

Mysteries in Anno Domini

English – Plautdietsch Edition



Jeheemnisse en Anno Domini

Englisch – Plautdietsch Utgow

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Mysteries in Anno Domini – English - Plautdietsch Study Edition
Jeheemnisse en Anno Domini – Enjlisch - Plautdietsch Utgow
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This is a work of fiction. Incidents, names, and characters are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously.

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Dedication:

To the memory of the Danzig Mennonites.

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Introduction

Students of history have available only a synopsis of events that occurred long ago. The Bible for example covers a period of thousands of years in a single volume. Historical narratives mostly describe the lives of the rich and powerful, and ignore the common people. To help readers get greater understanding of the past the literature known as historical fiction has been developed.

In historical fiction the writer uses material from the original sources and fleshes it out with plausible details. Often ordinary people play an important role in the resulting fictionalized stories. Readers thus get a full story involving characters of common interest. By experiencing stories from a new viewpoint, readers obtain a perspective view, which can add to their appreciation of the original story.

The twelve stories of this book belong to such literature. They occur within the context of major events recorded in the Scriptures, but are experienced by fictional characters who were not mentioned in the original sources. The time span of the stories is the first four decades of the Christian era, the 'years of our Lord'. As prescribed by the genre, information extracted from original sources is used to tell detailed stories of representative common characters living in the era.

At the heart of the stories are three characters in Palestine who experience the major events of the era second hand. The three are a physician, a problem solver and his young niece. In addition to carrying out their own tasks, they experience and comment on the major events around them. The first three stories are set in the Jerusalem area and cover the first thirty years of the era. The following six stories are set around the Sea of Tiberias and deal with three further years of the era. The final three stories cover the decisive events of the final months of the era.

The stories are given in bilingual form; in English, and Plautdietsch. Plautdietsch is not a single established written language; the 'Zacharias orthography' without the 'n at the end' is used herein. This bilingual version can provide reading material for a Plautdietsch language course. Finally, it can provide a modest contribution to the development of a written form of the language.

Enleidunk

Vonne Bejäwenheite von lang trigj habe Studente vonne Jeschicht bloos eene Toopfotunk väärärtich. De Bibel, toom Biespel, behaudelt sikj met de Jeschicht von dusende Joare en een Buak. De Jeschichte von lang trigj haundle sikj foaken met de Rikje un Majchtje, un nich met de jeeenliche Lied. Om de Läsasch halpe de Vegonenheit bäta to vestone, es een Aufdeel von de Literatua jenant Jeschichtliche Romaunschreff entwekjelt.

En soone Literatua brukt de Dichta Bescheet vonne Bieekja von lang trigj un felt de Jeschicht ut met jleewende Eenzelheite. Foaken habe jeeenliche Lied een wichtichet Roll en soone utjedochte Jeschichte. Läsasch kjree dan ne volle Jeschicht von jeeenliche Lied. Wiels see de Jeschichte von een aundre Aunsecht seene, kjree see een bätren Blekj, daut äa Vestentnis von de uasprinjliche Jeschicht kloara moakt.

De twalf Jeschichte von dit Buak jehiere to soone Literatua. See haundle sikj met wichtiche Vääkome en de Heilje Schreff, oba dise passiere to Karaktasch dee doa nich erwänt sent. De Tietspaun vonne Jeschichte es de ieeschte vea Joatieende vonne Kjristliche Tiet, de 'Anno Domini.' Soo aus daut sikj jehieet es en dise Literatua, woat Bescheet von de Kjwale jebrukt om volle Jeschichte to schildre von jeeenliche Karaktasch dee en dit Tietspaun läwde.

Enne Medd von de Jeschichte sent dree Mensche en Palestina dee de wichtiche Erieejnise beläwe, oba von tweede Haunt. Dise dree sent een Oatst, een Maun dee Probleeme leest, un siene Nicht. Dise Mensche habe äare ieejne Oabeit, un kome uk toop un jäwe äare Meenunk von de wichtiche Bejäwenheite. De ieeschte dree Jeschichte sent en de siedliche Jerusalem Jääjent jestalt, un passiere en de ieeschte dartich Joare vom Tietspaun. De nääkjste sas Jeschichte sent en de nuadliche Tiberias See Jääjent jestalt, en de dree nääkjste Joare. De latste dree passiere en de latste Moonate vom Tietspaun.

De Jeschichte sent en tweeproakje Form jejäft, en Enjlisch un Plautdietsch. Plautdietsch, de Mutta Sproak von de 'Rusche Mennonite,' haft noch miere jeschräwne Forme; de 'Zacharias Ortografie' one daut 'n aum Enj', woat en dit Buak jebrukt. De tweesproakje Utgow wort poatwies jedrukt om Läse Materiol fa Plautdietsche Klausse to leewre. Tolatst, een Ziel von dit Buak es een kjlienen Biedrach en de Entwekjlunk en de jeschräwne Form von dise Sproak to vesorje.

Birth

Bethlehem, the city of David, lies in the rolling hills of Judea. This city had always been in Dr. Vatsilis' sphere of interest, lying a short distance south of his villa. The road was safe, teeming with travelers making the six-mile jaunt from the Holy City. This day he reached the lookout and studied the scenery below. The market and public buildings stood at the center among waving palm trees, and around these stood spacious homes with gardens. The streets, curving over the hills, were filled with mixed traffic; robed pilgrims marching patiently to a shrine, mounted travelers heading to urgent meetings, shepherds herding their flocks, and teamsters bringing cargo to the market.

The doctor was headed for the compound of Homez, his friend and colleague. Homez' practice was in leased premises near the market. The area teemed with people of many races, Greeks, Romans, and Palestinians, who made up Homez' clients. This region lay in King Herod's domain; it was peaceful on the surface, but tension bubbled beneath. Power lay nominally with the monarch, but the government was Roman. Diverse people lived in the kingdom, often generating baffling problems. Homez, for a fee, stood ready to solve these problems. Cases dealing with missing persons, stolen property, strife between neighbors, and struggle with relatives filled his day. The doctor arrived at Homez' compound and was given access by Cato, Homez' trustworthy bondservant.

"Winter, do come in," Homez shouted, addressing Dr. Vatsilis by his popular nickname. "I have some important news to

Jeburt

Betlehem, de Staut von David, licht en de rollende Boaj von Judäa. Dise Staut wia aul emma en Dokta Vatsilis siene Bekauptschoft, wiels dee eene korte Strakj siedlich von sien Kuta lach. De Gaus wia secha un runtvoll met Reisende, dee de sasmiel Reis ut de Heilje Staut muake. Aun disem Dach kaum de Dokta toom Spetz von eenen Boajch un bekijkt sijk de Launtschoft. De Moakjt un de effentliche Jebieda stunde enne Medd vonne Staut, mank huage Paulme, un om dise stunde rumje Hiesa met Goades. De Gause rande kromm erom de Hempels, un wiere met jemischen Vekjia voll; meede Piljasch, dee langsam to eenem Heiljet Denkjmol marschieede, Reisende, dee to drinjende Trafe fuare, Hoads, dee äare Häade dreewe, un Foatiche, dee Lods toom Moakjt brochte.

De Dokta fua toom Jeschaft von Homez, sien Frint un Poatna, opptoo. Homez siene Praxis wia en een jepachtet Jebied dicht biem Moakjt. De Jäajent wia voll Mensche von väle Rausse; Grieche, Reemasch un Palestinensa. Aul dise wiere Homez siene Kunde. Dise Jäajent lach em Jebiet vom Kjennich Herodes; daut wia frädlich oppe Bowakaunt, oba Spaununk sprudeld von unje. De Macht lach metem Kjennich, oba de Rejierunk wia reemisch. De veschiedne Mensche dee em Rikj wonde veuasoakte foaken vewerrende Schwierichkjeite. Homez, fa een Pries, stunt reed, dise Schwierichkjeite to leese. Fal, dee sijk met vemiste Mensche, jestolne Sache, Striet tweschen Nobasch, ooda Jacht met Vewaunte deelde, felde sien Dach. De Dokta kaum to Homez sien Hus un wort von Cato, Homez sien aunvetruda Kjnjacht, enenn jelote.

"Winta, komm doch enenn," roopt Homez Dokta Vatsilis, met sienem bekaanten leekjenome. "Ekj hab wichtiche Norecht, die to

share with you.” He said this with urgency, being a man of many worries. Most days Winter gave way to Homez, but today he did not. Today, Winter placed his own issue at the top of the agenda.

“Homez, today I have a request to make,” Winter said. “I hope you won't deny me. Much of your work is groundbreaking. Your techniques are pioneering, original in form and content. While you are generously rewarded for your work, it is your clients who end up as winners.

“Your cases form a treasure-trove that should be shared with others. My request is for your permission to document the more interesting cases. My records will not only preserve your work, but also entertain and educate the reader.”

Homez considered the proposal and then gave his approval. So was launched Winter's campaign to document Homez' work. The stories upon completion were all transferred to the present parchment. These relate a remarkable series of adventures that Winter and Homez encountered during the next three decades.

The two men had met in their younger years. Winter's mind now flashed over the events since that first meeting. Winter's youth had been spent on his father's estate just north of Bethlehem. Although a Roman citizen, his father was Greek, married to a woman of his race. His father was a practicing physician who had opened a surgery on his estate. As the estate lay on a major trade route to the south, his patients came from all parts of the empire. This diverse group provided Winter with a broad and complete education.

vetale.” Hee säd daut bosich; hee wia een Maun met väl Sorje. De mieeschte Doag gauf Winta Homez free Harschoft, oba vondoag nich. Vondoag haud Winta siene ieejne Sach aune Spetz vonne Dachordnunk jestalt.

“Homez, vondoag well ekj die woat froage,” säd Winta. “Ekj hop du woascht daut nich aufsaje. Väl von diene Oabeit es niemootsch. Diene Konst es wiet veropp, ieejenoatich en Form un Enhault. Oppwool du goot fa diene Oabeit beloont woascht, sent et diene Kunde, dee doavon aum mieeschte jewenne.

“Diene Fal moake eene Schauzgruft, dee met aundre jedeelt woare sulle. Ekj well diene Erlaubnis habe, de intressauntre Fal doltoschriewe. Miene Schrefte woare nich bloos diene Oabeit bewoare, sonda uk de Läsasch unjahoole un beliere.”

Homez docht doaräwa een Stootje no un gauf dan siene Toostemmunk. Soo wort de Kampanje vom Winta aunjefunge, de Oabeit von Homez doltoschriewe. De Jeschichte, aus see foadich wiere, worde aule em vääligjendet Pergament noppjeschräwe. Dise betrakje sikj opp eene bemoakjboare Rieej von jewoagde Beläwnise, dee Winta un Homez en de näakjste vea Joatieende bejäajend.

De twee Mana haude sikj aul en äare kjindische Joare jekjant. Winta sien Senn blizt nu äwa de Erieejnise seit däm ieeschten Trafe. Winta wond en siene Jugent met siene Elre nuadlich von Betlehem. Sien Voda, oppwool een reemischa Birja, wia Griechisch, met eene Fru von siene Rauss befriet. De Voda wia een utjelleeda Dokta, dee eene Klinnikj opp sien Kuta rand. Aus sien Kuta opp eenem grooten Haundelswajch nom Siede lach, kaume siene Paziente ut aule Deelee vom Rikjdom. Aul dise Mensche besorjde Winta met eene breede un volstendje Bildunk.

On the day of their first meeting, Winter's father was treating an important Roman official while his son was reading his lessons in the front garden. Suddenly a young Roman boy shouted a greeting. He was about Winter's age, already tall, with a friendly face. "You must be the son of the physician," the boy said. "What are you reading?"

"I am his son; Winter they call me, and these are my lessons," came the answer. "And who are you?"

"I am Secundus Homerus, the son of a Roman official, your father's present patient," the Roman answered, "but do call me Homez." This first meeting had lead to their lifelong friendship. The curious nickname cited by the Roman stuck with him for the remainder of his days. The nickname of the physician's son also persisted, as did his preference for the colder portions of the year.

During Winter's student years, he had seen much of Homez, and his older brother Primus. Their meetings were always informative, Homez telling of the Roman administration of his father's circle, and Winter of the Greek community in his family's circle. Their separate schooling created no divisions, as they eagerly absorbed each other's lessons.

Homez told of the conservative customs of his father. Winter described the liberal lessons given at the villa by his parents. Homez later spent his Rhetoric years in Rome, while Winter served as an apprentice in his father's surgery.

On completion of the Rhetoric program Homez

Aum Dach von äa ieeschtet Trafe behaundeld Winta sien Voda eenen wichtichen reemischen Beaumta, wäarent sien Sän siene Oppgowe em Väägoade laus. Oppeenst kaum een reemischa Jung em Goade un bejreest am. Hee wia soo daut Ella vom Winta, aul huach jewosse, met een frintlichet Jesecht. "Du best woll de Sän vom Oatst," säd de Jung. "Waut läst du?"

"Ekj sie sien Sän; Winta nane see mie, un daut sent miene Oppgowe," kaum de Auntwuat. "Un wää best du?"

"Ekj sie Secundus Homerus, de Sän von een reemischen Beaumta, dee krakjt nu de Pazient von dien Voda es," auntwud de Jung. "Aule nane mie Homez." Dit ieeschte Trafe haud to äare Läwes-lange Frintschoft jefieet. De sondaboara leekjenome, dee vom Jung aunjejäft wia, behilt hee fa sien gaunzet Läwe. De leekjenome vom Sän vom Oatst bestunt uk, soo aus uk siene Freid fa de kolde Tiede vom Joa.

Wäarent de Studentenjoare haud Winta väl von Homez jeseene, un uk sien elra Brooda Primus. Äare Trafe wiere emma intressaunt, Homez vetalt von de reemischa Vewaultunk em Kjreis von sien Voda, un Winta von de griechische Jemeent em Kjreis von siene Famielje. Äare jetrande School Belia muak kjeene Aufdeelunk, wiels see iewrich dän Unjarecht vom aundren aunneeme.

Homez vetald von de Konserwatiewe Sitte von sien Voda. Winta beschreef de liberale Oppgowe, dee em Kuta von siene Elre jejäft worde. Homez vebrocht Iota siene Retorik Joare en Room, wäarent Winta aus Lialinkj en de Klinnikj von sien Voda deend.

Nom Beschluss vom Retorik Prograum wia

enlisted in the Legion, but following a swift military campaign, he returned to enter the local Roman administration. Meanwhile, when Winter became of age, his father sent him to Athens to study under top physicians. There he took the Hippocratic Oath. On his return, Winter learned that Homez had married Corva, a family friend, and Primus had married Julia, a distant cousin. The marriages though did not interrupt their friendship.

After some years, illness took away Homez' parents as well as Winter's father, so within a short time the two were on their own. With his father's passing Winter inherited the villa and the medical practice, which was thriving. One day, years later, Winter found Homez at his doorstep.

"Welcome Homez!" Winter cried. "Do come in! What brings you here?" Homez it turned out had brought a bag full of surprises.

"I have tragic news to begin with," Homez said solemnly. "My wife Corva has passed away. She contracted an infection, made a valiant effort, but the best physicians could not save her. After her passing, I left my post.

"Then I made a radical change in my life. As you know the Roman administration, while bringing peace and justice, is painfully slow. There is a demand for a quick settling of affairs, a service yielding a just result, but at greater speed. Such service is sought especially by freed bondservants and new citizens who haven't settled into a new circle. I now provide such a service here in Bethlehem.

Homez en de Legion aunjewoaft, oba no eene schwinde millitäärische Kampanje kjeed hee en de reemische Vewaultunk en Palestina en. Entweschen, aus Winta ella wort, schekjt am sien Voda no Ateen, om unja Jelleede Doktasch to studiere. Doa naum hee dän hippokratischen Eit. Bie siene Trigjfoat erfua Winta, daut Homez sikj met Corva, eene Frindin vonne Famielje, befriet haud, un Primus met Julia, eene tweede Kusine. De Ehe haude de Frintschoft met Winta oba nich jestieet.

Väle Joare lota naume Krankheite de Elre von Homez un uk Winta sien Voda wajch, soo daut en korte Tiet de beid auleen stone muste. Winta haud sien Voda sien Kuta jeoaft un uk de medizienische Praxis, dee väl jewosse haud. Een Dach, Joare lota, funk Winta Homez ver de Husdää.

"Welkom to mien Hus!" roopt Winta. "Komm nenn! Waut brinj die hiahan?" Homez haud eene Fuppvoll Äwarauschunge jebrocht.

"Toieescht brinj ekj truariche Norecht," säd Homez. "Miene Fru Corva es jestorwe. See wort krank met eene schljachte Enzindunk, muak eene browe Aunstrenjunk, oba de baste Doktasch kunne äa nich rade. No äa aufläwe veleet ekj mien Amt.

"Dan hab ekj eenen grooten Wakjssel en mien Läwe jemoakt. Soo aus du von de reemische Vewaultunk weetst, wäarent dee Fräd un Jerajchtichkjeit to de Bevelkjarunk brinj, es dee sea langsam. Doa fält waut, daut Aunjelääajenheite jnietsch oppjeriemt woare, een Deenst, daut een jerajchtet Utkome brinj, oba väl schwinda. Soone Deenste woare fa aulem von friejejäfte Kjnajchte un niee Birjasch jesocht, dee sikj noch nich en eenen nieen Kjreis jesat habe. Ekj vesorj soonen Deenst nu hia en Betlehem.

“At the beginning, my clientel was small, but now business is booming. I need an intelligent and talented man who can provide expert assistance. Can you be that man?” While Winter did not see clearly where he was going the sight of Homez and memories of their long friendship soon convinced him to join his program. Within months the two were collaborating and Homez’ practice continued with its growth.

The first of the stories recorded by Winter occurred shortly after their beginning. At the time, Caesar Augustus ruled the Roman empire, and King Herod held the mandate in Palestine, a distant Roman protectorate. Palestine lay between Africa, Asia, and Europe, and often experienced turmoil. This area had seen countless invaders and the descendants of many people lived here. With a resulting mixed population, many languages were spoken, Greek and Latin in formal affairs and Aramaic in the market. Driven by many issues the struggle for power between local leaders and those sent by Rome was threatening to boil over.

Augustus proved an enlightened ruler, who showed admirable respect for human life. Placing restrictions on arbitrary killings including infanticide, and opening the field of medicine for development were two of his new programs. The improved techniques trickled down in the profession, and Winter’s patients were among the fortunate beneficiaries.

While Augustus governed with enlightenment, Herod ruled with an iron fist. Resenting his brutal oppression, his own people rose in opposition. Religious leaders criticized his corrupt and extravagant life style. The

“Aum Aunfank haud ekj weinje Kunde, oba mien Haundel haft stoak jewosse. Ekj bruck eenen kluaken un begowden Maun, dee fäich halpe kaun. Kaust du mien Poatna woare?” Oppwool Winta nich kloa wist wuahan dit gone wudd, beendrukt am Homez. Soo beschloot hee sikj to Homez sienem Deenst auntoschlute. Een poa Moonate lota oabeide de beid aul toop, un Homez sien Praxis woss stoakj wieda.

De ieeschte Jeschicht dee Winta oppschreef kaum korz no disem Aunfank. To de Tiet wia Caesar Augustus de Harscha vom reemischen Rikjdom, un Kjennich Herodes de Harscha en Palestina, woont eene reemische Prowins wia. Palestina lach tweschen Afrika, Asien un Europa un erlâwd foaken Opprua. Dit Jebiet haud ontalboare Aunjriepasch jeseene un de Nokomenschoft von vâle Mensche lâwd hia. Soo gauf et hia eene toopjemischte Bevelkjarunk un vâle Sproake worde jerât, jeweenlich griechisch un latiensch, un aramäisch oppem Moakjt. Daut gauf hia vâle Schwierichkjeite, un een stoakja Kaumf fa de Macht tweschen dâm hiesje Kjennich un dâm von Room jeschekjta Fiera.

Augustus bewees sikj aus een jebilta Harscha, dee dankswieete Oobacht fa dâm menschlichen Lâwe bewees. Beschrenkjunge fa rikjsichtsloose Merdre, enslutent Kjinjamort, un de Opninj von de Medizien fa Entwekjlunk wiere twee von siene niee Prograums. De vebätade Kjenlariee jinje em Oatsten Beroop enenn, un Winta siene Paziente jehieede to de jlekjliche Nutzneeta.

Wäarent Augustus met Ensecht harscht, rejieed Herodes met eene iesane Fust. Wiels siene ruchloose Unjadrekjunk groote Oajanis brocht, stunde siene Lied en Jäajenstaunt opp. Relijeese Fierasch kritisieede siene

suffering of the masses led to organized resistance. The rebels fought against his tyranny, and later opposed the rule of Rome. Local spiritual leaders meanwhile portrayed the Romans as intruders who oppressed the people and imposed crushing taxes.

About this time, a major census was proclaimed by Caesar Augustus and throughout Palestine, the people reported to the city of their ancestors for registration and taxation. Bethlehem, the city of King David, was the destination of large crowds. The market and inns of the city became crowded. Unused for years, the caves in the hills were mustered to shelter livestock and to provide emergency housing for the out-of-towners. After the census, many people lingered for months and Bethlehem remained crowded. All this turmoil was not bad news for Homez' practice.

Homez insisted on being current with new developments, and used informers for this purpose. About this time, Homez received news that a group of shepherds had witnessed an unusual heavenly display and had heard of the birth of a great new king. Homez for some time did not know what to make of this information. The event became of great importance to him later.

About a year following this event, Winter came to visit Homez, who recently had received exciting local reports. A small caravan had arrived in the city, bringing strangers from distant lands. The visitors had come to ask about the birthplace of the great new king who they said had been born nearby. The group was lead by three great scholars who were wealthy and were knowledgeable in astronomy. They insisted that Bethlehem was

vekomne un äwadräwne Läwensstiel. Daut Liede vonne Mensche fieed to plonmäsjä Wadastaunt. De Wadastonasch kjamfte jääjen siene Tieranie un lota jääjen de reemische Harschoft. De relijeese Fierasch schildate de Reemasch aus Endrinjasch, dee daut Volkj unjadrekjte un schwoare Takse oppdrenjde.

Om dise Tiet befool Caesar Augustus een grootet Tale vonne Velkja un en gaunz Palestina jinje de Lied to de Staut von äare Väaelre om sikj enschriewe un Taks to betole. Betlehem, de Staut vom Kjennich David, wia daut Ziel von groote Menje. De Moakjt un de Gausthiesa enne Staut worde äwafelt. Seit Joare onbenuzt, worde de Heele en de Hempel rom de Staut toom Schutz vom Vee vonne Reisende un uk soogoa fa Notunjakunft fa de Reisende selfst, jestalt. No de Volkjs Talunk bleewe väle Mensche Moonatelank en Betlehem. Aul dit Opprua wia kjeene schljachte Norecht fa Homez siene Praxis.

Homez bestunt doaropp, met niee Entweklunge jääjenwuatich to bliewe, un brukt Spiejoone fa disem Zwakj. Om dise Tiet kjrieech Homez de Norecht, daut een Grupp von Hoads een onjeweentlichen himlischen Tieekjen beläft hauden. Uk hieed hee von de Jeburt von een grooten nieen Kjennich. Homez wist fa lange Tiet nich, waut hee von disem Bescheet moake sull. De Bejäwenheite worden am lota sea wichtich.

Soo bie een Joa no dise Bejäwenheite kaum Winta to Homez, dee ver kortem spanende Berechte jekjrääje haud. Eene kjliene Karawan wia en de Staut aunjekome un brocht Framde von een Launt wiet auf. De Jast wiere jekome, om nom Jeburtsuat vom grooten nieen Kjennich to froage, dee see säde hia dichtbie jebuare wia. De Grupp wort von drie groote Jeliiede jefieet, dee woolhabent wiere un groote Kjanntnis vonne

the birth city.

Homez now interrupted Winter's reverie and told him his important news. "You know of my brother Primus who holds a post in Jerusalem," he said. "The time has come for the confinement of his wife Julia. Of course, Primus wants a son, but he is more enlightened than father was. He will insist on keeping the child, even if it is a daughter."

Winter congratulated Homez on this wonderful news, and then Cato appeared at the door. He advised that clients, a Roman man and woman, were waiting for Homez.

"Show them in!" Homez told Cato, grateful for the interruption. "Then wait outside, and ensure that we have no interruptions."

Homez welcomed the couple, and examined them closely during the formal greetings. They were both still young. The man had a shrewd face that betrayed a business leaning. It was clear that maternal duties were the main concern of the woman. Their elaborate dress indicated they belonged to the wealthy few. Clearly, a cause other than money or property was responsible for their present worries. Following the greetings, Homez invited the man to state his business, starting at the beginning.

"I am Gaius, a merchant of this city, and this is Sophia my legal wife," said the visitor. "We were born and married in Rome, and came to live in this city ten years ago. I am in good standing with the Roman authorities, and actively fulfill my civic and religious duties, including making Temple contributions and sacrifices. My trade is in grain. I make my purchases in Bethlehem and ship my goods to

Astronomie haude. See bestunde doaropp, daut Betlehem de Jeburts Staut wia.

Homez unjabruak nu de Dreemarie vom Winta un vetald am von siene wichtiche Nieichkjeite. "Du kjanst mien Brooda Primus, dee en Jerusalem eenen Amt helt," säd hee. "De Tiet fa Jeburt es jekome, fa siene Fru Julia. Natieedlich well Primus eenen Sän, oba hee haft mea Ensecht aus Voda haud. Hee woat doaropp bestone, daut Kjint to hoole, uk wan et eene Dochta es."

Winta gratulieed Homez fa dise wundaboare Norecht, un dan kjeem Cato to de Dää. Hee säd Homez, daut Kunde, een reemischa Maun un eene Fru, opp am wachte.

"Wies dee fuaz enenn!" säd Homez to Cato, dankboa fa de Unjabräakjunk. "Dan wach bute un pauss opp, daut kjeena ons stieet."

Homez bejreest daut Poa un bekjikt an jeneiwt wäarent de Bejreessunk. See wiere beid noch jung. De Maun haud een schneiwet Jesecht, daut een Jeschaftsmaun verod. Daut wia autoseene, daut muttaliche Flichte daut Hauptaunligje vonne Fru wiere. Äare diere Kjeleeda beweese, daut see to de woolhabende Lied enne Staut jehieede. Eendietich, wia waut aundret aus Jelt ooda leejendom äare Sorj. No de Bejreessunk lod Homez dän Maun en, siene Jeschicht, von Aunfank aun, to vetale.

"Ekj sie Gaius, een Jeschaftsmaun en dise Staut, un dit es miene Fru Sofia," säd de Maun. "Wie sent en Room jebuare un befriet, un wone aul tieen Joa en dise Staut. Ekj sie met de reemischa Oobrickjeit en gooden Toostaunt un erfell emma miene Birjaliche un relijeese Flichte, dee miene Tempelbiedroag un Opfa enschlute. Miene Oabeit es em Jeträajd Haundel. Ekj kjeep en Betlehem en

Rome through Caesarea Maritima. My reason for consulting you is not my business, but a personal matter which I can't entrust to the civil authorities."

Homez paid close attention to the man, and glanced from time to time at his wife, wondering about the reason for her presence. When Gaius continued, the reason soon became clear. "We are fortunate to own a large home in a quiet neighborhood of the city," Gaius continued. "It is a comfortable place to raise a family and to entertain our friends. The incident that concerns us occurred at this home, so I will describe it in detail. The main building faces the street and to the rear lays a large garden that is covered almost entirely in fruit and shade trees. There is a small patio in the garden, and the entire compound is enclosed by a tall stone wall."

"We have three children, a boy of six, and two girls, three and one. Our staff consists of six servants, one of whom is the nurse for the youngest child. On weekdays, I work in my office, and Sophia cares for the household. Our problem arose yesterday and involves our youngest child. As Sophia was at home, she will explain what happened."

Homez now turned his attention to the woman, who had listened patiently as her husband sketched the background. Winter noted that her attractive face was lined with worry, but she now quietly launched into her story. "The incident happened in the late afternoon," Sophia said. "The tutor was teaching our boy in the library and a servant was attending to our elder girl in the indoor playroom. A second servant, Helen, a mature woman, was attending to our Bäbe.

un schekj miene Woa derch Caesarea Maritima no Room. Mien Grunt, die to berode, es nich mien Jeschaft, sonda eene perseenliche Aunjelääjenheit, dee ekj de Civil Oobrickjeit nich aunvetrue kaun."

Homez hieed dän Maun väasechtich too, kjjkjt no siene Fru un fruach sikj waut de Grunt fa äare Toojääjenheit wia. Aus Gaius wieda fua, wort de Grunt boolt kloa. "Wie sent jlekjlich en een grootet Hus en eene ruje Nobaschoft enne Staut to wone," fua Gaius wieda. "Daut es eene makliche Städ, eene Famielje optotrakje un sikj met onse Frind to unjahoole. De Erieejnīs, dee ons betroff, es en dit Hus väajekome, doarom woa ekj de Eenselheit doavon beschriewe. Daut Haupt Jebied steit de Gaus jääjenäwa un hinje es een groota Goade, dee meist gaunz en Oft un Schaute Beem bedakjt es. Daut jeft eene Terrausse em Goade, un daut Vemieeeje es von eene huage Steenawaunt omjäft."

