

THE LIVING TORAH

The Five Books of Moses and the Haftaret

*A new translation based on traditional Jewish sources,
with notes, introduction, maps, tables, charts, bibliography
and index*

by

Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan



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For information write:

**Maznaim Publishing Corporation
4304 12th Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11219**

Tel. (212) 438-7680 853-0525

24 וּמֵאֲתָיִם וּקְנֵה־בֹשֶׂם חֲמִשָּׁה וּמֵאֲתָיִם: וְקִדְּהָהּ הַמֶּשֶׁה
 25 מֵאֲתָיִם בְּשֶׁקֶל הַקֹּדֶשׁ וְשֶׁמֶן זַיִת הָיִן: וַעֲשִׂיתָ אֹתוֹ שֶׁמֶן
 מִשְׁחַת־קֹדֶשׁ רַקִּיחַ מִרְקִיחַת מַעֲשֵׂה רַקִּיחַ שֶׁמֶן מִשְׁחַת־
 26 קֹדֶשׁ יִהְיֶה: וּמִשְׁחַת בּוֹ אֶת־אֶהָל מוֹעֵד וְאֵת אֲרוֹן הָעֵדוּת:
 27 וְאֶת־הַשְּׁלֶחֶן וְאֶת־כָּל־כֵּלָיו וְאֶת־הַמִּנְרָה וְאֶת־כֵּלָיהָ וְאֵת
 28 מִזְבַּח הַקְּטֹרֶת: וְאֶת־מִזְבַּח הָעֹלָה וְאֶת־כָּל־כֵּלָיו וְאֶת־
 29 הַכִּיֹּר וְאֶת־כֵּנוֹ: וּקְדִשְׁתָּ אֹתָם וְהָיוּ קֹדֶשׁ קִדְשִׁים כָּל־
 הַנֹּגַע בָּהֶם יִקְדָּשׁ:

→ fragrant cane. *Kenah bosem* in Hebrew. Ancient sources identify this with the sweet calamus (Septuagint; Rambam on Kerithoth 1:1; Saadia, Ibn Janach). This is the sweetflag or flag-root, *Acorus calamus* which grows in Europe. It appears that a similar species grew in the Holy Land, in the Hula region in ancient times (Theophrastus, *History of Plants* 9:7). Other sources apparently indicate that it was the Indian plant, *Cympopogan martini*, which has the form of red straw (Yad. *Kley HaMikdash* 1:3).



Canna



Cympopogan



Hemp ★

On the basis of cognate pronunciation and Septuagint readings, some identify *Kenah bosem* with the English and Greek cannabis, the hemp plant ←

30:24 There are, however, some authorities who identify the "sweet cane" with cinnamon bark (Radak, *Sherashim*). Some say that *kinman* is the wood, and *kenah bosem* is the bark (Abarbanel). **cassia** (Radak, *Sherashim*; *Peshita*; Vulgate). *Kidah* in Hebrew; *kezia* in Aramaic (*Targum*; Rambam on *Kelayim* 1:8). Cassia is the common name for the bark of the tree *Cinnamomum cassia* or *Cassia lignea* belonging to the laurel family, which grows in China. (*Pachad Yitzchak*, s.v. *Ketoreth*; cf. Pliny 12:45; Theophrastus, *History of Plants* 9:7; Diodorus Siculus 3:46; Herodotus 3:110).



Cassia

There are some, however, who identify the "cassia" of the ancients, and hence *hidah* here, with costus, known as *kosh't* in the Talmud (Yad, *Kley HaMikdash* 1:3; Saadia; Ibn Janach. cf. Rashi). Costus is the root of the annual herb, *Sausurea lappa*, which grows on the mountain slopes of Kashmir, and is used for incense and perfume.

The Septuagint translates *kidah* here as *iris*, possibly *Castus speciosus*. Others suggest that it is *kitto* or *mosylon*, a plant very much like cassia, coming from Meuzel on the African coast (cf. Dioscorides, *De Materia Medica* 1:13).

