

Summary of Contents

This issue opens with an article by Haym Soloveitchik. The article describes the development of a particular issue in the laws of *yein nesech*, and traces, step by step, the evolution of the permissive ruling in France and Germany regarding a gentile treading grapes in the winepress. The article appeared twenty-five years ago in English, and it is presented here for the reader of Hebrew in an updated version.

Elyakim Krumbein investigates the "Brisker" tradition of learning, starting with Reb Haim of Brisk, through the teachings of Rav Joseph B. Soloveitchik, and until the lectures of Rav Aharon Lichtenstein. The article shows that conceptual analysis - the central innovation of Reb Haim - was transformed from a method of reconciling difficulties in talmudic *sugyot* and commentaries, as employed by Reb Haim, into a method of independent conceptual mapping, as employed by Rabbis Soloveitchik and Lichtenstein.

Benjamin Lau deals with one aspect of Rav Ovadiah Yosef's method of halachic decision-making. He analyzes Rav Yosef's approach to matters touching on academic talmudic research, such as his use of manuscripts of Talmud and commentaries, questions related to the nature and history of *Torah she-b'al peh*, and use of publications by academic researchers.

Itamar Brenner's article closes the Articles section. He analyzes the appearances of the clause "exempt but forbidden" in the laws of Shabbat, and shows that this principle originates in the Babylonian Talmud.

Avraham Walfish's survey of Mishnah publications closes this issue.

The editors

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