"Wie hab dree Kjinja, een Jung von sas, un twee Mejale, dree un eent. Onse Bedeenunk besteit ut sas Deenasch, von dānen eene de Krankensesta fa daut jinjste Kjint es. Aum Woakjeldach schauf ekj en miene Offiz, un Sofia kjemmat sikj om daut Hushault. De Väafaul es Jistre passieet un troff ons jinjstet Kjint. Aus Sofia tus wia, woat see erkjlāare, waut passieet es."

Homez dreid sikj nu no de Fru optoo, dee jeduldich tojehorcht haud, aus äa Maun dän Hinjagrunt toopfoot. Winta sach, daut äa schmocket Jesecht volla Sorj wia, oba see jinkj nu stell en äare Jeschicht enenn. "De Väafaul es aum loten Nomeddach passieet," säd Sofia. "Ons Liera lieed onse Junges en de Bibliotākj un eene Deenarin wia met onse elre Mejal enne Spälstow benne. Onse aundre Deenarin, Helen, eene vejoade Fru, wia met ons Bäbe.

“At this time of day, when the Bäbe has been fed and the heat of the sun is gone, Helen takes the child to the patio in the garden, and places it in a crib to nap in the sun. Helen’s sole duty at this time is to watch the child.” At this instant, Sophia appeared to choke up, and Winter turned to glance at Homez. He was curious to see his reaction to this tame domestic tale, which for a veteran of the Gallic Wars must be of little interest. But Homez maintained a serious interest, patiently waiting for Sophia to finish her story.

“It was about an hour after Helen had taken the child into the garden when I heard a loud commotion from the patio,” Sophia continued. “A woman was hysterically wailing. Then I heard a child cry, while the adult wailing continued. I rushed out of the house followed closely by one of our servants. In the patio, I saw Helen weeping bitterly, and heard a child crying loudly.

“‘Compose yourself,’ I shouted to Helen. ‘What has happened?’ Helen prostrated herself in front of me. ‘Look for yourself, my lady,’ she wailed. ‘The child is gone. Another has been put in its place.’ I pulled off the cover, looked at the child, and saw that it was not our Bäbe girl, but a Bäbe boy. I cringed back in shock, hoping that I was mistaken. But I was not, for my Bäbe girl was gone. She has been gone two days now. I fear for her life, and desperately hope you can help us.”

Sophia’s story was followed by an uncomfortable silence. Homez sat with his eyes closed, in deep thought. Winter knew that his mind was sweeping over the material Sophia had presented, seeking to establish

“Om dise Tiet vom Dach, wan daut Bäbe aul jefoodat woare es, un de Hett von de Sonn aul wajch es, nemt Helen daut Kjint to de Terrausse em Goade un lajcht daut en eene Kjrebb, om enne Sonn to schlope. Helen äare eensje Flicht es dan daut Kjint to bewachte.” En disem Uagenblekj bleef Sofia stääkje, un Winta dreid sikj erom, om Homez to beseene. Hee wia nieschierich, siene Reakzion to dise tome tusiche Jeschicht to seene, dee fa eenen Oolen Soldot vom gaulischen Kjrigh von weinich Interesse senne must. Oba Homez hilt een iernstet Jesecht, un wacht jeduldich fa Sofia, om äare Jeschicht to endjen.

“Daut wia onjefää eene Stund, nodäm Helen daut Kjint em Goade jebrocht haud, aus ekj eene lude Oppräajunk vonne Terrausse hieed,” fua Sofia wieda. “Eene Fru hield schnoopich. Dan hieed ekj een Kjint hiele, wäärent daut oppjewosne Klommua wieda jinkj. Ekj leet aules ligje un rand utem Hus, jefolcht von eenem von onse Deenasch. En de Terrausse sach ekj Helen bettalich hiele, un hieed een Kjint lud schrie.

“‘Beruij die doch’, roopt ekj to Helen. ‘Waut es passieet?’ Helen schmeet sikj fa mie dol. ‘Kjikj mau bloos selfst, miene Daume’, jaumad see. ‘Daut Kjint es Wajch; een aundret es aun äare Städ jelajcht worde.’ Ekj trock de Dakj auf, kijkt daut Kjint aun un sach, daut et nich ons Mejalkje wia, sonda een Jung. Ekj foll vefieet trigj un hopt, daut ekj ert. Oba ekj haud nich jeert, wiels ons Bäbe wajch wia. See es nu aul seit twee Doag wajch. Ekj fercht fa äa Läwe un hop, daut du ons halpe kaust.”

Aus Sofia met äare Jeschicht opphieed, foljd eene Ommakliche Stell. Homez saut met de Uage too, en deepe Jedanke. Winta wist, daut Homez sien Vestaunt äwa daut Materiöl, daut Sofia vääjestalt haud, fääjd, un socht

relations, weeding out irrelevant facts, and wondering what was missing. When he finally spoke, it was to tell Gaius that he would accept the case but needed more information.

“You have given precise details of your own home and household,” Homez said. “What can you tell me about your neighbors? What is the condition of the wall around your compound? Do tradesmen have access to your grounds, and do you trust your servants?”

Gaius exchanged glances with Sophia, and then gave his answer. “Our compound is one of four in a large city block,” he said. “Two of the adjacent compounds belong to other Romans, and the third to a rich Palestinian, of the Jewish faith. The enclosure is in good repair, the height of a man, and to cross it requires a ladder, or some ruse. Tradesmen are not allowed in the compound, always leaving their deliveries at the entrance. The servant who acts as my guard has been with the family for twenty years.”

Homez addressed his next question to Sophia. “When you arrived at the patio and first saw the foundling, did you notice anything peculiar, anything at all?” he asked. When Sophia did not answer Homez asked her to think carefully, and let him know later.

“This is a strange story,” Homez now said to Gaius. “Several possibilities have to be considered. You have the most complete knowledge of the situation. Who in your view carried out the abduction, what was the motive, and where is your child at this moment? And in the meantime, what measures have you taken for the foundling?”

Veheltnis optobue, onwichtige Omstende aufsondre un sikj to froage, waut doa noch fäld. Aus hee entlich spruak, wia et om Gaius to saje, daut hee dän Faul aunname wudd, oba daut hee mea Bescheet habe must.

“Du hast sea krakjte Einzelheite äwa jun ieejnet Hus un Hushault jejäft,” säd Homez. “Waut kaust du mie von de Nobasch vetale? Woo steit et met de Waunt om jun Kuta? Habe Hauntoabeida Toogank to jun Jebiet, un vetru jie june Deenasch?”

Gaius kijkt no Sofia un gauf dan siene Auntwuat. “Ons Kuta es eent von vea en een grootet Stautblock,” säd hee. “Twee von de aunjrensende Kutasch jehiere to aundre Reemasch, un daut dredde to eenem rikjen Palestinensa, vom hebräischen Gloowe. De Waunt es goot reparieet, de Hecht von een Maun, un om doa äwatokome brukt maun eene Lada, ooda Lest. Hauntoabeida sent nich opp ons Kuta erlaupt, see lote emma äare bestalde Leewrunge biem Engank. De Deena, dee opp mien Kuta wacht, es aul twintich Joa mete Famielje.”

Homez haud nu eene Froag fa Sofia. “Aus du bat de Terrausse kjeemst un toieescht daut nieet Kjint sachst, hast du irjent waut Besondret bemoakjt?” fruach hee. Aus Sofia kjeene auntwuat gauf, säd Homez äa, daut see sull sorjfeltich nodenkje un am lota weete lote.

“Daut es eene schnorriche Jeschicht,” säd Homez nu to Gaius. “Doa mott eena miere Määjlichkjeite noseene. Du hast daut baste Kjantnis von de Loag. En diene Aunsecht wää haft dien Kjint entfieet, waut wia de Uasoak, un wua es daut Kjint krakjt nu? Un en de Tweschentiet, waut hab jie met daut nieet Kjint jedone?”

“We have been considering these questions for a full day now,” Gaius replied looking sadly at Sophia. “We are baffled by the event. We have ordered a servant to care for the foundling, expecting him to be useful in dealing with the abductors.”

After Homez had advised that he would visit in the near future, the couple left the compound, their hearts somewhat lighter. Before Winter could pose a question, Homez let his mind ramble, summarizing the main facts of the matter. “We have here at the same time a two-part crime, a child abducted and another abandoned,” he said. “To solve this mystery we must uncover the motive. Is there a religious purpose, is it revenge, has one act been committed to mask the other, are there any precedents, and have the facts been twisted? Our suspicion must fall on the Palestinian neighbor, the one of the Jewish faith. Are there peculiar violent events in this faith related to children?”

“During my informal education I heard of several related events,” Winter mused. “In the religion of the Palestinians there is the story that the prophet Abraham was to sacrifice his son to his God. There is also the story that the prophet Moses was discovered as a foundling in the Nile. Before the Hebrews left from Egypt the first-born of the host nation were killed. When they arrived in Palestine, the extermination of the local population, men, women and children was carried out. Later King Solomon pronounced judgment on the ownership of a disputed child, advising the child should be bisected. In Roman history there is the legend of the foundlings, Romulus and Remus, while in the Greek religion there is the story of Medea killing her own children.”

“Dise Froage habe ons aul eenen gaunzen Dach Sorje jemoakt,” wia Gaius siene truariche Auntwuat aus hee no Sofia kjikjt. “Wie sent von de Bejäwenheite vebleft. Eent von onse Deenasch kjetmat sikj om daut nieet Kjint. Daut kaun em Omgank met de Entfierasch nutzboa senne woare.”

Nodäm Homez an jesajcht haud, daut hee boolt nom Kuta kome wudd, veleet de Twee, äare Hoate een bät leichta. Ea Winta eene Froag stale kunn, besonn Homez sikj un brocht de wichtichste Omstende toop. “Wie habe hia een tweesiedjet Vebräakje, een Kjint entfieet un een aundret velote,” säd hee. “Om dit Jeheemnis to leese, mott wie de Uasoak opdakje. Jeft et eenen relijeesen Zwakj, es et Rach, es eene Haundlunk aunjegone worde, om ne aundre to vestääkje, haft soont aul ea passieet, un sent de Omstende vedreit worde? Ons Mestrue mott opp dän Palestinensa Noba, dän vom hebräischen Gloowe, faule. Jeft et besondere dolle Erieejnise en disem Gloowe em toophank met Kjinja?”

“En miene formloose Bildunk hab ekj von eenje vewaunte Bejäwenheite jehieet,” säd Winta. “En de Relijion von de Palestinensa jeft et de Jeschicht daut de Profeet Abraham sien Sän to sienen Gott aus Opfa jäwe sull. Noch eene Jeschicht es, daut de Profeet Moses aus een Finjlinkj em Nil Fluss jefunge wort. Ea de Hebräa ut Ägipten trocke, worde de leeschtjebuarne vonne Gaustjäwasch omjebrocht. Aus see en Palestina aunkaume, wort de Utrottunk vonne hiesje Bevelkjarunk, Mana, Frues un Kjinja derchjefieet. Lota, aus daut leejendom von een Kjint besträde wort, gauf Kjennich Salomo daut Uadeel, daut daut Kjint en twee halfte jeschnäde worde sull. Enne reemasche Jeschicht hieet maun von de Finjlinje, Romulus un Remus, un en de griechische Relijion hicht von Medea, dee äare Kjinja ombrocht.”

“Let us keep faith, let us assume that this is not a case of infanticide,” Homez replied. “Again, we have here a two-part crime. Should we consider the two acts as separate crimes, and investigate each on its own?”

Their thoughts were interrupted by Cato who entered to advise Homez that an informer had arrived. A man then stealthily entered, his head covered with dark headgear. He whispered to Homez, disguising his voice. He had further news about the three scholars of the foreign caravan.

The scholars carried a letter of introduction from King Herod, he said, and had come to bring tribute to a newborn child. The child had been located, and expensive gifts had been left with the parents. The informer gave Homez detailed information about the identity of the parents, and their current home. Later, he said, the three scholars had secretly left Bethlehem, heading not to Jerusalem, but to the south, aiming to return to their country without reporting to King Herod.

The informer last advised that the visit had brought great fear to Bethlehem. It was reasoned that King Herod would be furious at the scholars' disappearance. He would believe a rival had been born in the city, who would become a threat to his dynasty. Knowing the King's cruel disposition, the arrival of a military expedition was expected, which would bring about a bloodbath.

The informer had barely left when Cato entered again to announce the arrival of a

“Lot ons opptimmistisch bliewe, well wie annäme, daut daut kjeen Faul von Kjinjamort es,” auntwad Homez. “Wie habe hia een tweesiedjet Vebräakje. Sull wie de beid Poat aus jetrande Vebräakje aunseene un jieda eent selfst unjasieekje?”

Äare Jedanke worde von Cato unjabroake, dee nenjekome wia, om Homez weete to lote, daut een Informant aunjekome wia. Een Maun kaum dan heemlich enenn, sien Kopp met eene dunkle Koppbedakjunk vestoake. Hee fuscheld to Homez en eene vedreide Stemm un gauf wiedre Nieichkjeite von de dree Jeliiede enne utlendsche Karawane.

De Jeliiede brochte eenen Enleidunk Breef von Kjennich Herodes, säd de Informant, un see wiere jekome, om een Niejebuarnet Kjint autobäde. See haude daut Kjint jefunge, un diere Jeschenkje met de Elre jelote. De Informant gauf Homez jeneiwet Bescheet un Utwies äwa de Elre un äare niee Adrass. Een bät lota, säd hee, haude de dree Jeliiede Betlehem heemlich velote un nich no Jerusalem trigj jegone, sonda nom Siede jereist. See wulle no äa Launt trigjreise, one Kjennich Herodes wada to seene.

De Informant haud toolatst aunjediet, daut de Besuach groote Angst en Betlehem jebrocht haud. Daut wort jedocht, daut Kjennich Herodes opp daut Veschwinje von de Jeliiede grulich doll senne wudd. Hee wudd jleewe, daut een Konkurrent en de Staut jebuare wia, dee eene Jefoa fa siene Nokome senne wudd. De grausome Stemmunk vom Kjennich wia bekaunt, un doawääjens wort de Aunkunft von een Kjriejeshää jewacht, daut een Jemetzel brinje wudd.

De Informant haud jrod velote, aus Cato wada nenkaum, om de Aunkunft von een tweeda

second visitor. This one entered openly, and Homez greeted him as an old acquaintance. He was a messenger dispatched by Primus, Homez' brother.

"The child was born yesterday and Julia is well," he reported. "It is a girl, and the name chosen is Emily. Primus sends greetings, and warns that King Herod has sent out an expedition which is headed for Bethlehem."

"If turmoil is headed this way we must act decisively," Homez said. "We will visit Gaius, but first we will make a little detour."

In short order the two were on their way following a path which was unfamiliar to Winter. When he asked about their destination, Homez waved impatiently, saying that they must hurry. They entered a busy street choked with traffic. A fierce wind swirled across the street, the sky was darkening, and the crowd was in a panic. Merchants hastened to shutter their shops, infected by the fear of the passersby.

They now entered a quiet street, one which earlier had been mentioned by Homez' informer. Homez searched left and right, and finally found the building that he was seeking. The gate was barricaded and the windows shuttered. "They have made their escape," Homez muttered with great contentment. "May they have a safe journey!"

Homez now hurried to the compound of Gaius. The guard admitted them, reinserted a barricade, and led them to his master. Homez asked first to see the foundling and when the child was brought asked that the cover be removed. "The child is not circumcised," Homez noted. "But that does not make him Greek or Roman."

Maun bekaunt to moake. Disa stieech open enenn, un Homez bejreest am aus een oola Bekaunta. Hee wia een Norechta, dee von Primus, Homez sien Brooda, jeschekjt wia.

"Daut Kjint wort Jistre jebuare un Julia es jesunt," berecht hee. "Daut es eene Mejal, un äa Nome es Emily. Primus schekjt Jreesse un woarnt, daut Kjennich Herodes een Häa utjeschekjt haft, woont no Betlehem kjemt."

"Wan Opprua hia häa kjemt, mott wie iernst un haustich haundle," säd Homez. "Wie woare Gaius besieekje, oba toieescht mott wie eenen kjlienen Omwajch moake."

En korte Tiet wiere de beid opp een Wajch, woont däm Winta nich bekaunt wia. Aus hee no äa Ziel fruach, weifeld Homez onjeduldich un säd, daut see sikj spoode muste. See kaume no eene drocke Gaus met väl Vekjia. Een dolla Wint wirbeld äwa de Gaus, de Himmel vedunkeld sikj, un aulawääjes haude Mensche groote Angst. De Haundelsmana, dee vonne Angst von de Menj aunjestekjt wiere, reffelden sikj äare Stuaren tootoschlute.

See kaume nu to eene ruje Gaus han, dee Homez sien Informant verhää erwänt haud. Homez socht links un rajsch un funk schlieslich daut Jebied, daut hee socht. Daut Dooa wia blockieet un de Fenstre tojedakjt. "See habe äare Flucht jemoakt," brummeld Homez sea tofräd. "Daut see eene sechre Reis habe!"

Homez spood sikj nu to Gaius sien Kuta. De Wajchta leet an enenn, sad een Schetzel verem Puat, un fieed an to sienem Harn. Homez wull toieescht, daut Finjlinkj seene, un aus daut Kjint jebrocht wort, fruach hee, daut de Spreed wajch jenome wia. "Daut Kjint es nich beschnäde," säd Homez. "Oba doamet es hee nich griechisch ooda reemisch."

Homez now asked to speak to Helen and the other servants, but they were unable to give useful information. Gaius now led them over the grounds, and they circled around the enclosure, Homez giving it a close inspection. The barrier was the height of a man, as Gaius had described, and in good repair. But Homez found a defect. He pointed to a gap, the site of a recent disturbance, a gap not large, but a gap nevertheless.

“That gap was not there a week ago,” Gaius said loudly, giving a dark look at his servant. “The opening is too small to admit a man, and we can be sure the abductor was not a child.”

“Who lives on the other side?” Homez now demanded, for the gap was on an interior wall. “It is the Palestinian,” Gaius answered ominously.

Homez now made further enquiries about the neighbor. “The property has been in his family for generations.” Gaius answered. “He is a rich, crafty man who is well connected. He is not particularly pious as no priest ever comes to pray with him. The family has a number of children, and in recent months we have heard the cry of an infant.”

The group was interrupted now by the arrival of Sophia. She had something for Homez. “Earlier you asked me,” she said, “if I had noticed anything peculiar on my first arrival at the patio. I now recall something that I had forgotten. On first arrival I saw nothing peculiar, but I noted a peculiar fragrance, a strong smell of incense.”

Homez wull nu met Helen un de aundre Deenasch råde, oba see kunne kjeene nutzboare Informazion jäwe. Gaius wees an nu sien Kuta. See jinje rom de Waunt, un Homez unjasocht dee jeneiw. De Waunt wia de Hecht von een Maun, soo aus Gaius jesajcht haud, un en gooden Toostaunt. Oba Homez funk waut tonicht. Hee wees opp een Loch, wua eene niee Stierunk wia, een Loch nich groot, oba doch een Loch.

“Dit Loch wia ver eene Wääkj nich hia,” säd Gaius lud un kijkt untofräd to sien Deena. “De Opninj es too kjlien, om eenen Maun nentolote, un wie kjenne secha senne, daut de Entfiera kjeen Kjint wia.”

“Wää wont opp de aundre Sied?” foddad Homez nu, wiels daut Loch opp eene Bennawaunt wia. “Daut es de Palestinensa,” auntuwad Gaius en eenen onheiljen Toon.

Homez wull nu wiedre Noforschunge vom Noba moake. “Daut Kuta es seit Jennerazione en siene Famielje,” gauf Gaius Auntwuat. “Hee es een rikja, schlaua Maun, dee goot vebunge es. Hee es nich besondasch fromm, wiels kjeen Priesta jeemols met am bäde kjemt. De Famielje haft eene Aunzol von Kjinja, un en de latste Moonate hab wie daut bloare von een Bäbe jehieet.”

De Grupp wort nu derch de Aunkunft von Sofia unjabroake. See haud waut fa Homez. “Verhää hautst du mie jefroacht,” säd see, “aus ekj bie de ieeschte Aunkunft opp de Terrausse waut besondret bemoakjt haud. Ekj kaun mie nu aun waut denkje, daut ekj vejäte haud. Bie de ieeschte Aunkunft sach ekj nuscht besondret, oba ekj moakjt eene sondaboare Duft, eenen stoakjen Jeroch von Miereneelj.”

“Had you ever noted that fragrance before?” Homez asked shortly. “Yes,” Sophia answered. “It was at the market, at the stall of the incense merchant, the dwarf Pico.”

“Hautst du dise Jeroch aul ea wua bemoakjt?” fruach Homez kort. “Jo,” auntwua Sofia. “Daut wia oppem Moakjt, biem Stua vom Mierendel Koopmaun, de Dwoaj Pico.”

Homez now hushed for silence, and lightly strode again to the barrier near the gap. Winter followed Homez, perking his ears, striving to hear the disturbance heard by Homez. At first he heard nothing, but then he became aware of a muffled sound. It came from the adjacent compound, and it was the sound of a woman bitterly weeping.

Homez wees nu stell to senne, un jinkj leis to de Waunt dichtbie daut Loch. Winta foljd Homez, met de Uare wiet op, un bemieejd sikj, dee von Homez jehieede Stierunk to hier. Toieescht hieed hee nuscht, oba dan wort am een leiset Jereisch bewust. Daut kaum von däm Kuta biesied, un wia de Klommua von eene Fru, dee bettalich hield.

Homez now sprang into action. He whispered a few words to Gaius and then the two disappeared into a room of the home. When Homez re-emerged Winter hardly recognized him, as his face was blackened, and he now wore a torn tunic and a ragged head cover. Homez and Winter hurried through the gate into the street, which was in turmoil.

Homez wist nu waut to doone. Hee fuscheld een poa Wieed to Gaius un dan veschwunge dee beid en eene Stow vom Hus. Aus Homez wada oppdukt, kjand Winta am kaum, wiels sien Jesecht schwuat jemoakt wia, un hee nu eenen veräten Rock un eene velumpte Koppbedakjunk druach. Homez un Winta jinje haustich derch daut Puat en de Gaus, dee nu en Opprua wia.

Soldiers in pairs rushed door-to-door, demanding entry. A mother flashed by carrying a male infant with two soldiers in hot pursuit. Homez zigzagged through the streets, and finally arrived at his destination. He told Winter to wait, while he approached a humble gate. In moments he returned, with a ragged man, clearly an informer.

Soldote en Poare rande von Hus- to-Hus un foddade enenn to kome. Eene Mutta blizt vebie, endäm see een Mauns Kjint, met twee Soldote en heete Vefoljunk, druach. Homez rand derch de Gause un schlieslich wiere see bie äa Ziel. Homez säd daut Winta wachte sull, wäarent hee sikj eene bescheidne Puat nodad. En weiniche Minnute kjieed hee trigj, met eenem velumpten Maun, dee sechalich een Informant wia.

Homez and Winter now followed this man, who swiftly sped through the streets, to an address given by Homez. They arrived at a hovel at the edge of town. Homez took the forward position and pounded on the gate, the guide and Winter standing directly behind him. Homez waited in increasing temper, but then the gate opened. A man appeared, tiny in

Homez un Winta foljde nu disem Maun, dee schwind derch de Gause sprunk, to eene Adrass dee Homez am jejäft haud. See kaume nu bie een Huskje aum Raunt vonne Staut aun. Homez jinkj veropp un schluach opp daut Dooa, aus de Fiera un Winta, direkjt hinja am stunde. Homez wacht en toonämende schljachte Stemmunk, oba dan wort daut

stature and smelling strongly of incense.

“We have come for the child,” Homez proclaimed loudly. “Bring her at once.” The man hesitated for a moment and then was gone. He reappeared momentarily, tenderly carrying an infant which was soundly sleeping. When Homez asked for a motive the man replied that the Palestinian neighbor had received warning from Herod’s court, and had left his son at the home of a Roman where he felt certain he would be safe. The infant girl had been abducted to retrieve the son later. Homez and Winter swiftly took the child to Gaius’ compound, where she was received with great joy.

The next day Homez invited Winter to accompany him to visit Primus in Jerusalem. In Winter’s first view of Emily he noted a strong family resemblance and in her face saw an indifferent nonchalance. Homez didn’t linger, as he already had a new case waiting.

Dooa opjemoakt. Een Maun kjeem, bitsich en Statua dee stoakj no Miereneelj rikjt.

“Wie sent fa daut Kjint jekome,” roopt Homez lud. “Brinj däa fuaz oppe Städ.” De Maun zoagd bloos eenen Uagenblekj un wia dan wajch. Hee kjeem korz trigj, behutsom met eenem Bäbe, daut noch schleep. Aus Homez no eene Uasoak fruach, auntwud de Maun, daut de Palestinensa Noba von Herodes sien Hoff Woarnunk jekjräaje haud. Doarom haud hee sienen Sän toom Hus von een Reema jebrocht, wua hee wist, hee secha wia. Däm Reema sien Mejalkje wia entfieet worde, om däm Sän lota trigjtohole. Homez un Winta naume daut Kjint schwind to Gaius sien Kuta, wua see met groote Freid oppjenome worde.

Aum näakjsten Dach loot Homez Winta en no Jerusalem to gone om Primus to besieekje. En de ieeschte Aunsecht von Emily bemoakjt Winta eene stoakje Famielje Ähnlichkeit un en äa Jesecht sach hee eene sorjloose Lässichkeit. Homez dwauld nich, wiels hee aul een niea Faul oppjenome haud.

Temple

Homez was back from the Holy City and said to Winter, "My friend, it went smoothly on this trip. Your help is much appreciated." Homez had just transported the first batch of his belongings to his new office in Jerusalem. Cato, his bondservant, now bent down to wash his feet. After a twelve year stay in Bethlehem, Homez was transferring his business, expecting greener pastures in the Holy City. Winter had kept watch for Homez in his absence, and with the mid-day rest approaching he now prepared to return home.

"There is surprising news that will be of interest to you, Winter," Homez blurted out. "You recall that case of our cooperation twelve years ago when the town was stirred up by the birth of the Child? Today's news again concerns that Child. But you need food and rest, I will tell you later." Winter would have like to hear the news, but he hurried off as his mother was expecting his punctual arrival.

Winter greeted Patricia, the family bondservant at the door and passed to the dining hall where his mother Irene was waiting. He was soon busy answering her intrusive questions. "Everything went smoothly in the morning, the move is now half completed, but this is the least of my worries," Winter replied to the first stream of questions. "The concern of my friend is his niece, Emily, who although sensitive is becoming assertive. She is now twelve years old, a delicate age. The tenth anniversary of her parent's passing has come, and she is now forced to move to a new city. At this time of year Homez himself is grieving about the passing of his parents, and of Primus and Julia."

Tempel

Homez wia von de Heilje Staut trigj un säd to Winta: "Mien Frint, daut jinkj goot opp dise Reis. Diene Help es mie väl wieet." Homez haud jrod daut ieeschtet Poat von siene Sache no siene niee Offiz en Jerusalem jebrocht. Cato, sien Kjnjacht, bekjt sikj nu, om siene Feet to wausche. No eenem twalfjoaschen Oppenhooft en Betlehem trakjt Homez nu om, wiels hee fa sien Jeschaft eene jreenre Weid en de Heilje Staut wacht. Winta haud fa Homez oppjepaust wäarent siene Reis, un wull nu no Hus gone Meddach äte.

"Winta, daut jeft äwarauschende Nieichkjeite, dee fa die intressaunt senne woare," säd Homez. "Du kaust die doch noch aun däm Faul twalf Joa trigj denkje? Wie wirkjte doa toop, un no de Jeburt vom Kjint wort de Staut oppjeweelt. De vondoagsche Norecht es wada von daut Kjint. Oba du motst Meddach äte gone, ekj woa die daut aules lota vetale." Winta wull jieren bliewe om de Norecht to hierie, oba hee veleet schwind, aus siene Mutta, eene Wätfru, opp siene pinkjliche Aunkunft wacht.

Winta bejreest de Famielje Deena, Patricia, bie de Däa un jinkj to de Ätstow, wua siene Mutta Irene wacht. Hee wia boolt beschaflicht, stieerende Froage to beantwuate. "Aules jinkj goot zemorjes, daut Omtrakje es nu haulf foadich, oba daut es kjeene groote Sorj," auntwad Winta opp äare ieeschte Froage. "De Sorj von mien Frint es siene Nicht, Emily. Oppwool see emfintlich es, woat see nu driest. See es aul twalf Joa oolt, een jefädlicha Ella. Daut tieende Joaresdach von äare Elre äa stoawe es jekome, un see es nu jedwunge, no eene niee Staut to trakje. To dise Joarestiet truat Homez selfst äwa siene Elre, un Primus un Julia."

Irene then asked about Homez' new quarters in Jerusalem. "Mother you know Jerusalem well," Winter answered. "From the Bethlehem gate one goes straight to the wall of the Temple. One turns right and passes the Hasmonean Palace on the way to the Hippodrome. Halfway down the colonnade one again turns right. Homez has leased a two-story dwelling a short distance down a side street. His office and laboratory are on the ground floor, while his living quarters are on the upper floor. There is a small courtyard in the rear, which is a rarity in the city. His concubine Ruth and his servant Cato will make the place comfortable. If there is enough business he will move to more spacious quarters later."

