

# THE PALINDROMIC DEAD SEA SCROLLS

HOWARD RICHLER

Cote St. Luc, Quebec, Canada

Many Biblical scholars are expecting a bombshell with the recent release of previously-unpublished documents of the Dead Sea Scrolls. They will not be disappointed in discovering that there another document which traces the history of the Bible in palindromic form. Not only is this document written palindromically, but it is written in English palindromes.

One should not be totally surprised at this revelation, for there are indications of the favored status of English; it has become the lingua franca for a reason. Just as the Jews were the Chosen People, English has become the Chosen Language, supplanting Hebrew and Aramaic.

The facts speak for themselves. Examine the Biblical names **Eve, Hannah, Asa, Adam, Anna, Onan, Ahab, Moses, Annas** and **Jesus**. All these names are either palindromes or near-palindromes! Was not Joshua the son of **Nun**? Was not David the son of **Jesse**? Was not **Janna** the great-great-great-grandfather of **Jesus**? Was not **Aram** the great-great-great-great-grandson of **Abraham**? The Biblical place-names **Eden, Canaan, Tarsus, Gaza, Cana** and **Ararat** are all near-palindromes as well.

Was not **Jesus** **deified**? Is not God referred to (Mark 14:36, Romans 8:15, Galatians 4:6) as **Abba**? What led to the secession of the northern tribes after King Solomon's death? It was the practice of forced labor called **missim**. Even the word **Essenes**, the sect that is believed to have written the Dead Sea Scrolls, is a near-palindrome.

The Lord works in mysterious ways. It is not mere coincidence that **God** spelled backwards is **dog**, any more than **evil** backward is **live**, or **Devil** backward is **lived**. The Almighty does indeed have a droll sense of humor, and if She (He) will allow me a palindromic pun at His (Her) expense, we are blessed in having a **droll Lord**.

I know there are Doubting Thomases out there who are saying "show us the nails". I present them with the Palindromic Dead Sea Scrolls. To aid readers not well-versed in Scripture, I have included attributions of the palindromic statements. As fragments are being pieced together in jigsaw-puzzle form on a continuous basis, this document must be seen as a work in progress.

REVEILED I DID LIVE; EVIL DID I DELIVER (Genesis 3) The Serpent feigns remorse in an attempt to avoid eternal sand-sucking, but God is not fooled.

LIVE NOT ON EVIL, MADAM, LIVE NOT ON EVIL (Genesis 3) The Almighty delivers an injunction to Eve.

MOOD SEVERE, VAIN. I AVER EVE'S DOOM (Genesis 3) The Almighty displays zero tolerance in his sentence of Eve.

EVE DAMNED EDEN, MAD EVE (Genesis 3) Adam is disconsolate as God evicts him and the Missus from Paradise.

CAIN, A MONOMANIAC? (Genesis 4) Adam discovers that Cain slew Abel in a classic case of sibling rivalry run amok.

HA! ON! ON! ON! O, NOAH! (Genesis 7) Noah's amorous wife, Joan of Arc, is inspired by animal behavior on the original Love Boat.

WAS IT ARARAT I SAW? (Genesis 8) On the seventeenth day of the seventh month of confinement with odiferous beasts, Noah does a double-take when the ark comes to rest upon Mount Ararat.

"PEE? WE BAD!" LOT TOLD ABE, "WEEP!" (Genesis 13) Lot gives his uncle Abram (God doesn't change the name to Abraham until Genesis 17) for having a wet dream.

PA'S A SAP! (Genesis 19) Lot is living in an isolated cave with his two daughters. The girls want to "preserve seed of our father", so the eldest daughter convinces her sister that if they get Dad drunk he won't realize what he is doing. The plan works as the girls bear sons who become the fathers of the Moabites and Ammonites.

HARASS SELFLESS SARAH? (Genesis 21) Sarah gives Abraham an ultimatum: "It's me or the handmaid". Abraham chooses Sarah and extradites Hagar and Ishmael.

KNIFE IZZIE? FINK! (Genesis 22) Abraham is much relieved to find out that God was only teasing him when He/She told Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac on Mount Moriah.

