

מעשה

הפת ביראדראן

THE STORY OF SEVEN BROTHERS

And he [this is its content]

Seven perfect righteous, seven sons of Miriam the daughter of Nahtom who was imprisoned together with her seven sons, as mentioned in the Midrash *Eycha Rabati* on the verse 'Over these I weep' [Lamentation, 1, 16] Yossifoon [Josephus] mentions 'Hannah and her seven sons', which until now was found in a manuscript, compiled and published by Rabbi Yosef ben Rabbi Yitzchak is resting in heaven.

Now Rabbi Aharon Haji ben Pinchas [Levi] סג"ל will have it printed for the Israelites living in the cities of Asia.

Year [of printing] 1884 [644] תרמ"ד

Sender's introduction to the printing house

Thank God

May the Creator be praised and the Creator be exalted, the Lord who knows -magnify his name and say with glory, with praise and greatness and with your power to rule. Because he is first and last. and he chose peculiar people for him and gave us the Torah.

About the book

I am a young man, poor and good for nothing, son of Pinchas סג"ל [Levite], may he rest in heaven, Aharon Haji of the exiled people from the city of Bukhara, may God protect this city. I saw this book - compiled by Rabbi Yosef ben Rabbi Yitzchak, may he rest in heaven - of the seven righteous. The seven sons of Miriam the daughter of Nahum who fell into captivity and her seven sons, which is mentioned in the *Midrash Eycha Rabati* on the verse 'These are I weep' in the Persian language in the year 5448 of the creation of the world [1688] written at the end of his composition and called in our language הפת ביראדראן ['Haft Biradran'] means: seven brothers [Seven brothers who were executed for their faith in Judaism]. Since 195 years have passed and until now [1884] no Israelite has quenched my thirst, our brothers Israelite living in Asia

and especially in the city of Bukhara may God protect this city and [copies of] this book manuscript are two in the city and one in the villages.

And in my many iniquities I have neither Torah nor work [=the work of the Creator] nor good deeds and I thought in my heart the article of the sages, their remembrance of blessing, 'Whoever vindicates the many is free from sins'. [Avot 5, Mishnah 18].

And here now I am the meager and lowly in value, I have come to fulfill the desire and quench the thirst of our brothers the Israelites who live in Asia and in particular in the city of Bukhara, may God protect this city, and I wrote it in Assyrian script and sent [the manuscript] in the hand of the exalted gentleman who pursues charity and grace, Rabbi Yitzchak Chaim son of the Master, the late Ilya Jan may he rest in heaven, to take the above-mentioned book to the printing house [probably in Jerusalem] and print it and bring it [the copies of the book] to the city of Bukhara, may God protect this city and because of this commandment, God will be successful in his goods and in the work of his hands, Amen, so be it. You are the Keep him, protect him and save him from all trouble and harm. Amen.

In my humbleness [an expression of modesty] I am neither an author nor from the author's family, do not make the author's soul happy to have a commemorate his name because of this commandment, God will gather our pople from the four corners of the earth and break the yoke of exile from our necks and bring us quickly to our land as it is said: "The LORD doth build up Jerusalem, He gathereth together the dispersed of Israel" [Psalms 147, 2]; These are the words of the sender to the printing house on a Tuesday that was doubled- good, 15 in Tevet the weekly Portion 'And these are names' in the year 1883] תרמ"ג-ג 643].

Warning [all rights reserved]

Our brothers Bnei Yisrael, it is known that the Torah warned twice not to reach a limit in the Deuteronomy 27, 17; 29, 18. I will not hide from you, the reader, that I was very troubled and touched until I sent to the printing house to win our brothers, the Israelites. That's why I will ask the one that my soul loved you. If there is a person among you who will think of printing this book and he will not be harmed, God will not

forgive this man and all the curses written in the Torah will come upon him. I am sure the Israelites will not cause injustice and whoever listens to my words will be blessed from heaven with an abundance of peace and life and will be privileged to see the comfort of Zion and Jerusalem. Amen.