"Winter, you should should supervise more closely your own medical practice," Irene now advised. "You should spend time to find a good Greek wife. The plan for heirs can't be left waiting."

When the lurch was over Winter retired for the afternoon rest. He did not know that a new adventure with Homez was pending, with furious action soon to follow.

The next morning Winter was at Homez' quarters in Jerusalem waiting for him to bring the final load from Bethlehem. He was caring for Homez' niece Emily during his absence and she provided pleasant company. Her intellect was nearly as sharp as that of Homez, and her zest for life rivaled that of Homez himself. Now nearing the age of maturity she was restless, and Winter could see how she could become a worry for his friend.

Emily had been only two when her parents had died of a mysterious illness. As her only relative, Homez had taken her in, the transition eased by a caring nanny. She had been

Irene fruach dan no Homez sien nieet Kwatia en Jerusalem. "Mutta, see kjane Jerusalem goot," gauf Winta Auntwuat. "Vom Betlehem Puat jeit maun jlikjtoo no de Tempel Waunt. Dan dreit maun rajsch un jeit dän Hasmonean Pauloust vebie oppem Wajch toom Hippodrom. Oppem haulwen Wajch vonne Kolonnade jeit maun wada rajsch. Homez haft eene tweestokje Wonunk eene korte Strakj en eene Siedgaus jemeet. Siene Offiz un Proowkoma sent oppe Gruntflua, un sien Wonkwatia es em tweeden Stock. Daut jeft een kjliena Hoff hinje, waut eene Eenzelheit en de Staut es. Siene Konkubine Ruth un sien Kjnajcht Cato woare dän Plauz maklich moake. Wan et jenuach Jeschaft jeft, woat hee lota to een jratre Kwatia omtrakje."

"Winta, du sust diene ieejne medizienische Praxis noda en Oppsecht hoole," rod Irene nu. "Du sust Tiet vebrinje, eene goode griechische Fru to finje. De Plon fa Nokomen kaun nich lenja wachte."

Aus daut Meddachäte äwa wia, jinkj Winta Siesta moake. Hee wist nich, daut eene niee Jewoagde Unjanämen met Homez veropp wia, un daut wutje Akzion boot folje wudd.

Aum näakjsten Morje wia Winta en Homez sien Kwatia en Jerusalem un wacht, daut hee de latste Lod von Betlehem brocht. Hee paust fa Homez siene Nicht Emily opp un de twee unjahilde sikj lostich. Emily äa Vestaunt wia aul meist soo schoap aus dee vom Homez, un äare Läwesfreid wia aul jlikj met siene. See wia en disem Ella onruich jeworde, un Winta vestunt, woo see eene Sorj fa sienen Frint jeworde wia.

Emily wia bloos twee Joa jewast, aus äare Elre von eene rotselhaufte Krankheit jesterwe wiere. Wiels Homez äa eensja Vewaunta wia haud hee äa hanjenome. De Äwagank wort

placed in a Roman school at seven, had made friends there, and proved an excellent student. Besides Greek and Latin she had studied mathematics. Later Homez brought in private tutors. As the years went by Emily had taken charge of her life, goading Homez to provide her ever with greater challenges.

When Homez finally arrived, he came to lunch in the garden with Emily and Winter. Although near the city center, Homez had here a tiny oasis which was spared the city noises. Comfortable benches stood on either side of a tiny path that was surrounded by flowering bushes. A fountain gurgled with cool water. Emily was soon called by her tutor and then Homez and Winter returned to last day's conversation.

"Yesterday I mentioned that surprising news had come about the Child that stirred up Bethlehem twelve years ago," Homez said. "From my informer in the Hebrew Temple I have heard amazing stories of Him. He has come to town with His parents from Nazareth in Galilee to celebrate the Passover. The Child is twelve but already has an understanding of the Scriptures. His teaching has attracted scholars many years his senior. They are spellbound by the Child's great knowledge. He answers difficult questions easily with subtle reasoning. Twelve years ago three pilgrims from the east identified Him as a future king, and I am confident that this He will be."

The two were marveling at this prospect when suddenly Cato strode in and advised Homez that clients were waiting in the entrance hall.

von eene leeftolische Kjinjafläajasche erleichtat. Aus see säwen Joa wia schekjt Homez Emily no eene reemische School. See haud doa eene Frindin jefunge un bewees sikj aus eene utjetieekjende Scheelarin. Biesied Griechisch un Latien haud see Mateematik studieet. Lota haud Homez äa Priewaute Lierasch jebrocht. Aus see ella wort haud Emily äa ieejnet Läwe enne Haunt jenome, endäm see Homez spornd, äa emma jratre Oppfodrunck to besorje.

Aus Homez entlich aunkaum, jinkj hee em Goade met Emily un Winta toom Meddachäte. Oppwool sien Hus enne Medd Staut wia, haud Homez hia eene kjliene stelle Oases. Makliche Benkje stunde opp beid Siede vom kjlienen Stich, dee von blieejende Bescha omjäft wia. Een Borm gurjelt met koldet Wota. Emily wort boolt von äarem Liera jeroopt un dan kjieede Homez un Winta toom Teema vom latsten Dach trigj.

"Jistre erwänd ekj, daut äwarauschende Norecht von daut Kjint jekome es, daut ver twalf Joare en Betlehem jebuare wort," säd Homez. "Mien Informant em Hebräischen Tempel haft mie eene erstaunliche Jeschicht von am jetalt. Hee es met siene Elre von Nazaret en Galiläa en de Staut jekome, om daut Pascha to fieren. Daut Kjint es twalf, haft aul oba een Bejriff vonne Heilje Schreft. Siene Lia haft Jeliiede dee väle Joare ella aus Hee sent, aunjetrocke. See woare derch daut groote Weete vom Kjint vezaubelt. Hee kaun schwieriche Froage beantwuate met Rajchtfoadjunge. Ver twalf Joare habe dree Piljasch vom Ooste am aus tookjinfjtja Kjennich betieekjend, un ekj jleew, daut Hee daut senne woat."

De beid staunde äwa dise Utsecht, aus oppeenst Cato enennkaum un Homez berod, daut Kunde em Engankssol wachte. Homez

Showing no surprise at the early arrival of his first customers in Jerusalem Homez told Cato to show the pair in. Soon a dignified gentleman and an elegant lady entered. Homez looked them over carefully, noted their solemn faces, and then asked them to be seated.

In multi-cultural Jerusalem, this pair was not an easy read. The expensive toga of the man proclaimed him to be a rich Roman operating a thriving business in this outpost. The dress of the woman easily matched the splendor of the man, and her bearings indicated a high education. An heiress, Winter thought, the daughter of a rich Palestinian, of the diaspora, not local. It was curious that they had found Homez so early, and he wondered the means of their discovery. Homez spent some moments in pleasantries and then invited the man to state his business.

"I am Titus of Jerusalem, and this is my wife Shoshana," the man said. "I am a friend of one of your Bethlehem clients. He recommended you and directed me to your new home in this city. We are in despair, as our family has recently suffered a devastating blow. For months our oracle had seen black clouds on the horizon and sadly today her predictions came true. We face a desperate crisis for which we need assistance.

"For twenty years I have managed a trading firm in this city. As a supplier of carpets and soft furnishings my business is on stable ground. Numerous friends will confirm my good faith, and my financial prowess.

"The conditions at home are at the root of our problem and I will describe these to you in

wees kjeene Äwarauschunk bie dise tiedje Aunkunft von siene ieeschte Kunde en Jerusalem. Hee säd Cato, daut hee dee enenn brinje sull. Boot kaume een wirdicha Har un eene elegaunte Daum, beid met iernste Jesechta, enenn. Homez bekjikt sikj dee jeneiw un dan kroagd an sikj hantosate.

Mank de väle Velkja en Jerusalem wia dit Poa nich leicht to stale. De diera Toga vom Maun wort meist emma von rikje Reema jebrukt, vale von woone hia een blieejendet Jeschaft fieeden. Daut Kjleet vonne Fru paust leicht to de Pracht vom Maun, un äa Jesecht bewees een huaget Belia aun. Eene Erbin, docht Winta, de Dochta von een rikja Palästinensa, vom Utaunt, nich hia. Daut wia sondaboa, daut see Homez soo schwind jefunge hauden, un hee fruach sikj woo see am jefunge hauden. Homez verbrocht een Stootje en frintliche Unjahoolunk un dan loot dän Maun en, siene Jeschicht to vetale.

"Ekj sie Titus von Jerusalem, un dit es miene Fru Schoschana," säd de Maun. "Ekj kjan eene von diene Betlehem Kunde. Hee haft mie von die vetalt un mie diene Adrass en dise Staut jefäft. Wie sent vetwiewelt, wiels wie ver kortem eenen grooten Stuks jeliet habe. Seit Moonate haft ons Orakel schwoate Wolkje aum Horizont jeseene, un leida es vondoag de Väasajunk woa jeworde. Wie stone ver eene vetwiewelne Schwoare Tiet, un brucke Help doafäa.

"Seit twintich Joa hab ekj een Haundelsjeschaft en dise Staut jefieet. Wie leewre Teppiche un Enrechtunge fa Hiesa. Mien Jeschaft es opp stoakjen Grunt. Väle Frind kjenne mienen gooden Karakta un miene finansiele Krauft bestätjen.

"De Bedinjunge to Hus sent aune Wartel von ons Probleem un ekj woa an dise jeneiw

detail. I am a Roman citizen, with connections at the imperial court in Rome. My wife is of the Jewish faith, from a well established family long resident in Antioch. We dwell in my compound which is a few streets from Herod's Palace. We employ an experienced group of servants, whom we treat with dignity and who serve us with devotion. The compound is large, and accommodates us all with comfort.

"We have been blessed with two wonderful children. Rachel, the older child is now fourteen. She is an outstanding beauty and has a strong character and exceptional intelligence. She already has knowledge of Judea and other Roman provinces, including their politics and culture. Her brother, Quintus, is two years younger.

"While our servants are many, they are trusted and appreciated. At our home, we sleep peacefully at night. The children have finished their public schooling, and are now taught by private tutors. I am now getting to the root of our problem. Two years ago I brought in a special tutor to continue the children's education in Latin and Greek. The tutor's name is Marcellus. He came with a good reference given by a friend in Caesarea Philippi. Until yesterday, this man fully lived up to our expectations. He is a brilliant man suited to instruct my brilliant daughter. As tutor and student the two were perfectly matched, there was never a better pairing. There though lies the root of our problem."

Titus paused and gave Shoshana a poignant look. Homez, a patient man, calmly endured the man's dramatics and waited for him to come to the point. "As you know, last week in Jerusalem those of the Jewish faith celebrated the Passover," Titus continued. "From Judea,

beschriewe. Ekj sie een reemische Birja, met Vebinjunge aum Kjeisahoff en Room. Miene Fru es vom hebräischen Gloowe, von eene goot bekaunde Famielje, dee en Antiochia tus es. Wie wone en mien Kuta, dee een poa Gause von Herodes sien Paulauust es. Wie have eene erfoarne Grupp aus Deenasch, dee wie met lea behandle un dee ons met Truheit bedeene. De Kuta es groot un wie wone doa aule jemietlich toop.

"Wie sent met twee wundaboare Kjinja jesääjant worde. Rachel, daut elre Kjint es nu vieetieen. See es eene väastonende Scheenheit un haft eenen stoakjen Karakta un een butajeweenlichen Vestaunt. See haft aul Kjantrnis von Judäa un aundre reemische Prowinsen, enslutent äare Politikj un Kultua. Äa Brooda, Quintus, es twee Joa jinja.

"Oppwool wie väle Deena habe, sent dee toovelessich un huachjeschazt. Bie ons tus schlop wie frädlich de Nacht. De Kjinja sent no de effentliche School jegone un woare nu von Priewaute Lierasch jeliheet. Ekj kom nu to de Wartel von onsem Problemeem. Twee Joa trigj hab ekj eenen sondaboaren Liera aunjenome, om de Kjinja en griechisch un latienisch to unjarechte. De Nome vom Liera es Marcellus. Hee kaum met eenem gooden Hanwies von eenem Frint en Caesarea Philippi. Bat Jistre haud dis Maun onse Hopninj voll erfelt. Hee es een vetrafelja Maun, dee doatoo bestemt es, miene groosoatliche Dochta to unjarechte. Aus Liera un Scheelarin wiere de beid vollkome aufjestemt. Daut gauf nie een bätret Poa. Hia oba licht de Wartel von ons Problemeem."

Titus hilt en un kjikjt nu no Schoschana. Homez, een jeduldja Maun, wacht ruich doaropp daut de Maun entlich saje wudd waut sien Problemeem wia. "Soo aus du doch weetst, latste Wääkj en Jerusalem fieeden dee vom hebräischen Gloowe daut Pascha," fua Titus

Samaria, Galilee, and wherever there live devout men of that faith, pilgrims arrived in the city to worship at the Temple, and to offer sacrifice. The Passover is the primary feast of the year, and the city is filled with visitors. Yesterday, the celebrations ended and today the pilgrims, headed back home. Among those leaving the city was our tutor Marcellus, and in tow he had our daughter Rachel.”

Titus paused again and then finally expressed his demands. “Sir,” he said. “I believe that the servant that we trusted, the tutor Marcellus, has abducted our daughter Rachel. I wish you to pursue the two with the utmost energy, and bring back our child.”

Abruptly Titus ended his story and then sat back in apparent relief at having shed his burden. After gathering his thoughts, Homez began a series of questions. “Allow me to ask a few questions before I take your commission,” he said. “What are the circumstances of your discovery that your daughter was missing and that she left the city with her tutor? Do you have information about their destination and in whose company they are traveling? Has the tutor taken any such liberties before?”

Titus nodded, exchanged a glance with his wife and then gave a forthright answer. “There has been no precedent for the taking of such liberty,” he said. “The tutor’s conduct has been above reproach. Likewise, our daughter has never left home without our consent. Rachel’s absence was noted at the morning meal when she did not appear as per custom. The house was searched at once, the servants were questioned and from them we heard the tragic news. From Jezebel, the concubine of Marcellus, we learned that in the morning he had set out on a long journey. From our

wieda. “Von Judäa, Samaria, Galiläa un wuaemma doa Mana von disem Gloowe läwe, sent de Piljasch en de Staut jekome, om em Tempel auntobäde un Opfa to jäwe. Daut Pascha es daut ieeschte Fast vom Joa, un de Staut es voll von Jast. Jistre, kaume de Zerremoneien to Enj un zemorjes jinje de Piljasch no Hus. Unja dee, dee de Staut veleete, wia ons Liera Marcellus, un met am jinkj onse junge Dochta Rachel.”

Titus hilt en un gauf schlieslich siene Fodrunn ut. “Wie jleewe,” säd hee, “daut de Deena en däm wie Vetrue haude, de Liera Marcellus, onse Dochta Rachel entfieet haft. Ekj well daut du de beid met jratste Krauft sieekje deist, un ons Kjint trigj brinjst.”

Oppeenst kaum Titus siene Jeschicht to Enj un hee sad sikj dan en schienboare Velindrunn trigj, aus auf hee siene Lod dol jeläde haud. Homez must aules jeneiw weete, un funk aun met eene Rieej von Froage. “Ekj mott die een poa Froage stale, ea ekj de Oabeit aunnäme kaun,” säd hee. “Woo worscht du en daut diene Dochta veschwunge wia, un daut see met äarem Liera velote haud? Hast du jehieet woon Uat äa Ziel es un met wäm see unjawääjes sent? Haud de Liera verhää soone Frieheit jenome?”

Titus nekjkopt, tuscht eenen Blekj met siene Fru un gauf dan eene einfache Auntwuat. “De Liera haft nie soone Frieheit jenome,” säd hee. “Daut Vehoole vom Liera wia emma gaunz rajcht. Jrodsoo es onse Dochta nie one onse Toostemmunk vom Hus jegone. Wie worde bie de Morjes Moltiet en, aus see nich kjeem aus jeweenlich, daut Rachel wajch wia. Daut Hus wort fuaz derchjesocht, de Deenasch worde befroacht un von an hieed wie de truariche Norecht. Von Isabel, de Konkubine von Marcellus, hieed wie, daut hee zemorjes opp eene lange Reis jegone wia. Von däm

daughter's servant we learned that Rachel had been in her room till early morning. During a brief moment of absence, Rachel had disappeared. A bundle of my daughter's clothes is missing.

"We made further enquiries and obtained information from Marena, a colleague of Marcellus, who is the music tutor. She reported that Marcellus had revealed a plan to join a caravan traveling north after the Passover feast. Our house guard, Brutus, has contacts at the market where caravans are assembled, and found out that one left for Galilee this morning. Oddly, two residents from Jerusalem, a man and a young woman, had joined the group. It is my belief that those two were Marcellus and Rachel."

Homez nodded at this information and then posed further questions. "Are valuables missing from your home, either money or jewels? What do you believe is the reason for Marcellus' departure, and may we question your servants? Do you have details of the caravan in question, and what means of transport can you place at our disposal?"

These questions Titus was unable to answer other than give information about the departure of the caravan. He did consent to the questioning of the servants and said that his chariot and two mounted guards would be made available. After the two had reached agreement on terms for the commission, Titus strode out of Homez' compound, his wife hurrying to keep pace with him.

It was noon by now and Titus had indicated that the chariot would arrive in two hours. Homez quickly mapped out a plan of action. It was urgent to follow Marcellus once transport

Deena von onse Dochta erfua wie, daut Rachel bat zemorjes en äare Stow wia. En een kortet Tiet von Wajchsene wia Rachel verschwunge. Een Pinjel von äare Kjeleeda fällt.

"Wie habe wiedre Unjasieekjunge jemoakt un Informazion von Marena, eenem Kollegen von Marcellus, jekjraaje, dee Musik Liera es. See berecht, daut Marcellus eenen Plon openboat haud, sikj eene Karawane auntoschlute, dee no däm Pascha Fast nom Nuade foat. Ons Huswajchta, Brutus, haft Frind oppem Moakjt, wua Karawane toopjebrocht woare, un funk ut, daut eene fa Galiläa vondoag zemorjes veleet. Daut wia schnorrich, daut twee Enwonasch von Jerusalem, een Maun un eene junge Fru, de Grupp biejinkj. Ekj jleew, daut dise beid Marcellus un Rachel wiere."

Homez nekjkopt aus hee dit hieed un stald dan wiedre Froage. "Fäle Wieetsache von dien Hus, Jelt ooda Schmuck ooda soowaut? Waut jleefst du, es de Grunt fa Marcellus siene Aufreis? Kjenn wie diene Deena Froage stale? Hast du Eenzelheite äwa de Karawane jefroacht un waut fa Vekjia Meddel kaust du ons reed stale?"

Dise Froage kunn Titus nich aundasch beantwuate, aus bloos de Utkunft von de Aufreis vonne Karawane to jäwe. Titus stemd de Befroagunk von de Deenasch too un säd, daut sien Woage un twee Wache wudde reed jestalt woare. Nodäm de beid sikj jeeenicht haude äwa de Bedinjungen fa de Commission, veleet Titus Homez sien Kwatia, un siene Fru ieeld hinja am, om met am Schrett to hoole.

Daut wia nu Meddach un Titus haud aunjediet, daut de Woage en twee Stund kome wudd. Homez haud schwind eenen Aktionsplon doajestalt. Daut wia drinjent, Marcellus to folje,

was available, so that the caravan could be overtaken before nightfall. In the meantime Homez proposed to question the servants to ensure that their pursuit would be in the proper direction. Once the caravan was overtaken, there remained the problem of nabbing the abductor and his captive. Winter sensed that this latter objective might require the greater effort.

“We must use the next two hours to interview Jezebel, Marena and Brutus,” Homez said. “I suggest Winter, that you interview Jezebel and Marena, while I speak with Brutus and check the contacts at the market. We will meet again at two, and then set out on our journey.”

At this point they heard a rustling behind them and then Emily burst out from the thicket behind their bench. There was a huge smirk on her face, and she looked ready to burst of a red hot secret. Homez sized up the situation and demanded an explanation.

“My apologies, uncle, for eavesdropping on your conversation,” she began without a show of remorse. “I heard the complete story of Master Titus and of your plans. I have information that is vital for your mission.” Homez nodded in resignation and she continued. “Rachel and I were classmates at the Roman school, and became close friends. We are still in touch, and I last saw her two days ago. For some time I have known that Rachel’s relation with her tutor is not normal. She told me that she would go with him wherever he might take her. It is significant that Marcellus did not take Jezebel on his trip. Another point, Rachel often boasted about the crafty ways of her father. His actions are never straightforward; they are always filled with chicanery.” With these unsettling thoughts off her mind Emily asked to be excused and

sooboolt de Transport jekome wia, soo daut de Karawane ver Tweediesta äwahold woare kunn. En de Tweschentiet wull Homez de Deena befroage, om secha to stale, daut äare Vefoljunk en de rajchte Rechtunk senne wudd. Sooboolt de Karawane äwaholt wort, bleef daut Problem von däm Entfiera un sien Komrod äwamachte. Winta späad, daut dit latste Ziel de jratste Aunstrenjunk fodre kunn.

“Wie motte de näakjste twee Stunde benutze, om Isabel, Marena un Brutus to befroage,” säd Homez. “Kaust du met Isabel un Marena räde gone? Ekj woa met Brutus räde un dan nom Moakjt gone. Wie woare ons hia Klock Twee trafe, un dan loos sate.”

See hieede nu een Ruschle hinja an un dan kroop Emily von de Bescha hinja äare Bank rut. Doa stunt een grootet Schmusta opp äa Jesecht, un see schiend reed von een heetet Jeheemnis to plauze. Homez schazt de Loag schwind auf un foddad dan eene Erkläärunk von Emily.

“Bitte entschulj mie, Onkel, daut ekj jun Jespräakj toojehieet hab,” funk see one Leetsenne aun. “Ekj hieed de gaunze Jeschicht von Meista Titus un von june Plons. Ekj hab Bescheet, dee fa june Mission entscheident es.” Homez nekjkopt schwind un see fua wieda. “Rachel un ekj wiere Schoolkommarode bie de reemische School un worde dichte Frind. Wie trafe ons noch emma, un ekj hab äa toolatst fa twee Doag jeseene. Seit lange Tiet hab ekj jewist, daut Rachel äa Vehoole met äa Liera nich normal es. See säd mie, daut see wudd met am gone, wuaemma hee äa hannäme wudd. Daut es wichtich, daut Marcellus nich Isabel opp siene Reise jenome haft. Waut uk wichtich es, es daut Rachel foaken pucht äwa daut schlaue Haundel von äarem Voda. Siene Haundlung sent niemols eenfach; see sent emma met

rushed away.

Homez plunged into deep thought, coughed discreetly, and then motioned forward. When the two entered the street, the mid-day sun was blistering. Keeping to the shadows of the colonnade, they headed towards the Temple, which was quiet after a week of feasting. Keeping the Hasmonean Palace to their right they threaded their way until they reached the residence of Titus. His was an impressive old compound; the walls were of limestone, immaculately cut, and entry was provided through solid oak doors. In minutes, they were inside, and Homez asked to see Brutus, while Winter went to talk to Marendra.

A discrete servant led Winter to a quiet room at the back of the compound, the tutors' quarters. Marendra was waiting at her door. She was a Roman woman in the late twenties with a pleasant oval face of light brown complexion. She led Winter to a quiet alcove where they would not be disturbed. A bright smile indicated her readiness to answer questions.

"You instruct Rachel in music and serve as her governess," Winter commented. "How long have you been with the family, and what are your impressions of Rachel?"

"I have been in the household for two years, and my only responsibility has been Rachel," Marendra replied. "I will be completely honest with you. Rachel is a brilliant girl, such as I have not seen before. But this does not mean that she has been an easy pupil. On the contrary, Rachel can be selfish and disobedient, enlarging her own entitlement and infringing on the rights of others. She is

Lest runtvoll." Met dise beonrujende Jedanke uitem Kopp rand Emily plazlich doavon.

Homez wia fuaz deep en Jedanke, hoost onauffelich, un wees dan no vääre. Aus de beid oppe Gaus kaume, blösd de Meddachsonn heet oppem Kopp. Aus see de Kolonnade delenjd jinje en Rechtunk vom Tempels bleewe see em Schaute. No de Wääkj vom Pascha wia dit Jebiet nu ruich. De Hasmonean-Paulaust bleew rajsch aus see wieda jinje, un entlich toom Schlott von Titus kaume. Daut wia een endruksvollet oolet Jebied; de Wenj wiere ut Kaulksteena, fälaloos jeschnäde, un de Entrett wort derch fauste leekjedääre veschlote. En weinje Minnute wiere see benne, un Homez bat, Brutus to seene. Winta jinkj entweschen met Marendra to räde.

Een vääsechtja Deena brocht dän Winta to eene ruje Stow hinje vom Jebied, wua de Lierasch wonde. Marendra wacht ver äare Dää. See wia eene reemische Fru enne lote twintich Joare met een aunjenämet eirundet Jesecht von kloa brunet Kalia. See ffeed dän Winta to eene ruje Akj, wua see nich jestieet senne wudde. Met een halet Frintel wees see daut see reedich wia, Froage to beantwuate.

"Du lieescht Rachel en de Musik un deenst uk aus äare Gouvernante," säd Winta. "Woo lang best du aul bie de Famielje un waut es dien Endruck von Rachel?"

"Ekj sie seit twee Joare em Hushault, un miene eensje Veantwuatunk es Rachel," auntwud Marendra. "Ekj woa gaunz ierlich met die senne. Rachel es een butajeweenliche Mejal, soone hab ekj nich ea jeseene. Oba daut meent nich, daut see eene eenfache Scheelarin es. Em jääjendeel, Rachel kaun selfssechtich un onjehuarsom senne, äa ieejnen Aunspruch erwiedre, un de Rajchte

very capable but also reckless and immoral. And she can pass off as an adult.”

“My other question concerns Marcellus,” Winter said. “What information do you have about him, as it relates to Rachel?” “Marcellus, like Rachel, is a brilliant individual,” Marena answered with a wistful look in her eyes. “He is a brilliant tutor, with an incredible pool of knowledge, and a rare ability to convey it to his pupils. As to his relation to Rachel, the two are soul mates. But Marcellus could be anyone’s soul mate. It is Rachel who is infatuated.”

Marena advised that Jezebel did not live in the compound and directed Winter to her quarters. Winter found Jezebel’s humble abode near the city wall. She was waiting at a corner in a public courtyard. Jezebel had sharp features in the style of the local population. Her dark eyes matched the dark shawl, which covered her long hair. Her face was marred by an unpleasant scowl, which broadcast that something recently had greatly displeased her.

“We are on the look-out for Marcellus who has disappeared from the home of Titus,” Winter began. “Do you know of his whereabouts, and his relation to his pupil Rachel?”

“I will tell you the truth rather than what I have been told to say,” Jezebel answered. “Marcellus left early this morning, headed north to Caesarea Philippi. He was sent on a mission by his master. His task is to convey a thousand dinars to a relative in that northern city. He is to travel discreetly with a caravan of Galilean pilgrims, to avoid bandits and tax

von Aundre velaze. See es sea fäich, oba uk rikjsichtloos un onmoralisch. Un see kaun aul meist aus eene Oppjewosne haundle.”

“Miene aundre Froag betrafft Marcellus,” säd Winta. “Waut weets du von am, wua daut sikj opp Rachel betrakjt?” Marena gauf Auntwuat met eenem truaren Blekj en äare Uage. “Marcellus, soo aus Rachel, es een butajeweenlicha Mensch. Hee es een vetraflicha Liera, sea belieet, un haft eene wietleftiche Fäichkjeit aul siene Jeliaheit to siene Scheelarin to äwamedle. Waut sien Vehoole to Rachel betrafft, dee beid sent Seelen Jeschwista. Oba Marcellus kunn wäaemma een Seele Frint senne. Rachel oba, dee es veleeft.”

Marena säd, daut Isabel nich en Titus sien Kuta wond un gauf dän Winta Aunwiesunge to äarem Kwatia. Winta funk Isabel äarem bescheiden Oppenhoolt dicht bie de Stautmua. See wacht opp eene Akj en eenem effentlichen Hoff. Isabel haud schoape Jedonte em Stiel vonne hiesje Bevelkjarunk. Äare dunkle Uage pauste toom dunklen Schaul, dee äare lange Hoa bedakjte. See kijkt met eenen onaunjenämen diestren Blekj, dee utstroid, daut fa kortem see sea enteischt jewast wia.

“Wie sieekje Marcellus, dee vom Hushault von Titus veschwunge es,” säd Winta. “Weetst du von sienem Vebliew, un siene Kontakte met siene Scheelarin Rachel?”