— gallon. *Hin* in Hebrew. Actually 0.97 gallon, or 3.6 liter.
 30:15 blended compound. The anointing oil was made by soaking the aromatic substances in water until the essential essences are extracted. The oil is then placed over the water, and the water slowly cooked away, allowing the essences to mix with the oil (Yad, *Kley HaMikdash* 1:2; from *Kerithoth* 5a). According to another opinion, the oil was cooked with the aromatic herbs, and then filtered out (*Ibid.*).

500 [shekels]* of distilled* myrrh,* [two] half portions,* each consisting of 250 [shekels] of fragrant cinnamon* and 250 [shekels] of fragrant cane,*²⁴ and 500 shekels of cassia,* all measured by the sanctuary standard, along with a gallon* of olive oil.

²⁵ Make it into sacred anointing oil. It shall be a blended compound,* as made by a skilled perfumer, [made especially for] the sacred anointing oil.

²⁶ Then use it to anoint the Communion Tent, the Ark of Testimony,²⁷ the table and all its utensils, the menorah and its utensils, the incense altar,²⁸ the sacrificial altar and all its utensils, the washstand and its base.²⁹ You will thus sanctify them, making them holy of holies, so that anything touching them becomes sanctified.

30:23 500 shekels. Around 25 pounds.

— distilled. (Septuagint). *Deror* in Hebrew. Or, "free of impurities" (Ibn Janach; Radak, *Sherashim*; or "wild" (Ramban; Bachya). On the basis of Semitic cognates, some suggest "flowing" or "congealed into pearls."

— myrrh (Raavad, *Kley HaMikdash* 1:3; Ramban; Bachya; Septuagint). *Mor* in Hebrew. Myrrh is a gum resin produced by trees and shrubs of the family *Burseracea*, most notably *Commiphora myrrha*, *Commiphora abyssinica*, and *Commiphora schimperii*. The resin is obtained from Arabia and adjacent Africa, and is taken from the small, prickly, gray-barked trees. Pearls of myrrh are brown, red or yellow, with an oily texture, becoming hard and brittle with age. It has a pleasing fragrance, very much like balsam, and a lasting, bitter, aromatic taste, hence the name *mor*, which signifies bitterness.



Myrrh



Musk Deer

According to many authorities, however, the *mur* here is not myrrh but musk (Saadia; *Yad, Kley HaMikdash* 1:3; Abarbanel; cf. Radak, *Sherashim*; Ibn Janach). This is an extract taken from the musk deer (*Moschus moschiferus*) which lives in Nepal and Tibet (see Ibn Ezra).

— two half portions (Rashi, *Kerithoth* 5a; Bachya; Ralbag; cf. *Yad, Kley HaMikdash* 1:2). According to Josephus, however, it would be translated, "a half portion . . ." (*Antiquities* 3:8:3).

— fragrant cinnamon (Rashi; Septuagint; Abarbanel, *Canela* in Spanish; Ibn Janach; Ramban on *Kerithoth* 1:1, but see Ramban on 31:34). *Kinman* in Hebrew. This is the dried bark of the cinnamon tree, *Cinnamomum zeylanicum*, a species of laurel cultivated mainly in Ceylon (cf. *Yad, Kley HaMikdash* 1:3; cf. Theophrastus, *Plants* 9:7; Herodatus 3:111).



Cinnamon



Aloe

According to others, however, the *kinman* of the Bible is aloeswood or lignum aloes (Radak, *Sherashim*; cf. Saadia; see Ramban on 31:34). This is the resinous hartwood, *Aquilaria agallocha* of the family *Thymalaeaceae*, which grows in the East Indies and tropical Southeast Asia, and is still used for incense and perfumes.

According to other ancient sources, the "cinnamon" of antiquity was not the Ceylonese product, but an herb coming from Arabia (Theophrastus, *History of Plants* 9:4; Strabo 16:778; Diodorus Siculus 2:49, 3:46) or Ethiopia (Pliny 12:49). Some identify it with "Mecca Straw" (*paja de Mecca* in old Spanish; Ramban; Abarbanel), which was used as fodder for camels (*Shir HaShirim Rabbah* on 4:4). There are also indications that the "cinnamon" of antiquity grew in the Holy Land (*Yerushalmi, Peah* 7:4; *Bereshith Rabbah* 65:17; see *Kaflor VaPheruch* 10, 31a).