A PET? I'M ESAU, A SEMITE, PA! (Genesis 27) Esau is incredulous when his dim-eyed father, Isaac, mistakes him for the family sheep dog.

E.T., I'M ESAU, A SEMITE (Genesis 32) Esau, in his Egyptian travels, introduces himself to the used-camel merchant Ed Tutankhamen.

WAR, DAN? ISRAEL CLEARS IN A DRAW! (Genesis 32) Jacob announces to his son Dan that his wrestling match with an angel has ended in a draw and that the angel renamed him Israel. As a result of the draw, Jacob retains his BWWF (Biblical World Wrestling Federation) belt.

LO, DINAH, AN IDOL (Genesis 34) Jacob shows his daughter Dinah a golden calf which their Shechemite neighbours built.

O.J. DEIFIED JO (Genesis 37) The O.J. initials refer to "Old Jacob". Genesis 37:3 states: "Now Israel (Jacob) loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours." This made Joseph's brothers very angry because they all had to wear hand-me-downs or buy off the rack.

ON! ON! ON! ONAN, ON! ON! O, NO! (Genesis 38) A self-abusing Onan is bereft upon staining the family heirloom.

DOG WAS I ERE I SAW GOD (Exodus 4) Moses is humbled after his dialogue with the Burning Bush.

MURDER! RAMSES MARRED RUM (Exodus 7) A livid Moses discovers that Pharaoh Ramses has tampered with his liquor supply, and all he has left to drink is kosher wine.

EGAD, NO BONDAGE? (Exodus 12) An Israelite slave is euphoric upon being released from captivity.

NULL. ARABIAN IS NOT ON SINAI. BAR ALL U.N. (Exodus 33) Moses claims God ordered him never to relinquish control of Mount Sinai for strategic reasons.

MUST I, MOSES, OMIT SUM? (Numbers 35) Moses is told by his accountant that he cannot deduct the first Tablets.

TIM, MUST I, MOSES, OMIT "SUMMIT"? (Deuteronomy 33) Moses discusses with his editor, Tim Leviticus, what to include in the Five Books of Moses.

GIDEON. A CANOE. DIG (Judges 7) God tells Gideon He/She will help him defeat the Midianites if he can find three hundred men who can dig a canoe out of the mud without any of their knees touching the ground.

NAOMI? NO! SMASH SAMSON, I MOAN (Judges 15) A Philistine father is embarrassed to discover that his son beat up Samson's sister Naomi rather than challenge the Biblical he-man.

GO, MA, SNIP "NAME" HE-MAN. PIN, SAM, OG (Judges 16) Delilah exhorts her mother to shave Samson's head while her uncle Ogden attempts to immobilize him.

NAOMI, I MOAN (Ruth 1) Ruth laments the death of her husband to her mother-in-law, Naomi, when she discovers the stiff didn't carry life insurance.

AIRY, SNIDE, DOCILE ELI CODED IN SYRIA (1 Samuel 1) A detractor of the priest Eli claim Eli is a Syrian mole.

DID HANNAH SAY AS HANNA DID? (1 Samuel 1) Elkanah, Hannah's husband, asks the priest Eli if Hannah has indeed pledged their son Samuel to sing in the Temple choir.

GOLIATH, TAIL OG (1 Samuel 17) The leader of the Philistines asks Goliath (you don't order someone who is three cubits and one span tall) to shadow Og whom he suspects of being an Israelite double agent.

I DID DAVID AS A DIVA, D-DID I? (1 Samuel 18) A stuttering Jonathan is disturbed by his desire for David.

HAIR UP, URIAH? (2 Samuel 16) King David laments when Uriah the Younger informs him of the death of his favorite son, Absalom. Long-locked Absalom was done in when he got hoisted by his hair in an oak tree, making him an easy target for Joab's arrow.

MAD AMNON, MADAM (2 Samuel 13) A member of King David's harem, the Geshurite princess, asks her daughter Tamar which of her perverted half-brothers raped her. When she tells her mother it is Amnon, she and her son Absalom organize a hit against Amnon.

MY BABY! MY BABY! MY BABY! M-- (1 Kings 3) Two harlots contest custody of a baby boy before King Solomon's court.