“Ekj woa die de Woarheit saje, aunstaut waut mie jesajcht wort, die to saje,” auntwuaad Isabel. “Marcellus veleet tiedich vondoag toom Nuade, no Caesarea Philippi. Hee wort von sienem Harn opp eene Mission jeschekjt. Siene Oppgow es, dusent Dinari eenem Vewaunta en dise nuadliche Staut to vemedle. Hee saul jeheem met eene Karawane von

collectors. Somehow, the child Rachel got wind of his assignment. She left the house early in the morning and met the caravan outside the city gates. Marcellus, unable to abandon his mission, unhappily took charge of the child. He sent a messenger to inform me of what had happened.”

By two o'clock Winter was back at Homez' quarters and there found him waiting. He reported on his two interviews. Homez nodded nonchalantly on learning of the deceit of Titus and Rachel. He then told Winter of his findings. Brutus had been helpful and had provided important information. He had accompanied Homez to the market where they had met the agent who had dispatched the caravan for the pilgrims.

The caravan had left early for the north, and was to reach Lebranth by nightfall. The route passed through central Samaria, and the final destination was Tiberias. This was to be reached on the third day. Then he dropped a bombshell. Most of the pilgrims stemmed from upper Galilee, the town called Nazareth. Among the pilgrims was the family of the Child, the Child which had been teaching the learned men in the Temple. His birth had made a great stir in Bethlehem twelve years ago.

The promised transport now arrived, two horsemen with lances and sabers appeared first. Then a chariot lurched to a stop before them. The charioteer was a stolid dark man, who left little room for the two passengers. One of the horsemen was Brutus, who now signaled to Homez that all was ready. The route to be taken was the main road through Samaria. The intention was to reach Lebranth by early evening, before the pilgrims settled

galiläische Piljasch reise, om Baundiete un Zoll Beamte to vemeide. Irjentwoo kjrieech daut Kjint Rachel Wint von siene Oppgow. See veleet daut Hus tiedich zemorjes un troff de Karawane ver de Stautswaunt. Marcellus, dee siene Mission nich oppjåwe kunn, naum daut Kjint onwellich met. Hee schekjt eenen Bootschofta, om mie weete to lote, waut passieet wia.”

Om Klock Twee wia Winta wada en Homez sien Kwatia un dee wacht aul fa am. Winta berecht åwa siene beid Unjahoolunge. Homez nekjkopt jlikjeltich aus hee vonne Hinjalest von Titus un Rachel hieed. Hee vetald dån Winta von siene Erkjantrise. Brutus wia behelplich jewast un haud wichtiche Informazion vesorjt. Hee haud Homez nom Moakjt jebrocht, wua see dån Ajenten kjanejeliieet haude, dee de Karawane fa de Piljasch aufjeschekjt haud.

De Karawane haud tiedich nom Nuade loos jesat un wull bat Lebranth bie Tweediesta aukome. De Wajch jinkj derch de Medd von Samaria, un åa latsta Ziel wia Tiberias. Doa wulle see aum dredden Dach aukome. Dan leet hee eene Bombe faule. De meiste Piljasch staumde ut dãm hechrem Galilåa, von de Staut Nazaret. Mank de Piljasch wia de Famielje vom Kjint, daut Kjint, daut de Jeliiede em Tempel unjajerecht haud. Siene Jeburt haud ver twalf Joare en Betlehem eene groote Oppråajunk jemoakt.

De vesproakna Transport kaum nu aun, twee Ritta met Spiesse un Schwieete kjeeme toieesch. Dan kaum een Woage fa an aun. De Kutscha wia een dikja Maun, dee fa de beid Passazhiere weinich Plauz muak. Eene von de Rittasch wia Brutus, dee nu to Homez tieekjend, daut aules reed wia. De Wajch wia de Hauptgaus derch Samaria. De Aufsecht wia, bat Lebranth verem Schemma to kome, ea de Piljasch sikj fa de Nacht dol leete.

down for the night.

The group left through the Damascus gate and took the fork for Samaria. Necessity had forced them to set out in the heat of mid-day. Sources of pure water were fortunately located on the route, but it was necessary to go easy on the horses. A hot, uncomfortable journey followed, as the road threaded through rocky desert. They encountered little traffic, finding instead travelers resting under scattered Acacia trees.

They had been traveling for some hours when they approached a mild decline, at the bottom of which was a glade of shade trees and a well with a promise of cool water. The sun by now had reduced its sting. The horses smelled water and rushed forward. The well looked deserted giving Brutus and Homez cause for worry. They were approaching with caution when suddenly a small band of bandits burst out on foot from a depression to their right. The horsemen immediately changed tack and headed directly for the center of the group, brandishing their sabers. In a few moments, they had routed the band and sent them scouring back into cover.

With this easy scattering of the opposition, Winter expected Homez to show relief, but when he glanced at him he saw a grim face ill at ease. On spotting the same expression later Winter considered the situation and quickly sensed danger. They were accompanied by brutal, heavily-armed men on a desolate stretch of road in the middle of a desert. Their lives depended on their good will and their dedication to their master. As the horses were watered and they ate a handful of figs the sense of captivity became even stronger.

De Grupp jinkj derch daut Damaskus Puat un buage dan toom Wajch no Samaria. De Needichkjeit haud an jedwunge, en de Hett vom Medden Dach loostosate. Kjwale von reinet Wota wiere jlekjlichawies opp de Strakj to finjen, oba daut wia needich, de Pieed to schoonen. Eene heete, ommakliche Reise wia veropp, wiels de Gaus derch eene steenaje Wieste jinkj. See bejäajende weinich Vekjia, oba sagen Reisende, dee unja breede Akozje Beem hukte.

See wiere fa eenje Stunde unjawääjes jewast, aus see eenem leichten Boajauf noda kaumen, wua unje een Wooltkje von Schautebeem un een Borm met eenem Vespräakje von kjeelet Wota lage. De Sonn entweschen brend aul nich soo heet. De Pieed rikjten Wota un stusde verwoaz. De Borm sach velote, Brutus un Homez oba kijekte väasechtich erom. See kaume noda toom Borm, aus oppeenst eene kjliene Baund von Baundiete von eene Lääjcht to äare rajchte Sied to Foot rutkaum. De Ritta wenjde fuaz om un jinje direkjt to de Medd vonne Grupp un weifelde äare Schwieete. En weinje Minnute haude see de Baund vestreit un dee no äa Krupunja trigjeschekjt.

Met dise leichte Vestreiunk vom Jäajenstaunt wacht Winta daut Homez Velindrunk wiese wudd, oba aus hee am tookjikjt, sach hee een jremmeljet Jesecht daut nich tofräd wia. Aus hee dänselwjien Utdruck lota sach, docht Winta von de Loag un späad schwind de Jefoa. See worde von ruchloose, schwoa bewaufnete Mana opp eene eensome Strakj enne Medd vonne Wieste bejleitet. Äa Läwe honk von äarem gooden Welle un äare Hangow aun äarem Meista opp. Aus de Pieed Wota jesope un see eene Hauntvoll Fieje jejäte haude, wort daut Jefeel von

Jefangenschoft noch stoakja.

Dusk was falling when they reached the ascent to Lebranth, and when they arrived in town the daylight was gone. A rambling inn stood at the wayside surrounded by a group of pilgrims cooking their meals and preparing to settle down for the night. A breeze blew down a nearby hillside and suddenly the air was cool. The donkeys and mules had been unloaded, and stood nearby feeding quietly. Homez searched for the headman. In short order he was conferring with a tall man in a dark turban. It emerged that this was not the right group, there was a second inn a mile further on.

Their mounts were exhausted but Brutus urged them on and they were soon at the second inn. The scene of the previous inn was repeated here, with the pilgrims at their meals. But here they sensed a restlessness, a nervous conferring of small groups, who cast fearful looks towards them. Homez found the headman, and quickly established that this was the group which Brutus had mentioned in Jerusalem.

The headman had little time for Homez. A major problem was brewing that needed his attention. The unrest stemmed from a wealthy family from Nazareth, which had journeyed to Jerusalem with many relatives. The parents of the family were desperately questioning the pilgrims, but did not hear satisfactory answers. It emerged that a pilgrim was missing. And also the caravan had been infiltrated by a pair of strangers. Homez first was informed as to who was missing. It was the Child, the standard bearer of the group. It was believed that He had stayed behind in Jerusalem, in the Temple. The infiltrators were expelled from the group, and angrily brought to Homez. They were Marcellus and Rachel whose faces

De Schemma foll, aus see bat dän Boajopp no Lebranth kaumen; un aus see en de Staut aunkaume, wort et aul dunkel. Een groota Gausthoff stunt biesied de Gaus, wua eene Grupp von Piljasch äare Moltiede koakte, un sikj fa de Nacht reed muake. Fresche Loft blodd erauf von eenem Hempel dichtbie un oppeenst wia de Loft kjeel. De Äsels un Multiere wieren aufjelode worde un grosde dichtbie. Homez socht dän Väästona. En korte Tiet unjahilt hee sikj met eenem grooten Maun en eenem dunklen Turban. Homez wort nu en, daut dit nich de rajchte Grupp wia; doa wia een tweeda Gausthoff een Miel wieda.

Äare Pieed wiere utjespält, oba Brutus drenjd see aun un see wiere boolt biem tweeden Gausthus. Aus see doa aunkaumen sagen see daut uk hia de Piljasch aun äare Moltiet wiere. Oba hia späad maun eene Onru, narweese Unjahoolunge mank kjliene Gruppe, dee an met Fercht aukjijkte. Homez funk dän Väästona un stald schwind faust, daut dit de rajchte Grupp wia, dee Brutus en Jerusalem erwänt haud.

De Väästona haud weinich Tiet fa Homez. Een grootet Probleem bruddeld hia, daut siene Oppmoakjsomkjeit brukt. De Onru staumd von eene rikje Famielje ut Nazaret, daut met väle Vewaunte no Jerusalem jereist haud. De Elre von de Famielje unjahilde sikj met de Piljasch. See stalde an Froage, oba hieede kjeene goode Auntwuat. Daut wort an aula nu secha, daut een Pilja fäld. Un uk wiere en de Karawane een poa Framde nenjeschlikjt. Homez wort toieescht jesajcht, wää fäld. Daut wia daut Kjint, Dee bekaundsta von de Grupp. Maun docht nu, daut hee en Jerusalem, em Tempel, jebläwe wia. De Nenschlikjasch worde von de Grupp nu aunjepakt un wuttich no Homez jebrocht. Daut wiere Marcellus un

cowered beneath turbans, eyes begging for mercy.

Brutus went to speak to the innkeeper and commandeered a pair of rooms. One was reserved for Rachel, Homez and Winter while the other for Brutus, Marcellus and the horsemen. After they had completed their meal Homez set out to interview Marcellus and Rachel. But he was interrupted by Brutus who suddenly thrust himself into their midst, and handed Homez a sealed parchment from his master Titus. Homez unrolled the document and skimmed through it. Winter saw color creep into his friend's cheeks and an angry frown form on his face. Titus had dictated a radical change to their mission.

"You were aware earlier of the contents of this document?" Homez angrily shouted to Brutus. The latter shrugged indifferently. "We shall then discuss this further in the morning," Homez said, dismissing the man. After Brutus had left, Homez sent Marcellus out, and ensured that Rachel, carefully shielded by a curtain, was sleeping. They then held an urgent conference.

"Titus has taken Emily hostage," Homez angrily advised Winter. "She is being kept captive in Rachel's room, chaperoned by Marena. Cato was taken unawares. He was unable to stop Titus' men when they suddenly arrived at my compound. Titus promises not to harm Emily and to release her upon the completion of my new mission. Titus has ordered me to accompany Marcellus to Caesarea Philippi to deliver a package. This in fact was the original intention of Titus, to trick me into guarding Marcellus, planning to use my skills to evade bandits and tax collectors."

Rachel, dee äare Jesechta unja Turbane vestoaken, äare Uage om Jnod bittent.

Brutus räd met däm Gaustwieet un foddad een poa Stowe, eene fa Rachel, Homez un Winta, un de aundre fa am, de Rittasch un Marcellus. Nodäm see äare Moltiet jejäte haude, funk Homez met sien befroage von Marcellus un Rachel aun. Oba hee wort von Brutus unjabroake, dee oppeenst en äare Medd stusd. Hee gauf Homez een vesäajeldet Pergament von Meista Titus woont hee jebrocht haud. Homez rold daut Dokument op un laus daut en Vetwiewlunk. Winta sach daut de Bake von sien Frint rodlich worde un daut een wutticha Stiernrunzel opp sienem Jesecht kaum. Titus haud eene radikale Veendrunk en äare Mission bewirkjt.

"Du wist aul verhää von dän Enhault von dit Dokument?" fruach Homez wuttich däm Brutus. Disa rukst jlijkeltich de Schulasch. "Wie woare dan noch morje råde," säd Homez un entleet dän Maun. Nodäm Brutus jegone wia, schekjt Homez Marcellus erut un vesehad, daut Rachel, dee väasechtich von eene Gardien jeschitzt wia, schleep. Homez un Winta hilde dan eene drinjende Konferens.

"Titus haft Emily jefangen jenome," säd Homez wuttich to Winta. "See es en Rachel äare Stow enjestopt un von Marena bewacht. Cato wort von Titus äwarauscht. Hee kunn de Mana von Titus nich aufhoole, aus see oppeenst to mien Hus kaume. Titus haft vesproake, Emily nich to schode un see no daut Enj von miene niee Mission frie to lote. Titus velangt von mie, Marcellus no Caesarea Philippi to bejleite, om een Pakeet to leewre. Daut wia ieejentlich de Aufsecht von Titus vom Aunfank, om mie en de Bewachunk von Marcellus to driewe, om miene Fäichkjeite to benutze, om Baundiete un Zoll Beamte to entgone."

The next day two small groups separated from the caravan and returned to Jerusalem. The first left at dawn and consisted of a small batch of pilgrims returning to search for the Child in the Temple. The second was the escort for Rachel, which left some hours later. It contained the chariot and the horsemen who were taking Rachel back home. It contained also Winter who was chaperoning Rachel. Homez reluctantly would accompany Marcellus on his journey north. As she saw Marcellus go north with Homez, Rachel cried bitterly in her grief.

For compelling her to return, Rachel felt great resentment against her parents. She became a willing partner in a plot hatched by Homez to free Emily. While Brutus and the horsemen watered their mounts at a rest stop Winter instructed Rachel of the plan. Upon arrival near the Temple in Jerusalem, Rachel suddenly bolted from the chariot and raced into a narrow laneway, frustrating pursuit by men on horseback. Winter meanwhile raced to Titus and demanded that Emily be brought to the Temple with Marena, to be exchanged for Rachel.

On their arrival at the Temple, they searched for Rachel and after much effort found her. She had been with the group from Galilee, which had returned from Lebranth and had found the Child. They saw a new Rachel, one who anxiously asked about her parents. The switch was made with the help of Marena, the mischievous Emily for a newly serene Rachel.

Homez returned a week later and informed Titus of the successful completion of the

Aum näakjsten Dach trande sikj twee kjliene Gruppe von de Karawane un jinje trigj no Jerusalem. De ieeschte jinkj em Schemma un bestunt ut eene kjliene Rieej von Piljasch, dee trigj jinje om daut Kjint em Tempel to sieekje. De tweede bestunt ut de Deenasch von Titus, dee eenje Stund lota veleete. Mank an wiere Brutus un de Rittasch, dee Rachel no Hus brinje sulle. Winta wia uk doamank, wiels hee de Rachel bewache sull. Homez fua wadawellich met Marcellus opp siene Reis nom Nuade. Aus see sach, woo Marcellus met Homez nom Nuade metgone must, hield Rachel bettalich en äa Trua.

Wiels äare Elre äa jedwunge haude trigjtokome, oajad Rachel sikj jaaen an. See wort een welja Poatna en eene Haundlunk, dee von Homez jebroot wia, om Emily frie to kjree. Oppem Wajch trigj, wäarent Brutus un de Rittasch äare Pieed bie een Gaustus drenkjde, vetald Winta Rachel dän Plon. Bie de Aunkunft dichtbie vom Tempel en Jerusalem, hupst Rachel oppeenst vom Woage rauf. See prold en een schmaulet Gauskje enenn, wua eene Vefoljunk met Pieed nich mäajlich wia. Winta jinkj entweschen to Titus un foddad, daut Emily met Marena toom Tempel jebrocht woare sull, om jaaen Rachel omjewakjselt woare.

Bie äare Aunkunft em Tempel sochte see Rachel un no väl Bemieejunge funge äa. See wia met de Grupp aus Galiläa jewast, woont von Lebranth trigjekome wia un daut Kjint jefunge haud. See sage eene niee Rachel, eene, dee enjstlich fa äare Elre fruach. Daut Wakjssel von Mejales wort met Marena äare Help jemoakt, de goastriche Emily jetuscht fa eene niee seelenruje Rachel.

Homez kjeed eene Wääkj lota vom Nuade trigj un leet Titus äwa dän Erfolchrikjen

mission. Marcellus had elected to stay in Caesarea Philippi. And Homez advised Winter of his interest in someday opening a new office in Galilee.

Aufschluss von siene Mission weete. Marcellus haud nich von Caesarea Philippi trigjkome wult. Un Homez vetald Winta, daut hee een Dach eene niee Offiz en Galilää opmoake wull.

Baptism

“The Holy City has becomes shockingly violent,” Homez was saying angrily to Winter. “Five more brigands executed yesterday. Today I survived an assassination attempt. Danger lurks around every corner. The recent cases brought to me need the attention of a vigorous young man. A graying old fox like me must search for calmer waters.”

Winter could only listen and nod agreement to this sad argument. Homez had been practicing in Jerusalem now for twenty years. He had been a hardy warrior, giving and taking with strength. A recent attempt on his life, blowback from years ago, had made him tired of the city’s turmoil. He could see no break in the future. Tiberius Caesar was in the fifteenth year of his reign, but had not brought peace to Judea. Pontius Pilate, the proctor now entering his second year was fumbling badly. Some longed again for King Herod, who had been despised in his lifetime, but at least had not been Roman.

It had become an afternoon ritual for Homez, his beautiful niece Emily, and Winter to gather in the cool shade of Homez’ tiny garden. Homez’ long term in the city had been filled with exciting cases, leaving little time for social life. He had not re-married. The memory of his late wife Corva remained etched in his mind, allowing consideration of no other.

Homez had found some consolation in his niece Emily who so far had shunned marriage. Suitors had come and gone to her complete indifference. Emily lived a full life, an eager

Doop

“De Heilje Staut es schentlich Jewaultich jeworde,” säd Homez wuttich to Winta. “Jistre worde fief wiedre Baundiete hanjerecht. Vondoag wort ekj meist omjebrocht. Jefoa luat fa ons opp jiede Akj. De jinjste Fal, dee mie jebrocht worde sent, brucke de Oppmoakjsomkjeit von een jewaultichen jungen Maun. Een graua oola Foss soo aus ekj, mott no rujet Wota sieekje.”

Winta kunn dise truariche Rajchtfoadjunk bloos toohiere un nekjkoppe. Homez haud nu aul seit twintich Joa en Jerusalem sien Praxis jefieet. Hee wia een hoada Kjrieja jewast, dee met Krauft gauf un naum. Eene niee Proow am omtobrinje, dee ver Joare trigj staumd, haud am entlich von de Staut saut jemoakt. Hee kunn en de Tookunft kjeene Pause moake. Tiberius Caesar wia em feftieenden Joa von siene Harschoft, haud oba kjeene Fräd no Judäa jebrocht. Pontius Pilatus, de Präfekt, haundeld met schljachten Erfolg. Maunche bangde sikj wada no Kjennich Herodes, dee en siene Läwestiet veachtet worde wia, oba weenichstens nich reemisch jewast wia.

Daut wia eene Nomeddach Jewanheit fa Homez, siene schmocke Nicht Emily un Winta jeworde, sikj em kjeelen Goade to trafe. Homez sien langa Opphool en de Staut wia met spaunende Fal runtvoll jewast, soo daut hee weinich Tiet fa daut jesalchoftlichet Läwe jehaut haud. Hee haud sikj nich wada befriet. Daut Jedajchnis von siene vestorwne Fru Corva bleef en sienem Vestaunt jeezt un kjeene aundre kunn am jefaulde.

Homez haud eenen Troost en siene Nicht Emily jefunge, dee bat nu de Ehe vemeit haud. Friasch wiere jekome un jegone to äare felleche Jlikjeltichkjeit. Emily läwd een vollet

partner in her uncle's intriguing practice. Homez had often predicted that she would marry late, and then marry well.

Winter meanwhile had taken a Greek wife, Martilla, as his mother had so often urged. Martilla had died in childbirth, leaving Winter with a son, Alexander, who was now an intern in Athens. He was to return home and take over Winter's practice. Like Homez, Winter had not re-married, finding a full life in his practice with his son and in his collaboration with Homez.

"With the death of King Herod, shortly after my birth, Palestine suffered a great loss," Emily now observed. "Although ordering the massacre at Bethlehem and other atrocities, he kept the pot from boiling over. Splitting the kingdom among his children weakened the state. The largest area, left to his weak son Archelaus, was soon taken from him and formed into the Roman province of Judea ruled by a proctor. That left only two regions independent, the Northern Kingdom governed by Herod Philip, and Galilee Peräa ruled by Herod Antipas."

Emily was an intellect in the Homez family tradition, making a valuable contribution to Homez' practice. She delighted in politics and now went on to critique the efforts of the new proctor of Judea. "Placing the capital on the coast at Caesarea Maritima has helped Pilate avoid the bickering of the Palestinian leaders," she said. "Taking over King Herod's old palace in Jerusalem for administration has helped maintain local authority. He would do well to follow the local customs. Frequent shows of force undermine trust, and leaves difficult

Läwe, een iewricha Poatna en de intressaunte Praxis von äa Onkel. Homez haud foaken jesajcht, daut see sikj lot, oba dan goot befriee wudd.

Winta haud entweschen eene griechische Fru, Martilla, jenome, soo aus siene Mutta am soo foaken jedrenjt haud. Martilla wia bie de Jeburt jestorwe, un veleet dän Winta met eenem Sän Alexander, dee nu en Ateen Medizien studieed. Hee wudd trigjkome un däm Praxis vom Winta äwanäme. Krakjt soo aus Homez, wia Winta eentletzlich jebläwe. Hee wia met siene Praxis met sien Sän un met de Toopoabeit met Homez tofräd.

"De Doot vom Kjennich Herodes, korz no miene Jeburt, wia fa Palestina eenen grooten Veluss," säd Emily nu. "Oppwool hee de furchtboare Schlacht en Betlehem un aundre Gruldote befool, kunn hee Fräd em Launt hoole. Daut spoolen vom Rikjdom von siene Kjinja muak daut Launt väl schwaka. Daut jratste Jebiet, daut sienem schwaken Sän Archelaus äwalote wort, wort boolt von am wajchjenome. Daut muak dan de reemische Prowins von Judäa, dee von eenem Präfekt beharscht woat. Doa bliewe bloos twee Jebieta onaufhenjich, daut nuadliche Kjennich Rikjdom, daut von Herodes Philip rejieet woat, un Galiläa Peräa rejieet von Herodes Antipas."

Emily haud een grooten Vestaunt en de Mood von de Homez Famielje un gauf eenen wietvollen Biedrach to de Homez Praxis. See freid sikj äwa de Rajchtschnua un fua fuat, de Bemieejunge vom niea Präfekt von Judäa to veuadeele. "Daut hee de Hauptstaut aum Mäaeewa en Caesarea Maritima stald, haft Pilatus jeholpe, daut Jestried von de Palestinensa Fierasch to vemeide," säd see. "Däm Kjennich Herodes sien oola Paulaust en Jerusalem fa de Vewaultunk to äwanäme, haud jeholpe, de hiesje Oobrichkjeit to

problems until later.”

Homez agreed with this analysis of Pilate’s reign. His heavy hand daily added to the malcontents destabilizing the country. Two major efforts were underway to rid the country of Roman rule. The effort by the Zealots was a violent one, which was wasted in the face of overwhelming Roman power. The effort by the new prophets was a peaceful one, which promised success if only the people would accept spiritual revival.

The revival effort was more recent, offered compromise, and enjoyed wider support. The aim was to entice the God of the Covenant to remember His people and to free them from Roman occupation. His support would come, it was reasoned, if the people would only obey the Covenant made by their forefathers. Then strength given from above would unseat an empire and liberate the nation.

“The effort for revival now has a focus, the corruption at the court of Herod Antipas,” Emily continued. “The marriage of Antipas to Herodias, his brother Philip’s former wife, is a scandal. Immorality such as this is enough reason for God to withhold his support. John, a new prophet has appeared in the wilderness east of Jerusalem. He lives a simple life as the old prophets, and calls the people to repent and be baptized. He has gained a large following and is seen as a threat by the Romans and by Herod Antipas.”

bewoare. Daut wudd am goot doone, de hiesje Sitte to folje. Siene Majcht foaken to bewiese vedoaft daut Vetrue vom Volk un shift aul de Schwierichkjeite bloos no de Tookunft.”

Homez stemd met disen Berecht von de Harschoft von Pilatus. Siene schwoare Haunt muak Mensche jieda Dach mea ontofräd, un soo brocht hee daut Launt enne Grunt. Twee groote Aunstrenjunge wiere em Gank, om daut Launt von de reemische Harschoft frie to brinje. De Aunstrenjunk vonne Zelote wia eene jewaultiche, dee Aunsechts de äwawaultiche reemische Majcht veschwent wort. De Aunstrenjunk vom nieen Profeet wia eene frädliche, dee Erfolg vespruak, wan bloos daut Volkj jeistliche Erwakjunk aunnäme wudd.

De Erwakjunk wia de jinjste Aunstrenjunk, boot Kompromisse aun, un haud jratre Unjastettunk. Daut Ziel wia, dan Gott vom Bunt to locke, sikj aun sien Volkj to erinre un see von de reemische Besatzunk friee. Siene Unjastettunk wudd kome, docht Maun, wan de Lied bloos dän von äare Väaelre jemoakta Bund jehorche wudde. Dan wudd Dee von bowe an Krauft jäwe om een Rikjdom optohäwe un de Reema loos woaren.

“Daut Aunstrenje fa eene Erwakjunk haft nu eenen Meddelpunkt, daut Vedoawe oppem Hoff von Herodes Antipas,” fua Emily wieda. “De Ehe von Antipas to Herodias, dee verhää de Fru von sien Brooda Philip wia, es een Schkondol. Een Onmoral soo aus daut es Jenuach Grunt fa Gott, siene Unjastettunk trigjtohoole. Johanes de Deepa, es en de Wieste oostlich von Jerusalem äwadäl jekome. Hee läft een eenfachet Läwe soo aus de oole Profeete un roopt daut Volkj to de Buse un de Doop. Hee haft een grootet Nofolj jewonne, un es aus eene Jefoa von de Reema un Herodes Antipas aunjeseene.”

At this point they heard tapping at the courtyard gate. Homez' servant Cato entered and advised that a client was waiting. Homez nodded and soon Cato brought in a young giant of a man whom he introduced as Sisera. The man bounded to the chair to which Homez pointed with the grace of a coliseum cat. Once seated, Sisera sat regally like a savage ruler in a pagan court. Homez paused, sizing up this huge client, easily the most exotic specimen that had been led into his office. After asking Sisera to tell his story, Homez sat stiffly in his chair showing unusual concentration.

Sisera was silent for some moments, mustering his thoughts, and then began to tell a long distressing story. "No doubt you recognize me as the great Sisera, chief guard at the Jerusalem palace of Herod Antipas," he said in a grating voice. "While Herod Antipas reigns in Tiberias he has a second court here in the Holy City. I have approached you to settle a personal crisis, one which threatens my well-being and my position at court. A friend recommended you as a man of great distinction, one who can seize victory even in the most difficult of cases."

Homez nodded appreciatively at this flattering praise and then through a quick gesture showed that the matter meant little to him. "It is not my custom to consult others to take away my life's problems," Sisera now continued. "All my life others have come to me, to take away their burdens. But now I need the help of another to solve a problem that threatens to destroy me."

Nu wort klopre aune Hoffdää jehieet. Homez sien Deena Cato kaum enenn un säd, daut eene Kund wacht. Homez nekjkopt un Cato brocht eenen jungen Riese enenn, dän hee aus Sisera väastald. De Maun stusd nom Stool, opp däm Homez wees, met de Besondakonst von eene Kolosseum Koat. Aus hee oppem Stool nopp wia, saut Sisera aus een wilda Harscha en eenem heidneschen Hoff. Homez hilt en un bemoakjt dise riesje Kund, leicht daut utlendsche Mosta, daut en siene Offiz jeemols jefieet wia. Nodäm hee Sisera jebode haud, siene Jeschicht to vetale, saut Homez stiew en sienem Stool un bewees eene onjeweentliche Oppmoakjsomkjeit.

Sisera wia fa een Stootje stell, saumeld siene Jedanke toop un bejinkj dan eene lange, ommakliche Jeschicht to vetale. "Sechalich erkjanst du mie aus de groote Sisera, de Haupt Wajchta biem Paulaut von Herodes Antipas en Jerusalem," säd hee met eene onajunenäme Stemm. "Wäarent Herodes Antipas en Tiberias harscht, haft hee een tweedet Jerecht hia en de Heilje Staut. Ekj sie to die jekome, om eene perseenliche schwoare Tiet to endjen, eene, dee mien Woolsenne un mien Aumt biem Jerecht bedroot. Een Frint schekjt mie to die. Hee säd daut du een Maun wieescht, dee een Siech uk en de schwanste Fal ergriepe kunn."

