Fuchs, who also wrote the introduction to the manuscript.

Dr. Yisrael Rosenson examines the sources and the meaning of the unique custom of the Jewish community of Rome regarding lighting candles in the synagogue on the night of Tish'a B'av. After surveying the development of the custom to minimize the lighting of candles in the synagogue on the night of Tish'a B'av, he suggests a connection between the unique custom of the Jews of Rome and two texts: a *piyyut* by R. Yisrael Najara, and a narrative tradition in the Talmud Yerushalmi regarding the destruction of Alexandria by Trajan.

Rabbi Dr. Avraham Walfish's survey of recent articles related to Mishnah closes this issue of *Netuim*.

The editors