AHAB! AHAB! AHAB! AHA-- (1 Kings 21) Jezebel harangues King Ahab for acting like a wimp.

DRAB ASA WAS A BARD (2 Chronicles 15) King Asa used to bore his Judean subjects with his haiku verses.

NO WAR (ZERO), FOR EZRA WON (Ezra 7) The enemies of Ezra the scribe realize it is futile to oppose him when he shows them a letter of support from King Artaxerxes of Persia.

YAHWEH, CHEW HAY (Job 2) Job lets loose after being tempted one time too many.

POOR DAN IS IN A DROOP (Daniel 6) Not surprisingly, Daniel is feeling a bit down over the prospect of spending the night in a den of lions. He is saved when the lions show a distaste for Jewish food.

AIRY, SNIDE WOLF-MURDER SAID I AS RED RUM FLOWED IN SYRIA (Jeremiah 49) The Lord reveals to Jeremiah that the Syrians will be plagued one day with a bloodthirsty tyrant with a near-palindromic name, Assad.

NOON. TACIT AMOS SAW I WAS SOMATIC AT NOON (Amos 9) One of Amos's fellow prophets recounts how Amos would shake him out of his trance when lunch was being served.

SO MAY OBADIAH, EVEN IN NINEVEH, AID A BOY - AMOS (Obadiah 1) Obadiah has a detailed dream wherein God tells him to move to Assyria, adopt an orphan boy and rename him Amos.

SET? I'VE NINE NINEVITES (Jonah 4) After Jonah gets belched out of a whale, God commands him to go to Nineveh. There he is instructed to organize a minyan (a prayer set of at least ten Jewish men). Jonah tells God he can only find nine guys, forgetting that he counts as the tenth male.

NOSH, SON? (Matthew 3) Joseph offers Jesus his first bagel with cream cheese at his sister's sweet sixteen.

MARY BRED A DERBY RAM (Luke 2) To supplant Joseph's meagre carpenter's income, Mary raised thoroughbred rams. The one named Shofar went on to win the Triple Crown of sheep racing.

AH, SATAN, NATASHA! (Matthew 4) Satan fails to tempt Jesus in the wilderness with exotic Russian women.

EVIL I DID DWELL; LEWD DID I LIVE (Luke 7) A contrite Mary Magdalene washes Jesus's feet with her tears.

DEIFIED NAME, HEROD. ADORE HE, MAN DEIFIED (Matthew 14) John the Baptist loses his head when he denounces Herod Antipas, tetrach of Galilee, for divorcing his wife in order to marry his niece Herodias.

ON! I SACK CASINO (Mark 11) Jesus urges his disciples on after he overthrows the tables of the money-changers in the temple.

LEPERS, ALAS, REPEL (Matthew 16) A leper begs Jesus to cure him because his disease is putting a damper on his social life.

MOODY MEN, I PINE MY DOOM (Mark 14) Jesus is gloomy at the Last Supper after eating Passover food.

SUIT NO PLAY, O ROYAL PONTIUS (Matthew 27) An obsequious aide fawns over Roman procurator Pontius Pilate.

WAS IT A RAT I SAW? (John 18) Mary Magdalene asks Peter if the fleeing figure she saw was Judas.

NO, MISS, IT IS SIMON (John 18) Peter corrects her when he realizes it is Judas's father, Simon.

REVERE VENOM? OH, ECCE HOMO, NEVER EVER! (John 19) The full, unabridged statement by Pontius Pilate when he presents Christ, crowned with thorns, to his accusers.

TARSUS RAT! (Acts 9) Saul of Tarsus, later dubbed Paul, is on his way to Damascus to beat up some Christians when he is blinded by a light from heaven. The Scripture in Acts 9:5 states "And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks". (Later on, those pricks want to kill Saul of Tarsus for becoming a turncoat.)

EGAD, A BASE NOTE DENOTES A BAD AGE (Revelations 6) Saint John the Divine predicts that the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse (Conquest, Slaughter, Famine, Death) will never be as popular as the Fab Four (John, Paul, George, Ringo).