Homez nekjkopt dankboa to disem schmeichelhauffen Loff, un bewees derch een schwindet Tieekjen, daut de Sache to am weinich meend. "Daut es nich miene Jewanheit, aundre Rot to froage, om de Schwierichkjeite en mien Läwe wajchtonäme," fua Sisera wieda. "En mien gaunzet Läwe sent aundre to mie jekome, om äare Lod wajchtonäme. Oba nu bruck ekj de Help von een aundren, om een Probleme to leese, daut mie to vestiere droot."

Homez appeared to be tiring of these preliminaries, and now nodded more briefly, signaling Sisera to get on with his problem. But Sisera continued in the same vein, seeking to present his credentials and to overwhelm his listeners. "I have been in the service of Herod Antipas for ten years," he said. "I was recognized as the strongest warrior in his forces, and so was stationed in Jerusalem to offer special service. I have provided guard duty to the royal family here in Jerusalem, and on journeys to their main palace in Tiberias. With these cuts disfiguring my face and body you can appreciate the dangers that I have faced, and the ferocity of my battles."

Sisera paused to point out two prominent wounds. The first was a deep slice on the right side of his head, starting at his chin and rising towards an ear. The second was a long cut along his right arm which had left a white ridge. "The first wound was a lucky strike inside my helmet," he said. "It came in an ambush near Jericho as I guided the royal party towards the Holy City. The bandits had marked the chariot of Queen Herodias and her daughter Salome as a target. They came rushing in a mass towards us, and we had just moments to save them. There were just two of us and ten attackers. They stabbed my companion early on, but whirling as a madman I dispatched five of them and put the rest to flight. I was wearing my blessed amulet that day.

"The second wound was made by a lucky shot from a cross-bow. This time I was guarding Herod Antipas on a trip in Peräa. We were

Homez wia von dise Vääbereedunge aul meed, un gauf Sisera to vestone, daut hee met siene Jeschicht wieda gone sull. Oba Sisera sad sikj en de selwje Oat wieda un socht, de Unjaloag von sien Problem väästostale un siene Toohorcha to äwawaultje. "Ekj sie seit tieen Joare em Deenst von Herodes Antipas," säd hee. "Ekj wort aus de stoakjsta Kjrieja en sien Deenst erkjant, un soo wort no Jerusalem jeschekjt, om besondere Deenste to leiste. Ekj hab de Kjennichliche Famielje hia en Jerusalem un opp Reise to äarem Haupt Paulauust en Tiberias bewoat. Met dise Schnette, dee mien Jesecht un mienen Kjarpa vestimle, kaust du de Jefoa, dee ekj jeseene hab un de Grausomkjeit von miene Schlachte, to schaze."

Sisera hilt en, om opp twee sea sichtliche Wunde hantowiese. De ieeschte wia eene deepe Schnäd opp de rajchte Sied vom Kopp, woone aun siene Kjenn aunk un to eenem Ua enopp rand. De tweede wia een langre Schnett opp sienem rajchten Oarm, dee eene witte Schnied jeodat haud. "De ieeschte Wund wia een Jlekjfaul en mien Schutzhelm," säd hee. "Dee kaum en eenem Aunjreff dichtbie Jericho vää, aus ekj de Kjennichliche Grupp en Rechtunk to de Heilje Staut fieed. De Baundiete haude dän Woage vonne Kjennijn Herodias un äare Dochta Salome aus Ziel markjeet. See kaume en eene Mauss opp ons to, un wie haude bloos een Stootje, an to rade. Wie wiere bloos twee jääjen tieen Aunjriepasch. See spekjte mienen Komrod fuaz, oba soo aus een Verekja dreid ekj wuttich rom, spekjt fief von an, un schekjt de aundre to Flicht. Ekj druach aun disem Dach mien jesääjendet Amulett.

"De tweede Wund kaum von eenem Jlekjschoss ut eenem Dwäaboage jeschote. Ditmol bewacht ekj Herod Antipas opp eene

passing through a valley, climbing a path on the west slope. Suddenly a shower of arrows came towards us, glancing off the royal palanquin, which was enclosed by metal. Two arrows bounced off my chain mail but one pierced my arm. It was a painful five miles to safety. A surgeon broke the shaft and freed my arm. Again that day I was wearing my blessed amulet.”

At this point Homez shifted his legs and Sisera leapt up as if facing perilous danger. After he had calmed down Sisera continued, “In those days I feared no man and would plunge headlong into a skirmish. But that is no longer the case. I have lost my nerve and for the first time in my life I feel fear. I must regain my nerve or my life is over.”

Homez had paid close attention to Sisera’s story as a bodyguard in the royal service. No doubt it brought back memories of his years in the Roman service, the hardships of the long marches, and the constant threat of ambush. With a single graceful gesture Homez signified his admiration for Sisera’s courage. Sensing Homez’ approval Sisera now gave the reason for his problem.

“The woman’s name is Rebecca,” he said with great unhappiness. “She has utterly bewitched me. While I can withstand attacks by the worst of enemies, I can not live without her. It was not always so; at first it was she who was afflicted. Of course I was also attracted to her. Rebecca is a goddess, a woman with a full feminine figure. Long blond hair stretches to her waist, her face is of classic beauty, her eyes are brown, and her lips full and red. All

Reise en Peräa. Wie jinje derch een Dol un klautade eenen Stich aum Aufhank aune waste Sied enopp. Oppeenst kaum Feile bie de Dutz opp ons too, un fluage auf vom Kjennichlichen Palanquin, dee von Metol omschlote es. Twee Feile stuake en mien Kjädhamd, oba eene boad en mienen Oarm. Daut wiere fief weedoaghauftje Miel to de Sechaheit. Een Dokta bruak dän Schacht un leet mienen Oarm frie. Aun disem Dach druach ekj wada mien jesääjendet Amulett.”

Homez stald siene Been nu plazlich äwaschroz un Sisera sprunk opp, aus opp hee en groote Jefoa wia. Nodäm hee sikj beruicht haud, fua Sisera wieda: “En jane Doag fercht ekj kjeenen Maun un wudd Koppaun en eene Schlacht nenstuse. Oba daut es nich mea soo. Ekj hab miene Narf veloare un toom ieeschten Mol en mien Läwe feel ekj Angst. Ekj mott miene Narf trigj kjriee ooda mien Läwe es vedorwe.”

Homez haud Sisera siene Jeschicht aus Haupt Wajchta em Kjennichlichen Deenst oppmoakjsom toojehieet. Dise Jeschicht brocht am Jedajchnise von siene Joare em reemischen Deenst, de Noot von Marsche un de stendje Jefoa vom Aunjreff. Met een eensjen schmocken Tieekjen wees Homez siene Bewundrunk fa Sisera siene Moot. Aus hee Homez siene Toostemmunk feeld, gauf Sisera nu dän Grunt fa sien Problem.

“De Nome vonne Fru es Rebecca,” säd hee met grooten Onjlekj. “See haft mie fellich vehakjst. Oppwool ekj daut Aunjriepe von de schlemste Fiend wadastone kaun, kaun ekj nich one äa Läwe. Daut wia nich emma soo; toieescht wia et soo, daut see betriept wia. Natieedlich wia ekj uk aun äa jetrocke. Rebecca es eene Jettin, eene Fru met een vollet fruesoatjet Jeschekj. Lange blonde Hoa strakje sikj to äare Denninj, äa Jesecht es von

men who see her are bewitched. She has the choice of any man, but at that early time she wanted only me.

“In the early days Rebecca steadily grew in my mind. When she was absent from court, I would sense a craving that found no satisfaction. When, after days or weeks I saw her, the world would be well again.

“My first spoken words to Rebecca were at a banquet for a Roman visitor. Soon we met daily, my need for her growing. Then one night her friend Huldah invited me to her home, and Rebecca was also there. Huldah was called away and we spent the night together. After that night Rebecca took possession of my soul and I was no longer free.

“Following that night I could sense that Rebecca loved me, but then I found out that love had a limit. Reluctance on her part followed, then a weakening of interest. By this time she posed strange questions, and I felt, began dallying with another. It was Antonius, a counselor at the court and a coward.

“As I saw Rebecca drift away I tried desperately to restore her affection. She was still with me, and began to ask questions about my strength. When we were alone, she stared at me from head to toe, seemingly searching for a weakness. One day she finally asked me about my amulet, why I always had it with me. Then one night, I woke up and found her gone. I panicked then, for my amulet was also gone.”

Homez at this point beckoned for a

ooltmoodsche Scheenheit, äare Uage sent brun un äare Leppe voll un rot. Aule Mana, dee äa seene, sent vehakjst. See haft nu de Wol von irjent een Maun, oba aum Aunfank wull see bloos mie.

“En de ieeschte Doag woss Rebecca eendrajchtich en mien Kopp. Wan see vom Jerecht fäld, späad ekj een Bange, daut grootet Bedrenjnis brocht. Wan ekj äa Doag ooda Wäakje lota wada sach, wia de Welt mie wada goot.

“Miene ieeschte Wieed met Rebecca wiere bie eenem Gaustjebott fa eenem reemischen Gaust. Boolt troff wie ons jieda Dach. Dan eene Nacht loot mie äare Frindin Hulda to äa Hus, un Rebecca wia uk doa. Hulda wort wajchjeroopt un wie vebrochte de Nacht toop. En dise Nacht naum Rebecca miene Seel jefange un ekj wia nich mea frie.

“No dise Nacht späad ekj daut Rebecca mie goot wia, oba lota funk ekj ut daut äare Leew eene Jrens haud. Boolt sach ekj Jegrusel von äare Sied, dan boolt wia äare Lost ut. To dise Tiet stald see mie schnorrliche Froage, un ekj feeld, daut see aul met eenem aundren daunzt. Daut wia Antonius, een Rotjäwa biem Jerecht und een Angsthos.

“Aus ekj sach daut Rebecca mie wajch jlept, vesocht ekj äare Leew wada häatostale. See wia emma noch bie mie un funk aun froage äwa miene Krauft to stale. Aus wie auleen wiere, glotst see mie von Kopp bat Feet aun un socht woarschienlich fa eene Schwakheit. Een Dach fruach see mie no mien Amulett, wuarom ekj daut emma aun haud. Dan een Owent, wuak ekj opp un see wia wajch. Daut wia een groota Schrakj, wiels miene Amulett wia uk wajch.”

Homez weifeld nu un wull eene Erkläärunk,

clarification but Sisera raised his hand motioning Homez to wait. He then finished his story. "Although you are a pagan, not of the faith, you have surely heard the story of Samson and Delilah from the book of Judges. Samson was a great judge while Delilah was a Philistine woman. Delilah charmed Samson and then discovered the secret of his strength. After persistent questioning, Samson revealed that his uncut hair was the source of his strength. Just as Samson was brought down by Delilah's cutting of his hair, so I have been brought down by Rebecca's theft of my amulet. That is my story. Can you recover my amulet; can you help me restore my power?"

Homez had listened to Sisera impatiently and now asked if he would answer a few questions. When Sisera nodded, Homez plunged ahead. "Let me start with the amulet," he said. "Can you give us a description? What is its history and how did it become your talisman?"

Sisera looked puzzled, for he had expected that Homez would be as obsessed with Rebecca as he was, and begin his questions with her. Now he paused and unhappily sought to answer a seemingly irrelevant question. "It is a ring, the base metal of which is brass, but it has been plated with gold," he said. "A line of sapphires circles the outer circumference. This jewel dates back to antiquity; it was booty from a campaign in the east. I bought it from a well known jeweler in the market. He cleaned the ring for me, polished the inner surface, and etched my name inside. On a trip to Greece I took the ring to Mount Parnassus to be blessed by the oracle. Since then my fortune has been exceptional, at least until the ring's disappearance. After its loss my authority with

oba Sisera hoof siene Haant daut Homez wachte sull. Hee vetald dan daut latste von siene Jeschicht. "Oppwool du een Heide best, nich vom Gloowe, hast du secha von de Jeschicht von Samson un Delila ut däm Buak vonne Rechta jehieet. Samson wia een groote Rechta, un Delila eene Filisterina. Delila bezaubad Samson un funk daut Jeheemnis von siene Krauft ut. No eene aunhoolende Befroagunk wees Samson, daut siene onbeschnäde Hoa de Kjwal von siene Krauft wia. Krakjt soo aus Samson erauf jebrocht wort aus Delila siene Hoa schnitt, sie ekj erauf jebrocht aus Rebecca mien Amulett wajchnaum. Daut es miene Jeschicht. Kaust du mien Amulett wadahäastale? Kaust du mie halpe, miene Majcht trigjtokjree?"

Homez haud Sisera onjeduldich tojehorcht un fruach nu, aus hee een poa Froage beantwuate wudd. Aus Sisera nekjkopt, funk Homez met waut schnorrich aun. "Lot mie met däm Amulett aurfange," säd hee. "Kaust du mie daut beschriewe? Waut es siene Jeschicht un woo wort daut dien Talismaun?"

Sisera kijkt vedreit no Homez, wiels hee jedocht haud, daut Homez met Rebecca soo besäte senne wudd aus hee wia, un siene Froage met äa aurfange wudd. Nu hilt hee en un socht onjlekjlichawies eene schienboa onwichtige Froag to beantwuate. "Daut es een Rinkj, daut Messing aus Gruntmetol haft, un daut es met Golt äwatrocke," säd hee. "Eene Rieej von Safiere omkjreise dän Butenomfank. Dit Schmuckstekj staumt ut de Jeschicht vonne Vegonenheit; daut wia een Raup von eene Kampanje em Ooste. Ekj hab et von eenem bekaunden Schmuck Kjensla oppem Moakjt hia jekoft. Hee reinicht dän Rinkj fa mie, schieed däm von benne auf un schreef mien Nome doa han. En eene Reis no Griechenlaunt naum ekj dän Rinkj toom Parnassus Boajch, om daut de Orakel doa am

my men was undermined, and I became a weakling, a prey to any man. “

Homez' next question dealt directly with Sisera's obsession. “You state that the author of your misfortune is Rebecca,” he commented. “What is her situation, and what do you know of her family?”

Sisera was energized on hearing the name Rebecca. Homez expected a long winded answer and Sisera did not disappoint him. “Rebecca is the oldest daughter of a wealthy family which has lived in the city for generations,” he said. “When the parents passed on ten years ago she became heir to the family fortune. Rebecca has a younger sister Veronika who has business ambitions. They are both of age, and a suitable marriage is their main objective. You may think that Rebecca is above my station, but pause and consider. I am a reliable man, stronger than any other, and capable of protecting a rich beautiful woman.”

Homez next asked about two other acquaintances that Sisera had mentioned, Huldah and Antonius. “Huldah is a friend of Rebecca,” Sisera answered. “They have been together since childhood. She is also of noble family. Antonius is my enemy. You will get better information about him elsewhere.”

“My final question is about the last known whereabouts of Rebecca,” Homez said. “Where and when was she last seen, and where was she headed?”

“There is a rabble rouser attracting huge crowds in the desert by the Jordan River,” Sisera answered. “In a message distracting

sääjend. Seiddäm es de Rinkj butajeweenlich jewast, opp weinichste bat sien Veschwinge. No sien Veluss jinkj miene Leidaschoft to Grunt, un ekj sie een Schwaklinkj jeworde, een Opja fa een jieden Maun.”

Homez siene nääkjste Froag behaandelt entlich Sisera siene Besätenheit. “Du saichst, daut Rebecca de Schuldje von dien Onjlekj es,” säd hee. “Woo es äare Loag, un waut kjanst du von äare Famielje?”

Sisera wia oppjereizt, aus hee dän Nome Rebecca hieed. Homez wacht nu fa eene lankwieliche Auntwuat un Sisera enteischt am nich. “Rebecca es de elste Dochta von eene rikje Famielje, dee seit Jennerazione en de Staut jewont haft,” säd hee. “Aus de Elre ver teen Joare vestorwe, wia see de Oaw vom Famielje Rikj. Rebecca haud eene jinjre Sesta Veronika, dee een Kopp fa jeschaftliche Dinja haft. See sent beid em befrieen Ella, un eene jeiejente Ehe es de Hauptziel von beid. Du denkst woll, daut Rebecca bäta aus ekj es, oba äwalaj die daut. Ekj sie een toovelessicha Maun, stoakja aus enjieda, un kaun mie met eene scheene rikje Fru befriee.”

Homez fruach dan no twee aundre Bekaunde, dee Sisera erwänt haud, Hulda un Antonius. “Hulda es eene Frindin von Rebecca,” auntwuat Sisera. “See sent seit de Kjintheit toop. See es uk von eene Ferschte Famielje. Antonius es mien Fient. Du woascht bätren Bescheet äwa am wua aundasch finje.”

“Miene latste Froag es vom latsten Vebliew von Rebecca,” säd Homez. “Wua un wan wia see toolatst jeseene un wua jinkj see opptoo?”

“Daut jeft eenen Peebel, de riesje Menje en de Wieste aum Jordan too sikj roopt,” auntwuat Sisera. “En eene Bootschoft, dee von de

from real revolution, he calls for the return of the people to the law of the prophets, a repentance of sins, and baptism. Such a revival seeks to attract God's intervention, and so rid the country of foreign domination. The man's name is John, and some call him a prophet. I was told that three days ago Rebecca went to hear his message."

After Sisera was gone Homez, Emily and Winter hotly discussed the case. Homez believed that finding the reason for the amulet's theft was of great importance to solving Sisera's problem. Emily speculated a religious significance for the amulet, accounting for Rebecca's flight to the prophet in the desert. Winter sensed a political significance, providing a rallying signal for an insurrection. Homez was tight-lipped, believing that he could not take Sisera's story at face value. The three parted with the agreement that Emily would interview Rebecca's sister and her friend Huldah, Winter would research the amulet, and Homez would go to the Palace to look up Antonius.

When Winter entered the street, the heat of the day was waning. Swiftly he passed along the colonnade, proceeded to the Hasmonean Palace and then to the market mentioned by Sisera. After tedious searching he found the jewelry shop Sisera had mentioned. The elderly owner wore red garments of extravagant material and on his face appeared a dark scowl. When Winter asked about Sisera's ring, he looked at Winter sharply, and then plunged into an account of the transaction.

"That ring is one that is not easily forgotten,"

werkjliche Revoluzion auflenkt, foddad hee daut Volkj trigj toom Jesaz von de Profeete to kome, un een Omkja vonne Sind, un de Doop. Soo eene Erwakjunk saul Gott siene Oppmoakjsomkjeit auntrakje, un soo daut Launt von de framde Harschoft friestale. De Nome vom Maun es Johanes de Deepa, un eenje nane am eenen Profeet. Mie wort jesajcht, daut ver dree Doag Rebecca jinkj siene Norecht tootohiere."

Aus Sisera wajch wia, unjahilde Emily un Winta sikj äwa dän Faul. Homez jleewd, daut de Grunt fa daut Deepstol vom Amulett von groote Bediedunk wia, om daut Probleem von Sisera to leese. Emily docht daut eene relijeese Bediedunk fa daut Amulett gauf, un daut hinja Rebecca äare Flucht toom Profeeten en de Wieste wia. Winta socht eene polietische Bediedunk un säd daut kunn een Tieekjen fa een Oppstaunt senne. Homez docht, daut Sisera siene Jeschicht nich krakjt to vetrue wia. De dree trande sikj dan met de Bestemmunk, daut Emily sikj met Rebecca äare Sesta un Frindin Hulda unjahoole wudd, daut Winta daut Amulett noforsche wudd, un daut Homez en däm Paulaust gone wudd, om Antonius to besieekje.

Aus Winta de Gaus beträd, naum de Hett vom Dach aul auf. Schwind jinkj hee aun de Kolonnade vebie, dan toom Hasmonean Paulaust, un entlich toom Moakjt daut Sisera erwänt haud. No eene miesome Sieekj funk hee daut Schmuck Stua, wua Sisera sien Rinkj jekoft haud. De bejoda leejendeema druach rode Kjeleda von butajeweenlich scheenet Materiöl, oba opp sienem Jesecht kjeem een dunklen Blekj. Aus de Winta nom Rinkj von Sisera fruach, kijkt hee dän Froagstala schoap aun un vetald dan von de Haundels Jeschicht.

"Dis Rinkj es eena, dee nich leicht to vejäte

he began with an Aramaic accent that Winter found hard to follow. "The original ring was bought from a Legionar who had returned from a campaign to the east. But it was of recent local origin, from Maccabean times. The form was fine and unusual, made of an unusual brass alloy. I ordered my assistant to bathe it in gold and then we added a line of sapphires around it. Days later a huge man appeared in the shop and took a fancy to it. He drove a hard bargain, and asked for the name Sisera be etched inside. Two months ago he returned and asked that the name Rebecca be added. I have not seen the man or ring since."

In the evening Homez, Emily and Winter met again, this time at Homez' compound. Emily reported first on the results of her enquiry. "I had dressed in my blue robe and golden sandals, in view of the day's heat and the status of the families I was to visit," she said. "With my old friend Rachel I went past the Hasmonean Palace and found Huldah's home a street away. It is a large residence of ancient construction. Citing the names of mutual friends at the gate we gained entry. But we were brought to Huldah's sister, as Huldah no longer lives there. After a brief conversation we brought up the name of Rebecca. Casually I asked about Rebecca's relation with Sisera and Antonius."

"Rebecca was Huldah's good friend," the sister answered cautiously. "I am not sure of your interest. Rebecca was initially attracted to Sisera, as he is a powerful man. But soon she considered him boorish, and wanted to end the relationship. By now Antonius was paying her serious attention. Last week Rebecca put Sisera behind her."

es," säd hee met eene aramäische Utspraak, dee Winta mau schwoa folje kunn. "De uasprinjlicha Rinkj wort von eenem Legionär jekoft, dee von eene Kampanje nom Oosten trigjekome wia. Oba dee wia von de jinjste hiesje Häakunft, ut de Makkabäische Tiede. De Form wia goot un butajeweenlich, ut eene onjeweenliche Messing Legierunk. Ekj befool mienen Helpa däm en Golt to bode, un dan eene Rieej Safiere runtom to stale. Doage lota kjeem een groota Maun em Stua un muak sikj Freid doaropp. Hee wia een schoapa Hendla un bat daut de Nome Sisera enne Bennakaunt jeschräwe sull. Twee Moonate trigj kaum hee wada un wull, daut de Nome Rebecca toojeschräwe sull. Ekj hab dän Maun ooda dän Rinkj seitdäm nich jeseene."

Aum Owent kaume Homez, Emily un Winta wada bie Homez toop. Emily berecht toieescht äwa de Erjäwnise von äare Aunfroag. "Ekj haud mien bleiwet Kjleet un goldne Sandalen aunjetrocke, wääjens daut noch heet wia un daut ekj een rikje Famielje besieekje wudd," säd see. "Met miene oole Frindin Rachel jinkj ekj toom Hasmonean Paulaust vebie un funk Hulda äa Hus eene Gaus wieda. Daut es een grootet Jebied em oolen Stiel. Wie gauwe dän Nome von een jäajensiedichen Frint aune Dää un kjrääje Engank. Oba wie worde to Hulda äare Sesta jebrocht, wiels Hulda nich mea doa wond. No eene korte Unjahoolunk brocht wie dän Nome Rebecca vää. Bielangs fruach ekj no Rebecca äa Kontakt to Sisera un Antonius."

"Rebecca wia Hulda äare goode Frindin," auntwud de Sesta väasechtich. "Ekj sie mie nich secha waut du krakjt weete welst. Rebecca wia Aunfanks to Sisera jetrocke, wiels hee een majchticha Maun es. Oba boot hilt see am fa lankwielich un wull am nich mea seene. Entweschen wiere see un Antonius Frind jeworde. Latste Wääkj haud Rebecca

Sisera aul aufjesajcht.”

When Emily next asked about the whereabouts of Huldah and Rebecca, the sister said that they had gone to the Judean desert to hear the new prophet. She knew nothing about a ring that belonged to Sisera, or intrigue at the court that threatened his position.

Aus Emily nu nom Vebliew von Hulda un Rebecca fruach, säd de Sesta, see wiere en de Hebräische Wieste jegone, om dän nieen Profeet to hiere. See wist nuscht von eenem Rinkj, dee to Sisera jehieed, ooda waut am biem Jerecht, sien Aumt bedrood.

Emily and Rachel then went to Rebecca's residence and there met her sister Veronika. They were kept waiting for an hour, and then they were introduced to a surprisingly young and friendly woman. Emily had asked her of Rebecca. Veronika stated that she knew nothing of her sister's personal life outside of their home. She did comment though on Rebecca's relation to their parents.

Emily un Rachel jinje dan to daut Jebied von Rebecca un troffe doa äare Sesta Veronika. See muste eene Stund wachte, un dan worde see to eene äwarauschende junge un frintliche Fru vääjestalt. Emily fruach äa von Rebecca. Veronika säd, daut see nuscht von äarem perseenlichen Läwe buta äa Tus wist. See erkjlääd oba Rebecca äa Kontakt to äare Elre.

“When my parents were alive my sister lived a wild life,” Veronika said angrily. “She refused to listen to them, joined a wild crowd, and took part in the corruption at Herod's court. She caused endless grief to my parents, driving them into an early grave.”

“Aus miene Elre noch met ons wonde, wia miene Sesta noch gaunz wilt,” säd Veronika wuttich. “See stiepad sikj, an to jehorche, kaum met eene wilde Menj toop, un bedeed sikj metem Vedoawe en Herodes sien Hoff. See brocht miene Elre endlooset Trua un dreef an en een tiedichet Grauf.”

When asked about her sister's present whereabouts she advised that Rebecca had left two days ago for the Jordan River. She had been accompanied by her bondmaid and a male servant and they had taken a donkey to carry provisions. This afternoon the bondmaid had returned alone, bringing a message from Rebecca. After attending the prophet's camp for two days Rebecca had made a life-changing decision. She regretted her wayward life and wished to make amends.

Aus Emily no däm vondoagschen Oppenhooft von äare Sesta jefroacht haud, säd see, daut Rebecca ver twee Doag no dän Jordan Riefa jegone wia. See wia von äare Deenarin un eenem menlichen Deena bejleitet worde. See haude een Äsel jenome, om Väasorj to droage. Vondoag Nomeddach wia de Deenarin auleen trigjekome un brocht Norecht von Rebecca. Nodäm see twee Doag lang en daut Loaga vom Profeete jewast wia, haud Rebecca eene groote Entscheidunk jetroffe. See beduad äa ieejensenjet Läwe un wull et wada gootmoake.

On the advice of converts of the Prophet John she had approached a band of Essenes at

See haud Rot von bekjieede Mensche von Johanes de Deepa toojehiet un wia no eene

Qumran near the Jordan. This ultra-strict order had broken with the religious authorities in Jerusalem, and settled in the desert far from the corruption which they saw in the city. Veronika said that Rebecca had gone there, and had been given provisional entry.

Winter then reported on his visit to the jewelry shop. Homez told of his visit to the Palace. Homez had met an old comrade at the Palace and asked about Sisera. The man was huge and unpredictable, with a fearsome reputation, he had been told. Later at the gate Homez had asked of Antonius and was told that he had been posted out of town.

Homez considered that they had enough information to begin a search for Rebecca. Although aware of the risks, Emily and Winter asked to join him. Emily insisted that she would be helpful since the quarry was a woman, while Winter said that his medical knowledge would be useful. They set out the next morning, together with Cato who led two mules with provisions. Heavily armed, they passed through Herod's gate and immediately turned right towards the Jordan.

They followed the road to Jericho, leaving the plateau for the low Judean desert. Cato set a steady pace and they made rapid progress. A short while later Homez peered behind, and ordered an increase in pace. They descended steep slopes and entered a stony dry landscape. The road was churned up, thousands of footprints revealing the passage of multitudes to hear the prophet crying in the wilderness. In the blowing sand Homez peered again behind and Winter heard him mutter 'treachery'. After reaching a bend in the path he ordered a rush forward. After a stretch they veered into a ravine to the side. They

Baund von Essenern en Qumran biem Jordan jegone. Dise butajeweenlich strenje Ordnunk haud sikj von de relijeese Oobrickkheit en Jerusalem jetrant. See haud sikj en de Wieste wiet von de Staut doljesat. Veronika säd, daut Rebecca no an jegone wia un wort oppverieescht Enreis aunjebode.

Winta berecht dan daut äwa sienen Besuach wäajen dän Rinkj biem Moakjt. Homez vetald von sienem Besuach em Paulaust. Homez haud eenen oolen Kommarode em Paulaust jetroffe un no Sisera jefroacht. De Maun wia riesich un onväästalboa, met eenem furchtboaren Roop, wort am jesajcht. Lota aum Puat haud Homez von Antonius jefroacht un am wort jesajcht, daut hee butastauts wia.

Homez docht, daut see jenuach Informazion haude, om de Sieekj fa Rebecca autofange. Oppwool see sikj de Jefoa bewust wiere, wulle Emily un Winta, metkome. Emily bestunt doaropp, daut see behelplich senne wudd, wiels de Ziel eene Fru wia. Winta säd, daut sien medizienischet Weete behelplich senne wudd. See sade aum näakjsten Morje met Cato loos, dee een Multia met Väarot fieed. Schwoa bewaufnet, jinje see derch daut Herodes Puat un dreide Rajchts toom Jordan.

See foljde däm Wajch no Jericho un veleete daut Huachlaunt fa de läajlaundsche Wieste. Cato sad eene eendrajchtje Jeschwindichkheit un see jinje stoakj verwoaz. Korz doaropp zield Homez trigj un befool Cato stoakja to gone. See stieeje steile Hänge erauf un kaume to eene steenaje, drieje Launtschoft. De Gaus wia stoffich, dusende von Oppdrejkunge weese daut väle Mensche too Foot jegone wiere, om dän Profeet, dee sikj en de Wieste behilt, to hier. Derch blosendet Saunt kijkt Homez wada trigj un Winta hieed am 'Verot' saje. Nodäm hee eene Bieejunk vebie jegone wiere, befool hee eenen

waited anxious minutes and then saw their pursuers rush past at great pace.

After further traffic had passed Homez continued, and later branched off towards Qumran. They were now at the shores of the Dead Sea where a lifeless landscape lay before them. Homez let Cato take the lead. He knew this land, and could guide them through. In the evening Cato found a remote nook off the path and they took shelter.

The next morning they continued on this route and reached a large compound, the encampment of the Essenes. This strict sect shunned the mainstream and preferred extreme isolation. Their camp was self-contained; a spring fed their cisterns, and green fields waved thanks to irrigation. A high mud-brick wall surrounded the compound and Cato led them to the only gate.

At the gate Homez asked for Rebecca, and was abruptly told to wait. After a long wait the gatekeeper returned and told Homez that Rebecca would not see him. Emily then went forward and instructed the gatekeeper to ask Rebecca to come see Veronika. Presently a stunning woman approached, dressed in rags. On seeing Emily, Rebecca reacted resentfully at the deception.

Emily explained the situation to Rebecca. "Our only interest is to recover the ring of Sisera," she said. The information seemed to overwhelm Rebecca. The last few days had been tumultuous for her, with a harrowing trip down from Jerusalem, a spellbinding ministry by the prophet, and the life-changing decision to join the Essenes. Rebecca finally asked

schwinda Aunsauz. No eene Strakj dreide see sikj to Sied en eene Schlucht enenn. See wachte opp enjstliche Minnute un sage dan äare Vefoljasch en groote Jeschwindichkjeit vebie pieekje.

Nodäm wiedret Vekjia an vebie jegone wia jinje see wieda, un lota dreide see no Qumran opptoo. See wiere nu aum Eewa vom Dooden Mää, wua eene doode Launtschoft ver an lach. Homez leet Cato de Fierunk äwanäme. Hee kjand dit Launt un kunn an derchfiere. Aum Owent funk Cato eene vestoakne Akj utem Wajch un see wulle doa äwanachte.

Aum näakjsten Morje fuare see opp dise Strakj wieda un kaumen bat eene groote Feldloaga, daut Tus vonne Essener. Dise strenje Sekt haud de Groote Jemeent vemeit un eene aufjesondade Städ wieet auf jefunge. Äa Loaga wia en sikj jeschlote; eene Kjwal foodad äa Zista, un dank de Wessarie wosse jreene Felda. Eene huaga Adobe Tieejelmua wia rom daut Loaga jebut, un Cato fiied an to daut eensjet Puat.

Aum Puat fruach Homez fa Rebecca, un wort fuaz jesajcht, daut hee wachte must. No langet wachte kjeed de Wajchta trigj un säd to Homez, daut Rebecca am nich seene wull. Emily jinkj dan un säd däm Wajchta, daut hee sull Rebecca saje, Veronika wia jekome. Nu kaum eene butajeweenliche schmocke Fru, en Kodre aunjetrocke nom Puat. Aus see Emily sach, wia Rebecca sea enteischt.

Emily erkjläad Rebecca äare Loag. "Ons eensjet Interesse es, de Rinkj von Sisera trigjtonäme," säd see. Dise Norecht schiend Rebecca to äwawaultje. De latste Doag wiere fa äa sea stormich jewast, met eene jefäadliche Reis von Jerusalem, eenem jespaunten Deenst vom Profeeten un de Entscheidunk sikj de Essenern auntoschlute.

them to wait, promising to return shortly.

The threesome sat down and waited restlessly. At last she came, looking distraught, but bringing Sisera's ring. Immediately she plunged into an angry explanation. "On arrival here I consented to the demand of poverty, and handed over all my possessions; clothing, transport, and personal matters," she said. "With difficulty I have managed a return of the ring, giving as reason that it had been borrowed. You have undertaken a dangerous journey so I will tell you my story.

"I fear that you have been misled by Sisera. My relation with him was never one of passion. Sisera rose to a position of minor power, and became intoxicated with the prospect of even greater power. He was aroused by social issues, the oppression of the Romans and the resulting resentment of the people. But his only interest in this matter was to increase his own power. He had studied our history, the story of Samson and of the Maccabees. Judas Maccabee became his model. He wished to repeat his triumphs, to expel the Romans and seize power for himself. He wanted to enlist me into his program. Agreeing with him on the social issues I became a convert, but only in the beginning.

"I come now to the matter of the ring. A band of Zealots trains beyond the Jordan, near the area where the prophet has his mission. I was to bring the ring to the leader and this would be the signal for an uprising. Initially I intended to assist Sisera, but there are two rebel groups in the Jordan desert. I met the other one first, that of the prophet. After hearing the prophet I decided against helping Sisera. My close friend Huldah had recently joined the Essenes,

Rebecca säd an schlieslich daut see korz trigjkome wudd.

De dree sade sikj dol un wachte onruich. Entlich kaum see un sach vetwiewelt ut, oba haud Sisera sien Rinkj jebrocht. Fuaz funk see aun met eene wuttiche Erkläarunk. "Bie miene Aunkunft hia hab ekj de Fodrunk fa Oamoot Toojestemt un aul mien Hab un Goot äwajejäft; Kjeleeda, Foatich un perseenliche Aunjelääajenheite," säd see. "Met grooten Bemieeje hab ekj däm Rinkj trigj jekräaje, aus Grunt doavää, daut dee jeliel wia. Jie habe eene jefädliche Reis unjanome un doarom woa ekj junt miene Jeschicht vetale.

"Ekj fercht, daut jie von Sisera hinjrem Licht jefieet sent. Mien Kontakt met am wia nie eene Leewes Sach. Sisera haft een Aunt von jerinje Majcht un wort bedieselt von de Utsecht von noch jratre Majcht. Hee wort derch soziale Froage, de Unjadrekjunk von de Reemasch un dee doarut staumende Ontofrädenheit vom Volkj oppjewakjt. Oba sien eensjet Interesse en aul dit wia, siene ieejne Majcht to vejratre. Hee haud onse Jeschicht studieet, de Jeschicht von Samson un däm Makkabäern. Judas Maccabee wia sien Väabilt. Hee wull siene Sieej wadahole, de Reemasch rut driewe un de Majcht fa sikj selfst kjree. Hee wull mie en sien Prograum metnäme. Ekj jinkj met am wiels ekj met siene jesalchoftliche Sorj metstemt, oba bloos aum Aunfank.

"Ekj kom nu to de Sach vom Rinkj. Eene Baund von Zelote woat äwa däm Jordan jeschoolt, dicht biem Jebiet, wua de Profeet siene Mission haft. Ekj sull dän Rinkj toom Fiera brinje, un daut wudd daut Tieekjen fa eenen Oppstaunt senne. Toiescht wull ekj Sisera unjastette, oba daut jeft twee Gruppe en de Wieste doa. Ekj troff de aundre toiescht, dee vom Profeet. Nodäm ekj dän Profeet jehieet haud, entschloot ekj mie,

so I went to their encampment, spoke to Huldah and made a decision to join them.”

Sisera nich to halpe. Miene dichte Frindin Hulda wia fa kortem to de Essenern jekome. Doarom jinkj ekj to äa Loaga, räd met Hulda un beschloot, mie an autoschlute.”

Rebecca handed the ring to Homez and retreated back into the compound. The story of Rebecca had cleared up the questions that had been troubling Homez except for one. Who had been engaged in their pursuit on the way to the Jordan and what was their intent? Homez could only conclude the pursuit was related to the assassination attempt he had experienced days earlier, for which he had no explanation.

Rebecca rieekjt dän Rinkj dan to Homez un trock sikj wada hinjre Waunt trigj. De Jeschicht von Rebecca haud de Froage oppjekloat, de Homez beonruicht, buta eene. Wää wia en äare Vefoljunk oppem Wajch naum Jordan bedeelicht un waut wia äare Aufsecht? Homez kunn bloos beschlute, daut de Vefoljunk met däm Aunslach toophinkj, dän hee ea beläfft haud, fa dän hee kjeene Erkläarunk haud.

On the way back Homez announced that the Holy City was getting very hot for him, and that he had resolved to open a branch office in Tiberias.

Opp däm Trigjwajch leet Homez Emily un Winta weete, daut de Heilje Staut fa am sea heet jeworde wia, un daut hee beschlote haud, eene niee Offiz en Tiberias optomoake.

Wedding

The dawn was breaking as Winter left home on route to the new compound of his colleague Homez in Tiberias. Attended by his servant he walked swiftly through the silent streets and arrived just as the sun rose over the horizon. Homez and his party were assembled at the gate and had horses ready for the journey. Emily, the niece of Homez, was there, and Homez with his servant Cato. They were off to Sepphoris, a day's ride to the west. This was Homez' first journey since moving north; a time to get acquainted with his new surroundings.

"You are well, Winter?" Homez asked. He rode next to Winter while Emily rode with Cato. "I have had a good beginning here in Tiberias," Winter answered. "My son Alexander has written about a good start in Bethlehem. After many years of study in Athens he is eager to begin his life's work."

Homez now gave an update on his new life. "Tiberias is much as I expected," he said. "The pace is slower than in Jerusalem, but a good practice is sure to develop quickly. And trading here promises to be as profitable as in the Holy City."

Homez had opened a branch office in Tiberias not to increase business, but to find a peaceful life for Emily. In Jerusalem, he had seen outstanding success, and had been well rewarded by wealthy clients. The fees levied on the mighty had allowed him to consider other cases, which often had been of greater interest.

The group climbed the west wall of the rift

Kjast

De Himmel funk jrod aun licht to woare aus Winta fa däm nieen Kuta von sien Kolleg Homez loos sad. Met een Deena aun siene Sied jinkj hee schwind derch de stelle Gause von Tiberias, un jrod aus de Sonn äwarem Horizont gluapt, kaum hee doa aun. Homez un siene Grupp stunt aul biem Puat un haude de Pieed reed fa de Reis. De schmocke Emily, Homez siene Nicht, wia doa, un Homez met sien Deena Cato. See wulle no Seforis riede, een leichten Dach oppem Pieet nom Waste. Dit wia Homez siene ieeschte Reis seitdäm hee nom Nuade jetrocke wia; hee wull sikj met de niee Jääjent bekaunt moake.

"Du best heel, Winta?" fruach Homez. Hee reet biesied Winta, un Emily reet met Cato. "Ekj hab hia en Tiberias eenen gooden Aunfank jemoakt," auntuwad Winta. "Mien Sän Alexander haft mie een Breef jeschekjt. De Praxis en Betlehem jeit goot. No sien langet Studium en Ateen es hee froo siene Oabeit nu to doone."

Homez vetald dan von sien nieet Läwe. "Tiberias es krakjt aus ekj mie daut jedocht haud," säd hee. "Daut jeit hia langsoma aus en Jerusalem, oba daut woat nich lang diere bat et drock woat. Un de Haundel woat hia soo vedeenstlich senne aus enne Heilje Staut."

Homez haud ne tweede Offiz en Tiberias op jemoakt nich om mea Jelt to moake, sonda een frädlichet Läwe fa Emily to finje. En Jerusalem wort hee foaken jeloft, un wort von siene rikje Kunde goot beloont. Wiels de Jewaultje goot betolde, haud hee kunt kjlandre Fale aunnäme, dee am foaken dolla intressieede.

De Grupp stieech fa meist ne Stund opp de

valley for an hour. At the summit they looked east and saw Tiberias lying peacefully below. "Look uncle, there is our compound," Emily observed. "How serene it looks from a distance. Tiberias is so peaceful compared to the Holy City."

The purpose for Homez' journey to Sepphoris was to visit his friend Cincinnatus, but also to find a contractor to rebuild his compound. With construction tapering off in Sepphoris, Cincinnatus had advised that builders might be seeking new custom. They now turned to the plateau to the west. The Roman road was well tended, winding its way towards Sepphoris, and then on to the sea at Ptolemais. Soon Mount Tabor rose in the south. Stretches of fertile countryside appeared, grain fields dotted the plain, and vineyards climbed the hillsides.

By early afternoon Sepphoris was in sight and shortly after they arrived at the compound of Cincinnatus, Homez' former companion. The old Legionar gave the group a warm welcome and led them to comfortable quarters. While Homez and Cincinnatus talked about old times, Cato gave Emily and Winter a tour through the city.

Sepphoris stood at the center of lower Galilee, surrounded by pleasant villages. Nazareth was an hour's walk to the south and Cana a like distance to the north. Sepphoris had been destroyed in the rebellion after the death of Herod the Great, but his son Herod Antipas had obtained Roman permission to rebuild it. Cato led the way past many public buildings already completed and others still under construction. He pointed out a market brimming with fruits, wine, and produce. Fine pottery, jewelry and clothing from the city craftsmen were on display in the shops. A small shop was devoted to carvings and

huage wastelje Sied vom Dol enopp. Aus see no bowe kaume wia Tiberias wiet unje em Ooste to seene. "Kjikj emol Onkel, doa licht ons Kuta," lacht Emily. "Woo frädlich daut von huach bowe sitt! Tiberias es vâl stella aus de Heilje Staut."

Homez wull no Seforis reise om sien Frint Cincinnatus to besieekje, oba hee wull uk een Bumeista finje dee sien Kuta omendre kunn. De Buoarbeit en Seforis jinkj nu boajauf, haud Cincinnatus jeschräwe, un vâle Bumeistasch sochte niee Kunde. De Grupp dreid nu nom Huachlaunt em Waste. De Reema Wajch, dee soo kruglich no Seforis leid, wia goot jeffläacht, jinkj dan wieda toom Mäa bie Ptolemais. Boot kaum de Boajch Tabor aune linkje Sied vâa. Eene Strakj von fruchtboaret Launt wia nu to seene, Jeträajd Felda, un Wiengoades dee oppem Boaj enopp kroope.

Bie tiedich Nomeddach wia Seforis aul wiet auf to seene, un see kaume boot biem Kuta von Cincinnatus, Homez sien verhäaja Kommarod, aun. De oola Legionär gauf de Grupp een hoazlichen Welkom un brocht an to een maklichet Kwatia. Wiel Homez un Cincinnatus sikj von äare Beläwnise vetalde, gauf Cato Emily un Winta eene Runtreis rome Staut.

Seforis stunt soo enne Medd von daut läajet Galiläa, met schmocke Darpa runtom. Nazaret wia ne Stund toom Siede un Cana ne Stund nom Nuade. Seforis wia gaunz vestieet worde em grooten Opprua aus Herodes de Groota storf, oba sien Sän Herodes Antipas haud Erlaubnis von de Reema jekräaje daut wada optobue. Cato brocht an to vâle effentliche Jebieda; eensje wiere aul gaunz foadich, un aundre noch em Bu. Cato wees an uk een Moakjt wua vâl Frucht, Wien un aundre Produkte to seene wiere. Fiene Steentoppe, Schmuck un Kjeleeda, von de Hauntwoakja en de Staut jemoakt, wiere aulawäajes en de

figurines, which Cato identified as ancient Roman deities.

The next morning Homez and Winter followed Cincinnatus to construction sites in Sepphoris. He introduced them to builders and carpenters, many of whom came from surrounding villages. At the first site the contractor stemmed from Cana. Construction here was far from complete, and was mostly of stone. The work at Homez' compound was to be in wood, so he showed little interest.

Cincinnatus next led them to a site where shops were under construction next to a market. The main walls were in stone, but minor ones and the roof were of wood. Homez showed keen interest as the work was of high quality, and of a style desired for his own estate. These builders were from nearby Nazareth, Homez learned, and the contractor was the family of the Child of whom he had heard in Bethlehem, and later in the Temple of the Holy City. The Child was now grown. A new story was told of Him, one of a wedding, where water was turned to wine.

Cincinnatus now led to a third site, where again high quality work was being done. These builders came from Mount Tabor. The work was nearly complete and Homez admired the fine craftsmanship all done in wood. The supervisor said the builder, Ithimar, was eager for a new contract. He gave them Ithimar's address which was at Mount Tabor.

The next morning Homez bade farewell to Cincinnatus and the party headed for Mount Tabor in search for Ithimar. The route followed narrow trails and offered few comforts. Mount

Stuasch to kjeep. Een kjlienet Stua haud bloos Schnitzoabeit un Figure, dee Cato säd, antike Reemische Jetta wiere.

Aum näakjsten Morje brocht Cincinnatus Homez un Winta no de Bustäde en Seforis. Cincinnatus stald an Bumeistasch un Descha vää, dee en de Darpa dichtbie wonde. Bie de ieeschte Städ kaum een Bumeista von Cana. De Oabeit hia wia noch lang nich foadich, un wia mieeschtens ut Steen. De Oabeit bie Homez sien Kuta sull ut Holt senne, un soo wees intressieed am dit mau weinich.

Cincinnatus brocht an dan no eene Städ wua Laufkjjes jebut worde, biesied eenen Moakjt. De groote Wenj wiere ut Steen, oba de kjlandre Wenj, un de Bän wiere ut Holt. Homez intressieed dit sea, wiels de Oabeit von huaga Wieet wia, un von eene Mood daut hee fa sien ieejnet Jebied wull. Dise Buoabeida wiere von daut Darp Nazaret, leet Homez sikj saje, un de Bumeista wia von de Famielje von däm Maunskjint von wäm hee en Betlehem un lota em Tempel en de Heilje Staut jehieet haud. Daut Kjint wia nu aul oppjewosse. Eene niee Jeschicht wort von Am vetalt, von eene Kjast, wua Hee Wota to Wien jemoakt haud.

Cincinnatus brocht an nu no eene dredde Städ, wua see wada goode Oabeit sage. Dise Buoabeida kaume vom Boajch Tabor. De Oabeit wia soo meist reed un Homez bewundad de feine Hauntoabeit dee ut Holt wia. De Eppaschta säd an daut de Bumeista, Itimar, een nieen Kontrakt socht. Hee gauf an Itimar siene Adrass dee biem Boajch Tabor wia.

Tiedich zemorjes säd Homez Audee to Cincinnatus un de Grupp marschieed nom Boajch Tabor, om Itimar opptosieekje. De Wajch foljd enje Stiej dee an weinich Troost

Tabor lay ahead and at a rest stop Homez promised Emily that one day they would climb it to the top.

By afternoon they were at the base of the mountain, and shortly afterwards stopped at an inn. In late afternoon they headed for Ithimar's home, where they received a warm welcome. Homez unrolled his scrolls and showed Ithimar the project he had in mind. There was loud discussion, Cato giving details on Homez' behalf. Agreeing to continue the discussion in the morrow the party returned to their inn.

The next morning Homez, Emily and Winter discussed last day's negotiations over breakfast. The remodeling would be expensive, and for Homez a new commission would come in handy. Presently Cato came to their table, leading a man and a young woman, who sought help. The man ordered his servant to bring a container of refreshments to Homez' table. After the formalities Homez asked the couple to be seated and to state their business.

The man said that he was facing a major family crisis. A friend in Jerusalem had recommended Homez to him, he said. On learning from Ithimar that Homez was in the neighborhood he had rushed over. Homez asked the man to tell his story, from the beginning.

"My name is Celsus, and this is my elder daughter Lenore," the man began. "I own a vineyard on the other side of Mount Tabor. My family has made wine for generations. Our vines are planted on a slope which catches the morning sun. From these our vintners produce the finest wine in the area. Our supervisors of the field work, distillery, and distribution are masters of their craft. We

gauwe. De Boajch Tabor lach ver an un aus see een Stootje opphilde vespruak Homez Emily äa een Dach doa enopp to brinje.

Bie tiedjen Nomeddach wiere see unje biem Boajch Tabor, un dan reede see to een Gausthus. Lot Nomeddach sade see fa Itimar sien Hus loos, wua een leefolja Welkom jejäft wort. Homez brocht siene Schreffroll rut, un wees Itimar dän Plon fa de Oabeit. See råde lud äwa aules, un Cato erkjlääd Eenzelheite von Homez siene Sied. Nodäm see sikj eenich wiere Morje wada to trafe, fua Homez met siene Grupp trigj nom Gausthus.

Dän näakjsten Morje saute Homez, Emily un Winta biem Freestikj un beråde de jistreschen Vehaundlunk. Daut niee Bu wudd dia senne, un daut wudd Homez pause een niea Oppdrach finje. Boolt brocht Cato een Maun un eene junge Fru, dee Help wulle, no äarem Desch. De Maun kommandieed sien Deena een Behelta von Äte no Homez sien Desch to brinje. No de Bejreesunge kroagd Homez de twee sikj hantosate un äa Probleem to schildre.

De Maun säd daut de Famielje een schwoaret Probleem ver sikj haud. Een Frint en Jerusalem, säd hee, haud am Homez toojerot. Hee kjand Itimar dee am vetalt haud daut Homez dichtbie wia, us soo wia hee hää jekome. Homez kroagd däm Maun nu siene Jeschicht vom Aunfank aun to vetale.

"Ekj sie Celsus, un dit es miene elre Dochta Lenore," funk de Maun aun. "Ekj hab een Wiengoade hia biem Boajch Tabor. Miene Famielje haft aul fa Jennerazione Wien jemoakt. Onse Wiendruwe ligje oppe Sied Boajch wua de Sonn tiedich zemorjes schient. Von dise Wiendruwe moake onse Kjenstla daut baste Wien enne Jäajent. Onse Eppaschte vonne Felt Oabeit, Brennarie, un

produce high quality wine, market it in fine containers, and deliver it to avoid losses or spoilage. Our wine is famous throughout Galilee, and customers consume our products with pleasure.”

Homez approved of the man’s love for his art, but Winter could see that he ached for more meat in the argument. Celsus sensed Homez’ impatience and sped up his story. “My wife, now departed, was also from a wine growing family,” he continued. “My son perished in a campaign in Gaul years ago, so my two daughters Lenore and Recka will succeed me. The girls are now ready for marriage.

“A distant kinsman, Jachin from Beer-Sheba, has come to live in my household. He now supervises workers in the field, and wishes to marry my daughter. I helped him purchase a nearby vineyard to begin his own operation. We are collaborating on a venture to create a new wine product. We are making separate contributions, and plan to split our profits equally. A bright future beckons; to gain a son to lighten my retirement. But it is an illusion, for a dispute has come into my life.”

“The problem is in the venture with Jachin. At the beginning we laid careful plans to ensure that the input from our two sides would be equal. With an equal input we had planned also an equal output. But I have found out that I have been badly cheated. Apart from this disappointment another problem arose a month ago. A major theft occurred at my compound, which has not been solved. Since Jachin’s arrival my life has become painful, full

Vedeelunk sent Meistasch en äa Woakj. Wie moake Wien von huaget Wieet, vekjeepe daut en feine Jefässa, un leewre daut auf one Veluss un Vedoawen. Ons Wien es em gaunzen Galiläa beriemt, un onse Kunde drinkje onse Produkte met Plezhia.”

Homez jefoll däm Maun siene Leew fa siene Kunst, oba Winta wist daut hee mea Fleesch en de Jeschicht seene wull. Celsus kunn Homez siene Onjedult feele un fua nu een bät bosja wieda. “Miene Fru, dee aul Joare vestorwe es, wia een Wienmoaka siene Dohta,” säd hee. “Mien Sän wort Joare trigj em Kjrigh en Gaul veloare, un soo woare miene Dajhta Lenore un Recka miene Oawe senne. De Mejales welle sikj aul boolt befreee.

“Een Maunsmensch Jachin von Beer-Sheba, dee wietleftich Frintschoft es, wont nu en mien Hus. Hee es de Eppaschta fa miene Felt Oabeida, un well sikj met miene Dohta befreee. Ekj hab am jeholpe een Wiendgoade dichtbie to kjeepe soo daut hee siene ieejne Wirtschoft aurfange kaun. Wie schaufe toop en eene Unjanämen om eene niee Wien Produkt häatostale. Wie moake beid een Biedrach, un ons Plon es de Jewenst jlikjmässich opptospoole. Eene frooe Tookunft licht ver mie; een Sän to kjräaje dee mien Rustaunt veleichtre woat. Oba daut es aules bloos een Droom, wiels een Jezank es en mien Läwe nenjekome.”

“Daut jratste Probleem es de Unjanämen met Jachin. Aum Aunfank muak wie väasechtich een Plon om to vesechre daut de Biedrach von de twee Siede jlikj senne wudd. Dan wull wie uk de Produkt jlikjwies utdeele. Oba ekj wort en daut Jachin mie hinjret Licht jefieet haft. Buta dise Enteschunk kaum een Moonat trigj een aundret Probleem vää. Opp miene Wirtschoft es eene Stälarie passieet, dee noch nich jeleest es. Seit Jachin häajekome es, es

of disputes and suffering.”

Homez had followed Celsus’ lament with astonishment, and his face contortion was recognized by Winter as caution. “Let me describe to you the arrival of Jachin at my household,” Celsus continued. “He came to Mount Tabor four years ago and was put to work in the fields. Months later he revealed himself as a kinsman as well as a fugitive. He had fled the household of his father, my second cousin, and sought refuge in my house. A problem with his brother had lead to feuding and his departure. After a year in the fields Jachin was promoted. At the urging of my daughters I brought him into the household, and soon he expressed a wish to marry.

“Two years ago on the new fields which I had given him, Jachin planted a new grape introduced from Rome. Jachin secured a new contract for a lighter, fruity wine. Such a wine was made by mixing established brands with the new one. Following lengthy discussions Jachin and I came to an agreement on how to proceed in our venture. To me our plan seemed equitable for both sides. The oral agreement required that the liquid contribution from the two sides be of equal volume, one part volume from my fields and one part from his. Later Jachin drew up a written contract on which I placed my signature.

“After I received my share of the product from the venture I compared the volume with that which my grapes had yielded in previous years. It was less by a third. Perplexed, I returned to Jachin’s written contract. To my surprise I found that it differed from our oral

mien Låwe sorjvoll jeworde, met Oneenichkheit un Liede.”

Homez haud Celsus siene Aunkloag met Staune aunjehieet, un von siene Jedonte wist Winta daut Homez nich aules rajcht schiend. “Lot mie die vetale woo Jachin bie miene Wirtschoft aunkaum,” fua Celsus wieda. “Hee kaum ver vea Joa nom Boajch Tabor un wie gauwe am en de Felda Oabeit. Moonate lota muak hee sikj aus een Vewaunta bekaunt, un uk aus een Flichtlinkj. Hee staumd vom Hus von Voda sien Vada, un socht Tooflucht en mien Hus. Hee haud een Probleem met sien Brooda jehaut un haud must fliee om sikj daut Låwe to rade. Nodäm hee een Joa enne Felda jeoabeit haud, gauf ekj Jachin een hechren Aumt. Wiels miene Dajchta daut foddade, brocht ekj am en mien Hushault, un bootl wull hee sikj aul befriee.

“Twee Joa trigj, opp de niee Felda dee ekj am jejäft haud, plaunt Jachin eene niee Wiendruw, von Room häajebrocht. Jachin vehaundeld een nieen Vetrach fa een Wien dee leichta un fruchticha wia. Om soo een Wien to moake mott Maun oole Moakje Wien met niee toopmische. No lange Unjahoolunge worde Jachin un ekj ons eenich woo wie toopoabeide wudde. Ons Plon schiend mie jerajcht fa beid Siede to senne. Ons mintliche Vetrach haud de Bedinjunk daut de Biedrach von Flissichkjeite von de twee Siede von jlikje Mauss senne sull, eene Mauss von miene Felda un eene selwje Mauss von siene. Spoda brocht Jachin mie een Jeschräwna Vetrach opp woont ekj mien Nome schreef.

“Nodäm daut ekj mien Deel von daut Produkt von de Unjanämen jekjräaje haud vejlikjt ekj dän velangden Jewenst met däm waut miene Wiendruwe de väaje Joare jebrocht haude. Daut wia kjlanda bie een dreddel Poat. Vebleft, lees ekj nu Jachin sien jeschräwnen

agreement, now stating that the contribution from each side was to be equal in land acreage, not in liquid volume. As Jachin's vines are much younger, they give a smaller volume per acre. His volume contribution was much smaller, yet he took half of the product. Now I have found that he has stored his share of the product at an unknown location. I must now worry whether further deceit is planned on delivery.

"In the robbery last month several items of value were removed from my household. Despite questioning family members and servants I have been unable to identify the thief. The wedding of Jachin with my daughter is approaching. The issues I have mentioned must be resolve beforehand, so I need your assistance."

Homez stirred now, relieved that Celsus' presentation had ended. He eagerly asked questions on troubling issues. "When you discovered the change in the agreement, what was Jachin's comment?" he asked. "Concerning the unequal division of the contributions, did you question him why there was an equal division in the product?"

"Jachin glibly claimed that the agreement had not been changed," Celsus answered. "He said that for the fruity wine more volume of the established grape was required than of the new Roman grape. For this reason the logic lay with that stated in the written contract, namely contribution based on acreage. As to his entitlement to an equal share in the product he claimed this was logical, as he had provided the idea, and negotiated the contract."

Vetrach. Nu funk ekj ut daut dee aundasch wia aus ons mintlicha Vetrach; disa säd daut de Biedrach von jiede Sied bie de Launt Akasch jemäte senne sull, nich bie de Mauss von Flissichkjeit. Wiels Jachin siene Wiendruwe väl jinja sent, jäwe dee eene kjlandra Mauss fa een Aka. Sien Biedrach bie Mauss wia väl kjlanda, oba hee naum doch de halft vom Produkt. Nu haft hee sien Poat von daut Produkt en eene onbekaunde Städ oppbewoat. Ekj mott mie nu noch mea Sorje moake, opp hee noch mea Lest väahaft wan daut Produkt aufjeleewat woat.

"En de Stälarie von een Moonat trigj worde miere wieetvolle Artikjel von mien Hushault jenome. Ekj hab Famieljemetjlieda un Deena befroacht oba hab dän Deef nich finje kunt. De Kjast von Jachin met miene Dochta kjemt nada. Aul dise Sache motte verhää jeleest woare, doarom bruck ekj jun Biestaunt."

Homez wia aul froo daut Celsus sien lankwielja Berecht äwa wia. Hee wull jieren Froage stale. "Wan du daut enwordst daut daut Schreftstekj aundasch aus de mintlicha Vetrach wia, waut säd Jachin doatoo?" fruach hee. "Betrafs dän onjlikje Biedrach, fruachst du am wuarom doa eene jlikje Spoolunk en daut Produkt es?"

"Met leichte Tung säd Jachin daut de Vetrach nich veendat wia," gauf Celsus Auntwuat. "Hee säd daut fa däm fruchtjen Wien brukt maun mea Mauss von de bekaunde Wiendruwe aus von de niee Reemische. Doarom wia daut vestentlich daut et soo em Schreftstekj jeschräwe wia, daut heet met een Biedrach daut sikj opp däm Numma von Akasch helt. Betrafs sien Rajcht fa een jlikjet Poat von de Produkt to kjree säd hee daut wia rajcht, wiels hee de ledee äwadäl jebrocht un dän Vetrach jemoakt haud."

While Winter shrugged openly at these sad answers Homez received them with his usual nonchalance, and moved to his next question. "About the robbery of last month, what exactly was taken?" he asked. "What efforts did you make to recover the missing items? What do you think happened to them, and who are the likely suspects?"

"The items that were stolen were valuable household treasures that had been in the family for generations," Celsus replied. "Lenore will give you a list. The articles are of sentimental value to the family, of no value to others. I believe they are still on the compound. I cannot image a reason for taking them. The thief left no evidence, so I was foiled from the beginning. No serious efforts have been made to find the items, nor the thief."

"You have listed a series of woes, if you don't mind me saying so," Homez now stated in his most diplomatic manner. "What exactly do you want me to investigate? And what are your priorities for the investigation?"

Celsus paused and looked at Lenore for inspiration. "I would like you to find the storage place for Jachin's share of the product from the venture," he replied tentatively. "Once I know the place I will make my own measure of his share. Secondly, there is the matter of the agreement. What is Jachin's explanation about the changes when asked by others? Lastly, I want a return of the stolen items. They are needed for the wedding of Jachin and my daughter. Incidentally, I invite you and your party to the wedding."

Homez had listened carefully to Celsus' three

Winta tekjt met de Schulasch aus hee dise truariche Auntwuade hieed oba Homez horcht dee met siene jeeenliche Jlikjeltichkheit to, un jinkj dan to de nääkjste Froag. "Beträfs de Stälarie vom latsten Moonat, waut wort jenome?" fruach hee. "Kraajt waut deedst du om de jestolne Artikjel trigjtokjree? Waut jleefst du sent met dee passieet, un wää jleefst du haft dee jenome?"

"De Artikjel dee jestole worde wiere diere Sache vom Hushault dee fa Jennerazione enne Famielje wiere," gauf Celsus Auntwuat. "Lenore woat die ne List oppschriewe. De Artikjel habe bloos fa de Famielje wieet; fa aundre jelle dee nich. Ekj jleew dee sent noch irjentwua opp dise Wirtschoft. Ekj weet eefach nich wuarom maun dee jenome haft. De Deef haft kjeen Bewies trigjjelote, soo kunn ekj vom Aunfank aun nuscht utfinje. Wie habe kjeene wirdiche Bemieejunge jemoakt om de Artikjel to finje, uk nich dän Deef."

"Jie habe ons ne List von Sorje beschräwe, wan ekj daut saje kaun," säd Homez nu soo jeschekjlich aus hee kunn. "Waut saul ekj kraajt unjasieekje? Un wua saul ekj miene Forschunk aunftage?"

Celsus schlud un kijkt no Lenore fa eene Bejeistrunk. "Ekj well daut du dän Vestääk finjst, wua Jachin sien Poat von de Produkte haft," säd hee opp verieescht. "Wan ekj weet wua de Plauz es dan kaun ekj miene ieejne Rääkjnunk moake von sien Poat. Tweedens, es doa de Sach vom Vetrach. Waut sajcht Jachin äwa de Veendrunge to de buta Welt? Latstens, well ekj de jestolne Artikjel trigj. Dee bruck wie fa de Kjast von Jachin un miene Dochta. Toofalich, jie sent aula to de Kjast enjelot."

Homez haud sikj sorjfeltich Celsus siene dree

wishes, and looked up in surprise when he received the invitation to the wedding. This was the first time that such an invitation had been added to a commission. Homez floundered for some moments; Winter believed he was flustered by Celsus' omission in naming the bride.

Although Celsus was tiring of the interview Homez posed two more questions. "A robbery without evidence is always suspicious," Homez said. "Do you suspect any of your people? Did a worker recently join, or leave abruptly?"

Celsus lingered over the questions, conferred with Lenore, and then answered in the negative. Homez made a final surprising request of Celsus.

"Will you take us up Mount Tabor and point out your estate and that of Jachin?" he asked. "Will you also point out possible storage places for Jachin's part of the product and the stolen household items?"

Winter feared that Homez had forgotten the initial reason for his trip, but following the interview Homez instructed Cato to invite Ithimar for further discussions. They readied for the climb and then waited impatiently for the arrival of transport.

Hours later, Celsus arrived with a small caravan accompanied by his younger daughter. Unlike her sister Lenore, Recka had a sensual beauty, irresistible to men. Her smiling face and gliding body enchanted even Homez, who seemed badly smitten. They set off, Homez riding ahead with Celsus and Recka, while Emily and Winter lagging in the

Wensche aunjehieet, un horcht de Enlodunk no de Kjast met opnen Mul too. Dit wia daut ieeschte mol daut hee soone Enlodunk toop met een nieen Oppdrach jekräaje haud. Homez stolpad fa een Uagenblekj; Winta docht daut hee bekjemmat wia wiels Celsus de Brut nich jenant haud.

Oppwool Celsus vonne Unjahoolunk aul meed wia wull Homez noch twee Froage stale. "Eene Stälarie one Bewies es emma vedajchtich," säd Homez. "Hab jie Vedocht fa irjent eenem von june Lied? Hab jie kjirzlich eenen nieen Oabeida aunjenome, ooda haft eena nielich velote?"

Celsus docht lang äwa dise Froage, räd korz met Lenore doaräwa, un säd dan "Nä." Homez berauscht Celsus dan met eene latste Froag.

"Kjenn jie ons oppem Boajch Tabor näme un ons jun Launt wiese un uk daut von Jachin?" fruach hee. "Kjenn jie ons uk wiese wua Jachin veleicht sien Poat von de Produkt bewoat haft, un wua de jestolne Hushault Artikjel senne kunne?"

Winta haud Schis daut Homez siene ieeschte Oppgow fa dise Reis vejäte haud, oba no de Unjahoolunk befool Homez Cato däm Itimar entolode om wieda met am to haundle. See muake sikj fa de Boajch Oppfoat reed un wachte dan onjeduldich fa Celsus un sien Transport.

Stunde lota, kaum Celsus un siene jinjre Dochta met eene kjliene Rieej Pied aun. Recka, gaunz aundasch aus äare Sesta Lenore, wia eene groote Scheenheit, dee kjeen Maun wadastone kunn. Äa frintlichet Jesecht un schlangoatichet Lief bezaubade soogoa Homez, dee hoat jeschloage wia. Dan jinkj et loos, Homez reet veropp met Celsus un

rear.

The trail up the mountain switched back and forth leading slowly upward and offering ever broader views of the countryside. Homez seemed pleased with the visit. He spoke loudly with Celsus, and paid close attention to the exuberant Recka. Listening carefully Winter caught the trend of their conversation. Homez discreetly asked about the wedding. Celsus continued to lead the way, making wide turns at the switchbacks. Homez paused at the turns, scanning the countryside lying far below.

At the summit the party gathered in a circle and marveled at the intoxicating view. Beyond the horizon far to the west was the Great Sea, the way to Rome. Tiberias lay beyond the hills towards the east. Carpets of fertile fields with ripening grain lay around the mountain, and vineyards snaked up in the north. Homez now asked Celsus to point out his own vineyard, Jachin's vineyard, and likely hiding places for Jachin's product.

Claiming poor eyesight, Celsus asked Recka to point out their holdings and to indicate the boundary lines. Homez was delighted as Recka nimbly pointed to road segments, small streams and gullies and contour lines on the mountain which she said formed the lines. Next she pointed out the holdings of Jachin. These lay some miles away from those of Celsus, and were smaller and less fertile. Recka struggled with Homez' last request that of pointing out likely hiding places. Seen from this height the possibilities seemed endless.

Emily and Winter were also considering this problem and Emily pointed out an apparent waterway that passed near Celsus' storage shed. A caravan was passing near the head of

Recka, un Emily un Winta kaume hinjaraun.

De Stich dän Boajch enopp schwenjeld han un hää un brocht an langsam hecha. See kjrääje emma een jrätret Bilt von de Welt doa unje to seene. Homez schiend sea tofräd met de Reis to senne. Hee räd lud met Celsus, un gauf de schaftiche Recka väl Oobacht. Winta horcht sorjfeltich too un kunn äa Vetal leicht rode. Homez fruach taktvoll von de Kjast. Celsus reet noch emma veropp, un muak breede Kjreise biem omdreie. Homez hilt biem omwenje stell, un bekjikt sikj de Launtschoft doa wiet unje.

Bie de Spetz kaume see aula toop un kijkte met opnen Mul no unje. Jantsied vom Horizont nom Waste lach daut Mää, de Wajch no Room. Tiberias lach hinja daut Huachlaunt nom Ooste. Teppiche von fruchtboare Felda met Jeträajd lage unje rom däm Boajch, un Wiengoades klautade de nuade Sied enopp. Homez bedd Celsus am nu sienen ieejnen Wiengoade to wiese, uk Jachin sienen, un uk de Städe wua Jachin sien Produkt kunn vestoake habe.

Celsus kloagd äwa siene Uage, un kroagd Recka Homez äaren Wiengoade to wiese un uk de Jrenslenje. Homez horcht jieren too aus Recka Strääkja von Wääj, Ries un Growes, un Konturlenje wees dee, see säd, Jrens Lienje muake. Dan wees see am Jachin sien Wiengoade. Disa wia miere Miel auf von Celsus sient, un wia uk kjlanda un nich soo fruchtboa. Recka strenjd sikj aun om Homez sien latsten Wensch to befrädje; de Städe to finje dee aus Vestääkj deene kunne. Von dise Hecht scheen et aus dee enjloos wiere.

Emily un Winta muake sikj met disem Probleem uk drock, un Emily wees no een Rie daut bie Celsus sien Spikja vebie rand. Eene Rieej Pieed un Mulasch jinje doa nu jrod

the waterway. Had the product been pilfered out on this route? Homez had also been studying this area, but remain puzzled.

When they had descended Homez had a plan ready. In the morning he would tour the entire compound of Celsus, inspect the key sites, and interview the staff. Emily and Winter would speak with Lenore and Recka. Later, Homez and Winter would interview Jachin.

After Celsus and Recka were gone Homez, Emily, and Winter discussed the theft mentioned by Celsus. Emily read the list of missing items Lenore had left her, "Bronze statue of goddess, stone carving of deity, these surely are household gods from ages ago." She skimmed through the descriptions and said that the collection resembled items she had seen in the Sepphoris market. Winter confirmed her observation, and Homez said the suspicion merited investigation.

Emily then voiced the question that had puzzled all. Which daughter was Jachin scheduled to marry? Emily believed it must be Lenore, for it was the custom for the elder daughter to marry first. They speculated about the change made to the agreement, wondering whether it was real or Celsus' imagination.

In the evening Ithimar arrived and further discussions were held about the contract work for Homez compound in Tiberias. No agreement about cost was reached, so another session was scheduled for next day.

The next morning Homez and Winter accompanied Celsus on a tour of his holdings. Their trip up Mount Tabor had made them

vebie. Wia de Produkt bie disem Stich wajchjeschlapt worde? Homez haud sikj dise Jääjent uk bekijkjt, oba daut bleef am een Rotsel.

Wan see wada unje wiere haud Homez een Plon reedich. Morje tiedich wudd hee sikj Celsus siene gaunze Wirtschoft bekijkje, dee wichtiche Städe nosieekje, un de Deena befroage. Emily un Winta wudde met Lenore un Recka råde. Lota, wudde Homez un Winta Jachin befroage.

Nodäm Celsus un Recka velote haude unjahilde Homez, Emily, un Winta sikj äwa de Stälarie dee Celsus erwänt haud. Emily laus de List von Artikjel dee Lenore oppjeschräwe haud, "Bronze Figure von eene Jettin, Steenschniedarie von een Gott, dit sent doch Hushault Aufjetta von Joahundade trigj." See socht derch de List un säd daut de Artikjel de Sache likjend dee see em Moakjt bie Seforis jeseene haude. Winta stemd met äa too, un Homez säd daut see dän Vedocht unjasieekje sulle.

Emily fruach dan de Froag dee an aula vebleft haud. Met woone Dochta wudd Jachin sikj befreie? Emily docht daut et Lenore senne must, wiels de Jewanheit wia daut de elste Dochta sikj toieescht befreie sull. See spekuleed äwa de Veendrunk von däm Vetrach, un wundad auf daut bloos Celsus siene Fantasie wia.

Zeowes kaum Itimar un see unjahilde sikj wada äwa de Oabeit aun Homez sien Kuta en Tiberias. See kunne sikj äwa däm Pries nich eenjen, un soo schoowe see daut Teema opp fa dän näakjsten Dach.

Tiedich zemorjes jinkj Homez un Winta met Celsus opp eene Runtreis von siene Wirtschoft. Von äare Reis däm Boajch Tabor

aware of the huge area to be covered. Celsus' staff likewise proved many. Finding a thief embedded in his workforce would not be easy. Success was crucial, as Homez' arrangement with Celsus ensured payment only upon recovery of the missing items.

At Homez' suggestion Emily and Winter interviewed Lenore. She seemed lost in thought, making lengthy pauses to absorb the background of their questions. Absent-mindedly she wandered from their topic, speaking about Hebrew Scriptures which were foreign to them. "My father is nervous as he soon will lose a daughter," she murmured. "He will gain a son, but that son is an unknown product. He is faced with the problem of Laban, in his interaction with Jacob."

She paused when she saw their puzzled faces but then doggedly continued. "My father, like Laban was blessed with two very different daughters," she said. "Like Laban he is about to lose a daughter to a man of devious character and ambition. But here one daughter will marry, while the other will stay to support him. My betrothal to Jachin presents my father with a major problem. Since the passing of my mother I have been his strong right arm. He could lose my help and loyal support. The support may swing to an unscrupulous competitor, perhaps even to a vicious opponent."

When they questioned Lenore about the change of the agreement, the dispute in the division of the product in the joint venture, and the missing household items she regarded them with contempt. She commented that she had not seen dishonesty in her father's part in

enopp wiste see aul daut de Jääjent wua see sieekje muste groot wia. Uk wiere Celsus siene Deena nich weinich. Een Deef to finje en siene Deenaschoft wudd nich leicht senne. Erfolch wia sea wichtich, wiels Homez bloos betolt woare wudd wan hee de Artikjel finje kunn.

Soo aus Homez daut vääjeschlone haud, unjahilde Emily un Winta sikj met Lenore. See scheen en äare Jedanke veloare to senne, kjkjt vewillat aus see äare Froage stalde un docht lang äwa däm Hinjagrunt von waut see weete wulle. Schienboa nich-aunwäsent fua see vom Teema auf, un räd von de Hebräische Schrefte dee Winta un Emily unbekannt wiere. "Mien Voda es narwees wiels hee boolt eene Dochta veliere woat," säd see leiselkjes. "Hee woat uk een Sän kjree, oba dee es eene unbekaunde Produkt. Hee haft dän selwjen Probleem daut Laban ver sikj haud, wan hee ieescht met Jakob haundeld."

See hilt doa en aus see äare vewillade Jesechta sach oba dan fua see aunhoolent wiede. "Mien Voda, soo aus Laban haft twee sea veschiedne Dajchta," säd see. "Soo aus uk Laban woat hee eene Dochta veliere to een Maun de sträwich un lestich es. Oba hia woat eene Dochta sikj befriee, wiel de aundre met am bliewe un am wiede biestone woat. Mien Velafnis met Jachin brinj Voda een grootet Probleem. Seit Mutta wajch es sie ekj sien stoakja rajchta Oarm jewast. Hee kaun mien Biestaunt veliere. De Biestaunt kaun no een ruchen Konkurrenz gone, vielleicht soogoa to een jefäadlicha Jääjna."

Wan see Lenore befruage äwa de Veendrunk von dän Vetrach, däm Striet äwa daut Deelee vom Produkt von de jemeensome Unjanäme, un de veloarne Hushault Artikjel kjkjt see an met Veachtunk aun. See säd daut see niemols von äa Voda Onopprechtichkjeit jeseene

any business dealing. The household robbery, she said, involved figurines of sentimental value which would be of interest only to members of the immediate family.

Emily and Winter next went to see Recka. Emily admired her outfit and her jewels, which looked more radiant than those they had seen on Mount Tabor. Emily said that she had seen such finery only in Sepphoris. She mentioned that many treasures were on display there, including carvings and figurines. When Emily described these as shabby, Recka gushed that the family possessed similar items but in very good condition. Such items had served as household gods long ago, but were still valued as vital links to their ancestors. When Emily asked to see them, Recka recoiled and said angrily that they were not available at the moment.

Emily next said that the vineyards appeared in good condition, and the estate well managed. She asked about the fieldwork and the accounting practice. "I have no knowledge or interest in the management of the vineyards or the estate," Recka replied. "Only with difficulty do I manage my wardrobe and my servants. Lenore is interested in such matters. I left those to her from the beginning."

They left Recka then, who by now was eying them with malice and suspicion. Winter reported the interviews to Homez, and they then left for the compound of Jachin, hoping there to get to the root of Celsus' problems. Jachin greeted them at the threshold of his humble house, respectfully asked them to be seated. He brought them a refreshing drink. He spoke confidently about his efforts here at

haud. De Stälarie em Hushault, säd see, haundelde sikj met Figure von een jefeelsvollen Wieet, dee bloos Famielje-metjlieda intresieere wudde.

Emily un Winta jinje dan no Recka. Emily bewundad äare Kjeedatracht un äare Schmuckstekja, dee noch strolenda wiere aus dee see oppem Boajch Tabor jewast haud. Emily säd daut see bloos en Seforis soone Scheenheit jeseene haud. See vetald daut väle Schaza doa to seene wiere, un uk Schnitzariee un Figure. Wan Emily dise aus jremlich schildad, säd Recka fuaz daut de Famielje änelje Artikjel haud oba dee en sea gooden Toostaunt wiere. Soone Artikjel haude lange Tiede trigj aus Hushault Jetta jedeent, oba worde noch aus wietvolle Jelenkja to äare Väaelre bewoat. Aus Emily dee seene wull, trock Recka schwind trigj un säd kurrich daut dee wajchjestalt un nich von jiedrem to seene wiere.

Emily säd dan see docht daut de Wiengoade von de Famielje en gooda Toostaunt wia un de Wirtschoft een gooden Vewaulta haud. See fruach von de Feltoarbeit un daut Rääkjunk Sisteem. "Ekj hab kjeene Kjantnis ooda Nieschia en de Haundlunk von de Wiengoades ooda de Wirtschoft," gauf Recka Auntwuat. "Miene Kjeedarie un Deena to behandle jeft mia aul jenuach Sorje. Lenore intressieet sikj fa soone Sache. Dee hab ekj äa von Aunfank aun jelote."

See veleete Recka dan, dee an nu aul met fientliche Uage un Vedocht bekjikjt. Winta vetald de Unjahoolunk to Homez, un dan veleete see om Jachin to befroage. Doa dochte see, wudde see to de Wartel von Celsus siene Probleeme kome. Jachin bejreest an frintlich bie de Dää von sien bescheidnet Hus, un bedd an heeflich sikj hantosate. Hee brocht an waut to drinkje. Hee

Mount Tabor, and winked slyly when relating his schemes, boasting of success obtained with little effort. With Jachin monopolizing the conversation, Homez struggled to orient the conversation to the three concerns of Celsus.

Jachin meanwhile continued with his account of his stay at Mount Tabor. "For many years I had the plan for a fruity wine at the back of my mind," Jachin said. "Although some labeled it as a wild idea, I remained optimistic. At the beginning I planned this as my exclusive project, but then I included Celsus in the venture. In the early years he got the better of me, but now my turn has come. This is the law of nature; the resourceful and cunning prevail at the end."

When Homez bluntly asked him about the change of the agreement and the division of the product of the joint venture Jachin acted like a scolded boy. With exaggerated courtesy he took them to his warehouse and pointed to containers he claimed were his share of the product. He then led them to Celsus' warehouse and pointed to his containers. To Homez the number of containers at the two sites appeared the same, indicating an equal sharing of the output. Concerning the change in the agreement Jachin claimed that proof of an alteration was lacking, and this could be a good learning experience for Celsus.

When Homez mentioned the missing household items Jachin invited them to search his house. When the items were found hidden at the back of a closet, he appeared amazed. He said that he had no explanation for their

vetald an driest von siene Bemieejunge hia aum Boajch Tabor, plinkjad polietisch wan hee von siene Schowanak vetald, un pucht daut hee hia grooten Erfolg met weinich Aunstrenjunk jekjrääje haud. Endäm Jachin bloos von sikj selfst räd, must Homez sträwe de Unjahoolunk no de drie Sache von Celsus to dreie.

Jachin entweschen fua met de Vetald von sien Veblief biem Boajch Tabor wieda. "Aul väle Joare trigj haud ekj een Plon fa een fruchtoaticha Wien," säd Jachin. "Oppwool Mensche daut aus eene wille ledee bedochte, bleef ekj emma opptimmistisch. Aum Aunfank wull ekj dit aus mien ieejnet Unjanämen moake, oba dan docht ekj aun Celsus. En de ieeschte Joare haud hee mie emma utjenuzt, oba nu wia ekj aun de Rieej. Daut es daut Jesaz vonne Natua; de hinjalestiche Mensche kjree de Äwahaunt aum Enj."

Wan Homez am driest befruach äwa de Veendrunk von daut Schreftstekj un von daut Deelen von daut Produkt stald Jachin sikj aus een jeschelda Schooljung väa. Met äwadriewne Heeflichkheit naum hee an to sien Spikja un wees an de Jefässa dee, hee säd, sien Deel vom Produkt wiere. Hee brocht an dan to Celsus sien Spikja un wees no siene Jefässa. To Homez wiere de Nummasch von Jefässa en de twee Städe äwareen, un soo sach et daut eene jlikje Utdeelunk jemoakt worde wia. Oba wiere dee aula voll, wundad hee. Betrafs de Veendrunk von dän Vetrach, gauf Jachin väa, daut doa kjeen Bewies bestunt. Dan säd hee oba uk daut dit eene goode Erfoarunk fa Celsus senne wudd.

Wan Homez de veschwungne Hushault Artikjel erwänd gauf Jachin Erlaubnis dee en sien Hus to sieekje. Aus Homez dee dan hinje en een Schaup funk, kijkt hee met opnem Mul aun. Hee säd daut hee kjeene Erkläarunk fa

presence in his home but mentioned that when he married Celsus' daughter they would come with her. He agreed though for their temporary restoration to Celsus. When Homez reported all his findings to Celsus later he felt compelled to grudgingly accept them.

Early on the wedding day Homez, Emily and Winter were having breakfast in the garden. So much had happened since coming to this inn a few days ago. Celsus had appeared with Lenore recounting a list of woes. Later they had met Recka and Jachin and had looked into Celsus' problems. While there was satisfaction on their faces, there was also a sense of anticipation. Weddings seldom passed without surprises, and they wondered what this one held in store.

As the hour for the festivities approached Homez, Emily, and Winter marched to the Celsus' compound where the ceremonies would begin. The bride emerged veiled, covered extravagantly with a flowing robe and sparkling jewelry. She mounted a palanquin and was carried triumphantly through the Streets. The townspeople lined the streets and on her arrival burst into traditional songs. Celsus marched beside the palanquin. His younger daughter was missing, apparently at home with an ailment. On arrival at the bridegroom's compound the procession came to a halt. The bride dismounted in delight. Jachin stood before her, dressed in his finest, with a crown on his head, and a broad smile on his face. A priest now appeared to give the ancient scriptural blessing.

Soon pairs were dancing in the streets and the bridal couple received well wishes under the traditional canopy. Emily had found a female companion covered with a richly colored veil and mantel. Homez was in deep conference

ääre Jääjenwuat en sien Hus haud, oba säd doch daut wan hee sikj befriee wudd, dan wudd siene Brut dee soowiesoo metbrinje. Hee stemd äwareen daut dee nu noch trigj to Celsus jebrocht woare sulle. Aus Homez Celsus lota siene Entdakjunge schildad, must hee dee aula onwellich annäme.

Tiedich aum Kjastdach aute Homez, Emily un Winta Freestikj em Goade. Soo väl wia aul passieet nodäm see no disem Gaustus jekome wiere. Celsus wia met Lenore jekome met eene hauntvoll von Probleeme. Lota haude see Recka un Jachin kjanenjelieet un haude Celsus siene Probleeme unjasocht. Oppwool äare Jesechta frädlich wiere, gauf daut nu eene niee Spaununk. Kjaste jinje seldom vebie one Äwarauschunge, un see wundade sikj waut dise nu brinje wudd.

Aus de Stund fa daut Fast noda kaum marschieede Homez, Emily, un Winta no Celsus siene Wirtschoft wua daut Fast aufange wudd. De Brut kaum met een dunklen Schleia, een kjestlichen breeden Rock un blitzenda Schmuck erut. See kroop opp eene Sänfte enopp un wort derch de Gause jefieet. De Darpslied stunde biesied de Gaus un wan see bat an kaum funge see aun bekaunde Leeda to sinje. Celsus marschieed biesied de Sänfte. Siene jinje Dochta wia nich to seene, vielleicht wia see krank to Hus. Aus see biem Briegaum siene Wirtschoft aunkaume hilde see opp. De Brut kroop froo erauf. Jachin stunt biesied äa, groosoatich aunjekjeet, met eene Kron oppem Kopp, un een Schmusta opp sien Jesecht. Een Priesta kaum nu un gauf dän Schreftlichen Säajen.

Boolt daunzte de Lied enne Gause un daut Brutpoa freid sikj to Jlekwensche unja daut jeweeneljen Schaute Dak. Emily haud fruesoatiche Jemeenschoft jefunge, dee met een dunkel kalierichen Schleia un Kjeet

with Celsus while Winter spoke with Cato. All enjoyed the fruity wine liberally provided by Jachin. Hours later the wedding was still going strong. When the groom departed with his veiled bride he received enthusiastic shouts of farewell.

Celsus and Homez, in good humor, now approached Emily and her companion, and the four were soon in animated conversation. Approaching the four, Winter peered closely at Emily's mysterious companion who was facing towards him. Winter looked again, not believing his eyes! The woman, now standing beside Celsus was none other than Lenore!

The next morning Ithimar and Homez came to terms about the renovations to his compound and the group began their trek back to Tiberias. Lenore, in tribute to Homez' service to her father, accompanied them for the first mile. The route passed the estate of Jachin, the newly married man. "I trust that he is not too disappointed," Lenore pronounced with a smile. "A man who advances by betrayal and deception will never be my spouse. Before long a strong honest man will ask for my hand."

Homez paid little attention to these marital dramatics, for he was dreaming of the restoration of his compound and of a new case waiting in Tiberias.

bedakjt wia. Homez un Celsus wiere en deepe Räd un Winta vetald sikj met Cato. See freide sikj aula to däm fruchtoatjen Wien dee Jachin en groote Jefässa fa däm Fast jeschenkjt haud. Stunde lota wia de Kjast noch lud un strenj em Gank. Aus de Briegaum un siene veschleiade Brut entlich veleete, hieede see bejeistade Jlekjwensche.

Celsus un Homez, en goode Laune, jinje nu to Emily un äare Kommarod, un de vea unjahilde sikj lostich. Aus Winta dichta bie kaum, kjkjt hee noda no Emily äare jeheemnisvolle Kommarod, dee nu krakjt no am jedreit wia. Winta kjkjt fuaz wada, un kunn siene Uage nich jleewe! De Fru, dee nu biesied Celsus stunt, wia kjeene aundre aus siene Dochta Lenore!

Dän näakjsten Dach troff Homez sikj wada met Ithimar un see stemde entlich äwareen met Homez sien Unjanäme. Dan veleet de Grupp un jinkj trigj no Tiberias. Lenore, dee Homez sien Deenst fa äa Voda sea wieet wia, kaum met an fa daut ieeschte Miel. De Wajch jinkj bie Jachin, de niea EHEMAUN, siene Wirtschoft vebie. "Ekj hop daut hee nich too doljelote es," säd Lenore met een Schmusta. "Een Maun dee derch hinjarigjschet Verode wiedakome well woat nie mien EHEMAUN senne. Aul boolt woat een stoakja ierlicha Maun fa miene Haunt bedde."

Homez gauf dise eheliche Drama weinich Oppmoakjsomkjeit, wiels hee dreemd aul von de Veendrunken sien Kuta un von een nieen Oppdrach en Tiberias.

Beatitudes

A huge red sun was creeping up above the waters of the Sea of Tiberias as Winter sipped his morning tea in the garden of his compound in Tiberias. His concubine Bettina had risen early to join him. Bettina had thrown a yellow mantel over her tunic, strapped on yellow sandals, and covered her black hair with a shawl. Her pretty face beamed in contentment, and she was bursting to share new information. But she sat quietly as the red globe slowly crept above the waters.

“A message has arrived from Bethlehem from your son Alexander,” she suddenly blurted out. “He sends greetings and says that the practice continues to do well. He has learned much from Tacitus, the ex-Legionar surgeon, and is now performing surgeries on his own. And he is comfortable in Bethlehem, surrendering to its charms.”

“Does he mention radical political movements, anything I should know about?” Winter replied. “A busy practice, visited by wealthy Romans and Palestinians, is a good place to hear about plots afoot, and scandals that could turn the world upside down.”

“He gives only news of the sad ending of John the Baptist,” Bettina answered. “After his arrest for denouncing the marriage of Herod Antipas to his brother’s wife Herodias John was kept long in prison. Recently at a banquet thrown by Herod Antipas a dance troupe provided entertainment. Antipas’ step-daughter, Salome, secretly joined the troupe, and performed a dance that greatly pleased him. Full of wine, Antipas offered to fulfill her fondest wish. When the girl removed her shawl and went to consult Herodias, Antipas

Seelichpriesunge

Eene riesje roode Sonn kroop äwrem Wota vom Tiberias See, aus Winta sien Morje Tee em Goade en Tiberias drunk. Siene Konkubine Bettina wia tiedich oppjestone, däm Morje met am to jeneete. Bettina haud een jälen Rock äwa äa Kjleet jeschmäte, jäle Sandale aunjeschnalt un äare schwoate Hoa met eenem Schaul bedakjt. Äa schmocket Jesecht stroid Jlekjlichkeit, un see wia jespaunt am äare Norecht to vetale. Oba see saut gaunz stell, aus daut roodet Globus langsam vom Wota enopp kroop.

“Eene Norecht es von dienem Sän Alexander ut Betlehem aunjekome,” gauf see oppeenst erut. “Hee schekjt Jreesse un sajcht, daut de Praxis wiedahan goot jeit. Hee haft väl von Tacitus, däm jewäsna Legionär Dokta jeliheet, un moakt nu aul selfst schwoare Haundlung. Un am jeit et goot en Betlehem un hee jleicht de Staut emma dolla.”

“Haft hee waut von radikale polietische Bewääjunge erwänt, irjent waut daut ekj weete sull?” fruach Winta. “Een bosichet Praxis, daut von rikje Reemasch un Palestinensa besocht woat, sull een gooda Uat senne, om diestre Plons to hier, un Schkondols, dee de Welt oppem Kopp stale kjenne.”

“Hee jeft bloos de truariche Norecht vom Ombrinje von Johanes de Deepa,” auntuwad Bettina. “No siene Jefangenschoft fa de Veuadeelunge von de Ehe von Herodes Antipas met de Fru von sien Brooda Herodias wort Johanes lang em Jefenkjnis jehoole. Onlangs bie eenem Gaustjebott en Herodes Antipas sien Paulaust unjahilt eene Daunz Grupp de Jast. Salome, de Steefdochta von Antipas, haud sikj heemlich de Grupp aunjeschlote, un fieed een Daunz vää, daut am sea bejeistat. Voll von Wien, bedd Antipas

regretted his promise. But the evil had been done. Salome demanded the head of John, brought on a platter. So John is dead, killed because of a promise made to a dancer. Alexander still needs your support. Evil is everywhere, even at the highest levels.”

A messenger now arrived with news that a workman had been injured at Homez' compound. Winter asked his servant to bring his medical bag and then they swiftly departed. The sun was up now and they flinched in its burning heat. Homez' compound was some streets higher and they tired quickly in the climb. At the compound Winter stood amazed at the uproar before him.

Winter was taken to the rear where scaffolding had buckled, trapping an unfortunate workman. He had already been removed from the rubble, but his leg was mangled. The man was a bulky bondservant, likely a slave from the Carpathian campaign. Winter checked first for broken bones, and finding none cleaned the cuts and bruises. After he had bound the wounds with oil, and given the man some tablets Winter saw a look of gratitude cross his face.

Homez and Ithimar, the contractor, had observed Winter's treatment with interest, and now resumed their discussion. Homez expressed satisfaction with the work to date, and Ithimar told a story about the work at Sepphoris.

“The major work ordered by Herod Antipas is nearing completion,” he said in a reassuring voice. “There is unusual news about the

aun, äarem leefsten Wensch to erfelle. Aus daut Mejal äaren Schal aufnaum un no Herodias jinkj tom Rot hole, beduad Antipas sien Vesprääkje. Oba daut Beese wia jedone. Salome foddad dän Kopp von Johanes, dee opp eene Tofel jebrocht wort. Soo es Johanes de Deepa doot, omjebrocht wäajen een Vesprääkje aun eene Daunzerin. Alexander brukt noch diene Unjastettunk, daut Beese es aulawäajes, uk oppe hechste Stoop.”

Een Norechta kaum nu aun, met Tiedinj daut een Oabeida bie Homez sien Kuta velatst wia. Winta bat sienen Deena, siene medizienische Tausch to hole un dan sade see schwind loos. De Sonn wia nu opp un see zukte en äare brennende Hett. Homez sien Kuta wia eenje Gause hecha un see worde schwind meed em Boajopp. Biem Kuta kijkt Winta erstaunt opp daut Opprua ver am.

Winta wort hinje em Goade jebrocht, wua Steilozh toopjebroake wiere. Dee haude eenen onjekjlichen Oabeida jetroffe. Hee wia aul von däm Wrak wajchjenome worde, oba sien Been wia vestimmelt. De Maun wia een forscha Kjnajcht, woomääjlich een Sklow ut de Karpate Kampanje. Winta unjasocht toieescht fa jebroakne Knoakes, un aus hee kjeene funk wosch hee de Schnette un de bleiwe Flekja. Nodäm hee de Wunde met Eelj vebunge un däm Maun Medizien jejäft haud, sach Winta eenen Blekj von Dankboakjeit en sien Jesecht.

Homez un Itimar, de Oppdrachnäma, haude Winta siene Doktarie iewrich beobacht, un dreide sikj nu trigj to äare Unjahoolunk. Homez wees sikj tofräd met de Oabeit bat nu, un Itimar vetald eene Jeschicht vonne Oabeit bie Seforis.

“De Hauptoabeit dee Herod Antipas bestalt haft es nu meist foadich,” säd hee met eene ruje Stemm. “Eene onjeweentliche Norecht es

group from Nazareth. A principal from the group left for the Jordan River to hear John the Baptist. After John's arrest He returned, began His own ministry, and recruited men as His disciples. He has now gone to Capernaum on the shore of the Sea of Tiberias. He is curing people of the body and the mind and crowds are flocking to Him by the thousands."

Itimar left then to supervise the work and Homez invited Winter to his courtyard for refreshments. Homez seemed greatly rejuvenated here in Tiberias. Emily, Homez' gorgeous niece, joined them and described her lifestyle here on the northern lake. The two had boarded a sailboat recently, taking a trip east to Bethsaida. This town lay just across the border, in the domain of Herod Philip, the brother of Antipas. They had been warned about storms that suddenly rushed onto the lake, generated by westerly winds gusting through the Valley of Doves. But the winds had been quiet.

Homez had begun telling the story of a recent case when his servant Cato entered and quietly advised that a pair of clients had arrived. Showing no surprise Homez instructed Cato to show them in. Cato soon returned with an elderly pair; a dignified gentleman and an elegant lady. Homez noted their dispirited looks and asked them to be seated.

It was difficult to place the pair. Galilee boasted of many nationalities, Romans, Greeks, Syrians, and Palestinians, and a variety of languages was spoken. From the careful dress of the man Winter judged him to be a businessman or landowner, certainly a Roman citizen. Facial features indicated that

jekome von de Grupp ut Nazaret. Een Maun von de Grupp wia nom Jordan Riefa jegone om Johanes de Deepa to hieere. No de Jefangenschoft von Johanes kjeed hee trigj, funk sien ieejnen Relijeesen Aumt aun, un socht sikj Mana ut aus siene Jinja. Hee es nu no Kapernaum aum Eewa vom Tiberias See jegone. Hee heilt de Mensche von Krankheite aum Kjarpa un Jeist un de Mensche streeme to am bie de Dusende."

Itimar veleet dan, om de Oabeit to äwaseene un Homez loot Winta en fa Vebietsels en sien Hus. Homez schiend hia en Tiberias jinjra to senne. Emily, Homez siene schmocke Nicht, bejreest Winta un beschreef äarem Lävensstiel hia aum nuadlichen See. Homez un see haude ver kortem een Säajelboot bestieeje un eene Foat nom Oosten no Betsaida jemoakt. Dise Staut lach krakjt äwa de Jrens, opp daut Jebiet von Herodes Philip, de Brooda von Antipas. See wiere fa Storms jewoarnt worde, dee oppeenst opp de See kaume. Dee kaume vom wastlichen Wint, woont derch daut Dol von Duwe blod. Oba de Wint wia dän Dach ruich jewast.

Homez haud aunjefunge, de Jeschicht von een nieen Faul to vetale, aus sien Deena Cato nenkaum un am stell säd, daut een poa Kunde aunjekome wiere. Homez wees kjeene Äwarauschunk un ordad Cato dee nenn to wiese. Cato kaum boolt met twee elre Lied trigj, een wirdicha Har un eene bejoate Fru. Homez bemoakjt äare mootloose Blekje un kroagd aun, sikj hantosate.

Daut wia schwierig, daut Poa wua hantopause. Galiläa wia beriebt fa äare väle Velkja, Reemasch, Grieche, Syrern un Palestinensa, un äare väle Sproake. Von de fiene Kjeeda vom Maun beuadeeld Winta am aus een Jeschafts Maun ooda Grunt leejendeema, sechalich een reemische Birja.

the lady was of local birth, while her lavish outfit signified wealth. Was she another rich Palestinian girl who had married a Roman nobleman? Winter was all ears, anxious to hear the cause of their distress.

“I am Aquila of Tiberias, and this is my wife Judith,” the gentleman began, looking pointedly at Homez. “A close friend of mine was a client of yours in Jerusalem. When I told him that we faced a difficult problem he directed us to you. For several years omens warned us of a coming crisis and this year disaster arrived with a vengeance. We desperately need your assistance. But first let me tell you our sad story.

“This last year has been a life of agony, leading to despair as you must have noticed. A year ago we lived peacefully on our estate west of the city. We had matters well in hand. Although aging, we had an able and loyal workforce cultivating our land and managing our affairs. The estate produced a good income giving comfort to us all. Then Boaz showed up!

“You must first wish to know of my relatives and children. There are none! My wife was an only child and so was I. Twenty years ago my eldest son Boaz, a good-for-nothing man, disappeared from home. In the years that followed our parents passed away, and so did all our other children. So we two were left alone.

“This year ago a stranger came to our door and claimed to be Boaz. He told a long pitiful story, how he had been abducted, taken far from home, and forced to live a life in exile. He

Vonne Jedonte vonne Fru docht Winta daut see von hiesje Jeburt wia, wäarent äa rikjliche Kjeledarie Rikjdom meende. Wia see noch eene rikje Palestinense Fru, dee sikj met eenen reemischen Odelmaun befriet haud? Winta wia gaunz Ua, un beschafticht sikj de Uasoak von äare Noot uttofinje.

“Ekj sie Aquila von Tiberias, un dit es miene Fru Judith,” säd de Har un kijkt stiew to Homez. “Een gooda Frint wia eent von diene Kunde en Jerusalem. Aus ekj am säd, daut wie een schwierichet Probleem haude, schekjt hee ons to die. Seit miere Joare woarnd ons de Orakel, daut eene schwoare Tiet kome wudd, un dit Joa es een schrakjicha Schode jekome. Wie brucke drinjent diene Help. Oba toieescht lot mie die onse truariche Jeschicht vetale.

“Dit latste Joa wia een Läwe von Kwol, waut ons toom vetwiewlen brocht, soo aus see et bemoakjt habe motte. Ver eenem Joa läwd wie noch frädlich opp onse Wirtschoft wastlich von de Staut. Wie haude aules enne Haunt. Oppwool wie ella worde, haud wie eene fäiche un true Maunschoft, dee ons Launt kultivieed un onse Wirtschoft em rane hoold. De Wirtschoft gauf ons een goodet Enkom, daut ons Läwe maklich muak. Dan dukt Boas opp!

“Du woascht woll toieescht von miene Vewaunte un Kjinja weete welle. Doa sent oba kjeene! Miene Fru wia een eensjet Kjint un ekj uk. Ver twintich Joare wia mien elsta Sän Boas, een gootmootja Maun, von ons Hus verschwunge. En de foljende Joare storwe onse Elre, un soo uk aule von onse aundre Kjinja. Soo bleew wie dan gaunz auleen.

“Dit Joa kaum een Framda to onse Däa un gauf vää, Boas to senne. Hee vetald eene lange nootoame Jeschicht, woo hee entfieet worde wia, wiet von Tus jenome un jedwunge,

expressed regret at his earlier wasted life at home. He had completely changed, he claimed, and now would be a proper son. In our loneliness his story was music to our ears. We lapped it up, seeking comfort for our declining years. And we were overjoyed that we now had one to carry on our name!

“To our great regret we accepted the man’s story and welcomed him into our home. Those early days were wonderful times. We could forget the unhappy memories of our firstborn’s disappearance and of our children’s passing. The days were fully spent, acquainting ourselves again with our lost child, introducing him to our life, and grooming him as our heir. While those days were filled with pleasure, little uncertainties appeared, little doubts that troubled us, and made us wonder if this new life was real. There were gaps in the man’s memory; important facts and people that he could not recall. On such occasions he moaned about his exile, which he claimed caused his forgetfulness.

“After gaining our confidence the man became assertive. He wished to take command of the estate, he said, and wished documents drawn up giving him legal title. The workforce, he claimed, would otherwise depose him when we were gone. He demanded immediate authority to claim himself our legal heir. As we were still enjoying our newfound support we agreed to his exaggerated claims. He also played the two of us against each other, and little by little he got all he wanted. In a loss of sanity we gave possession of our large estate to our supposed son. We did keep though one small property which somehow escaped his

een Låwe en Vebaununk to låwe. Hee beduad sien verhåajet Låwe bie ons tus. Hee haud sikj fellich veendat, gauf hee våa, un wudd nu een rajchta Sån senne. En onse Eensomkjeit wia siene Jeschicht Musik to onse Uare. Wie schlukte daut aules dol, wiels wie Troost fa onse lote Joare sochte. Un wie wiere soo jlekjlich, daut wie nu eenem haude, dee ons Nome wieda droage wudd!

“To onsem grooten Jauma naum wie de Jeschicht vom Maun aun un kroagde am en ons Hus to wone. Dise ieeschte Doag wiere eene wundaboare Tiet. Wie kunne de onjlekjliche Jedajchnise aun daut Veschwinje von onsem leeschtjebuarna un daut Veråwagone von onse Kjinja vejåte. De Doag wiere volkome utjeeft, om ons wada met onsem veloarnen Sån bekaunt to moake, un am en ons Låwe entonåme un am aus onse Oaw to nane. Oppwool dise Doag met Plezhia erfelt wiere, kaum doa kjlien Twiewel, daut ons beonruicht, un ons froage muak, aus dit niee Låwe werkjlich wia. Daut gauf Lajcha em Jedajchnis vom Maun; wichtiche Omstende un Lied, aun dee hee sikj nich denkje kunn. Bie soone Jelåajenheite stånd hee åwa siene Vebaununk, daut, gauf hee våa, siene Vejåtsomkjeit veusoakt.

“Nodåm hee ons Vetrue jewonne haud, wort de Maun strenj. Hee wull ons Vemieeeje beharsche, såd hee, un wenscht, daut am de Papiere fa de Majcht åwaschråwe worde. Onse Oabeits Maunschoft, soo gauf hee våa, wudd am sonst aufsate, wan wie wajch wiere. Hee foddad Volmacht fuaz oppe Ståd, un wull aus jesazlich Oaw behaupt woare. Wiels wie onse nieoatje Unjastettunk goot liede kunne, stemd wie to sien åwadråwnen Aunspruch met. Hee spåld uk ons twee jåajenenaunda, un langsom kjrieech hee aules, waut hee wull. En eenem Veluss von Venunft hab wie onsen grooten Vemieeeje to onsem vemutlichen Sån

attention.

“Once he had power over the estate the man underwent a radical change. No longer respectful, he became a tyrant to the workforce, a stranger to us, and then an enemy. Without our consent he invited disreputable friends into the house. We learned of his entanglement with a disgraced woman Zelda, from a nearby town. Soon we found out that he had known her for years, long before setting foot on our threshold.

“A few months ago, after returning from a long journey, he brought home a lavish wardrobe. Shortly afterwards he brought a woman to our home. Her name was Marni, and she told us that she came at his invitation. She believed that marriage was in the offing, and stayed as a guest in our home. But the man spent his time with Zelda.”

“I have now come to the sad conclusion of my story. Recently the man sold the estate for an exorbitant price to Remus, a rich man from Bethsaida. Yesterday he threw out Marni, breaking her heart. Today the new owner took possession, and we were evicted. Our workforce has been placed on notice. The man, our so-called son Boaz, has now vanished. Fortunately, we have news of him, as I instructed our former overseer to shadow him. We have learned that Boaz bought passage in Tiberias for a boat headed for Bethsaida. We have come here to get justice. We wish you to track this man down, to apprehend him, and force him to return our possessions.”

äwajeschräwe. Wie habe oba eenen klijenen Plauz behoole, dee irjentwoo siene Oppmoakjsomkjeit entjinkj.

“Sooboolt hee Macht äwa daut Vemieeeje haud, veendat sikj de Maun vonne Wartel. Hee wia nich mea leejäwent, hee wort een Tieraun em Oabeitsloaga, een Framda to ons un dan een Fient. One onse Toostemmunk loot hee schaudhaupte Mensche em Hus enenn. Wie lieede von siene Vewekjlunk met eene schentliche Fru Zelda, dee en eene Staut dichtbie wond. Boolt fung wie ut, daut hee äa aul seit Joare jekaunt haud, lang ea hee äwa onse Schwal kaum.

“Ver een poa Moonate, nodäm hee von eene lange Reis trigjekome wia, brocht hee eenen kostboaren Kjeeda Tracht no Hus. Korz doaropp brocht hee eene Fru to ons em Hus. Äa Nome wia Marni, un see säd ons, daut see opp siene Enlodunk kaum. See meend, daut hee äa de Ehe vesproake haud, un bleef aus Gaust em Hus. Oba de Maun vebrocht siene Tiet met Zelda.”

“Ekj sie nu batem truarichen Schluss von miene Jeschicht jekome. Kjirzlich vekoft de Maun daut Vemieeeje fa eenen äwadräwnnen Pries aun Remus, een rikja Maun von Betsaida. Jistre dreef hee Marni rut un bruak äa Hoat entwei. Vondog haft de niea leejendeema onse Wirtschoft äwanome un wie worde rutjejoacht. Onse Oabeida worde entlote. De Maun, ons soo jenanda Sän Boas, es nu veschwunge. Jlekjlichawies hab wie eene Norecht von am, wiels ekj onsen jewäsnen Äwasechta aunwees, am unja Beobacht to hoole. Wie habe jeliieet, daut Boas von Tiberias no Betsaida metem Boot foare woat. Wie sent no die jekome, om Jerajchtichkjeit to kjree. Wie welle daut du disen Maun finje saust, am todoak gone, un am to dwinje, ons Vemieeeje trigtojäwe.”

Homez had been restless towards the end of the story, and was ready to pose some questions, but then Judith took the floor. She spoke firmly, venting the great bitterness that gripped her soul. "We see in this story the extreme evil of our fellow man. Cruel acts of villains as stated in our Scriptures also take place in real life. You can have no doubt about the justice of our cause. The Scriptures denounce children who dishonor their parents, and warn against wicked men who harm others by willful lying. You will recall these passages as well as I do."

Homez now tried to state that he was not a co-religionist, that he had another basis for his actions, but Judith's momentum was not yet stopped. "In Deuteronomy Chapter 21 the Law strongly condemns a stubborn and rebellious son. The Law states that if a son does not obey the voice of his father or mother then the parents should take him to the elders of the city and denounce him. Then the men of the city should stone him to death. The just thus remove evil from their midst so that others shall hear and tremble.

"In Genesis we are given clear examples of the harm caused by children's deception of their parents. Chapter 27 records Jacob's trickery of Isaac to get the blessing that belonged to Esau. When Esau justly tried to get revenge Jacob was forced to flee his home. Jacob's foul deed was later repaid, first when his father-in-law Laban deceived him in marriage, and then when his elder sons sold Joseph into slavery.

Homez wia aul von Aquila siene Jeschicht onruich jeworde un wia nu reed eenje Froage to stale. Oba ieescht naum Judith daut Wuat. See räd krauftvoll un drekjt de groote Bettanis, dee äare Seel betrosse haud, ut. "Wie kjenne en dise Jeschicht daut ombandichet Beese von Mensche seene. Grausome Haundlung von Spetzbube, woo see en onse Schrefte aunjeäft sent, gone uk em werkjlichen Läwe vää. Du kaust kjeenen Twiewel aun de Jerajchtichkjeit von onse Sach habe. De Schrefte veuadeele Kjinja, dee äare Elre veoniere, un woarne fa beese Mana, dee aundre derch aufsechtiche Lieeje schode. See woare sikj aun dise Schrefte denkje kjenne, krakjt soo aus ekj."

Homez vesocht nu to saje, daut hee kjeen Metjliet von äare Jemeent wia, daut hee aundre Gruntloage fa sien Haundel haud, oba Judith, em vollen Schwunk, wia nich opptohoole. "En 5. Moses, Kapitel 21 veuadeelt daut Jesaz eenen hoatnakicha un wadastonenda Sän. Daut Jesaz besajcht, daut, wan een Sän nich de Stemm von sien Voda ooda siene Mutta jehorcht, dan sulle de Elre am to däm Elsten vonne Staut brinje, un am veuadeele. Dee saul von de Mana von de Staut dootjesteenicht woare. De Jerachte näme dan daut Beese ut äare Medd wajch, doamet aundre hiere un zetre woare.

"En 1. Moses hab wie kloare Biespels fa däm Schode, dee derch de Enteschunk von Elre veuasoakt woat. Kapitel 27 schrift von Jakob, dee Schuftarie brukt daut sien Voda Isaac, am dän Säajen gauf, dee to Esau jehieed. Aus Esau rajchtfoadich vesocht, Rach to eewe, wia Jakob jedwunge, ut sienem Hus to flichte. Jakob siene schljachte Dot wort lota trigjetolt, toeescht aus sien Schwieevoda Laban am en de Ehe beschummeld un dan, aus siene elre Säns Josef en de Jefangenschoft vekohte.

“The injury that we have suffered though is not that of an evil offspring, for Boaz is not our son. It is that of a deceiver and a liar. In the 1st chronicle of the Kings Chapter 21 we have a record of deception used by King Ahab. When Nabot would not sell his vineyard to Ahab, the King invited him to a feast declared in Naboth’s honor. Ahab then had two men falsely testify that Nabot had blasphemed so that he was stoned to death. We all know what happened later to King Ahab and his wife Jezebel. Now you must surely agree that our cause is just, in the eyes of both the Law and the Prophets.”

Homez felt great displeasure at Judith’s overkill, and posed questions even before she had stopped fuming. “What were the circumstances of Boaz’ first appearance?” he asked Aquila. “Did he come alone? What convinced you then that Boaz was your son?”

Aquila refreshed his memory and then answered with great bitterness. “Boaz arrived early one morning a few days before our harvest time,” he said. “He was alone. He cynically addressed me as father and Judith as mother and said that he was our long lost son. He carried an amulet that we had given to our son as a child, and told a long story about being abducted and sold into Bondage. His life had been full of sorrow. Many times he had tried to escape and to return. With the harvest approaching, we eagerly accepted the support that he promised. And there was something else. One of our ancient servants, who has since passed away, claimed to recognize Boaz as our long lost son.”

Homez still appeared to doubt Aquila’s relation to Boaz and went on to another question. “You

“De Velazunk, dee wie oba jeliet habe, es nich von eene beese Nokomeschoft, wiels Boas es nich ons Sän. Dee es von een Schwindla un een Lieeja. En de 1. Chronik von Kjenniche Kapitel 21 hab wie de Jeschicht von Kjennich Ahab siene Enteschunk. Aus Nabot sienen Wienboajch nich aun Ahab vekjeepe wull, loot am de Kjennich to eenem Fast en, daut en Nabot siene lea erkjlät wort. Ahab brocht dan twee Mana de faulschet Zeichnis gauwe, daut Nabot jelastat haud, doamet hee to Doot jesteenicht woare kunn. Wie weete aula waut to Ahab un siene Frau passieet es. Du kaust dan doch seene, daut onse Sache en de Uage vom Jesaz un uk von de Profeete jerajcht es.”

Homez wia sea ontofräd met Judith äare lange Prädicht un stald siene ieeschte Froag, noch ea see stell wia. “Waut wiere de Omstende von Boas sien ieeschta Opptrett?” fruach hee Aquila. “Es hee auleen jekome? Waut äwazeijd junt, daut Boas jun Sän wia?”

Aquila docht een Stoot no un auntwuaad dan met groote Bettanis. “Boas kaum tiedich zemorjes een poa Doag ea onse Eifsttiet aun,” säd hee. “Hee kaum auleen. Hee nand mie jniesrich Voda un Judith Mutta un säd, daut hee ons lang veloarna Sän wia. Hee druach een Amulett, daut wie onsem Sän aus Kjint jejäft haude, un vetald eene lange Jeschicht, daut hee entfieet un enne Kjnajchtschoft vekoft worde wia. Sien Läwe wia voll Leet jewast. Väl Mol haud hee vesocht to flichte un trigitokome. Wiels de Arnt sikj nodad, un hee ons Unjastettunk vespruak, naum wie am opp. Un doa wia noch waut. Eene von onse oole Deenasch, dee seiddäm jestorwe es, gauf autovestone, daut hee Boas aus ons lang veloarna Sän erkjane kunn.”

Homez twieweld noch emma aun Aquila sien Veheltnis to Boas un fruach en disem Teema

said that that Boaz had relations with the woman Zelda,” he said. “What do you know about her?”

“Zelda lives in a small village on the plateau just west of the city,” Aquila replied. “She is older than Boaz, a conniving woman who operates a small shop in her village. She has a son, who addresses Boaz as father.”

“You said Marni was a woman who came to live with you as Boaz’ future wife,” Homez continued. “Where is her family, and where has she gone?”

“Marni is a beautiful woman many years younger than Boaz,” Aquila answered. “When she arrived she said that she was from Bethsaida, from across the border. We assumed she has family there, although she never spoke of them. She has one friend in Tiberias, who lives near the harbor. As the property we retained is tiny, we could not offer to take her with us. When we were evicted she mentioned going to Tiberias, but she may have returned to Bethsaida.”

Homez’ final question concerned Boaz. “Can you give a complete description of Boaz, including any distinguishing marks?” he asked. “And can you give us the details of his departure?”

“Boaz is a tall robust man of my stature but some thirty years younger,” Aquila answered. “He can be distinguished by his long red beard. As well, he carries a tattoo of a whale on his left bicep. My overseer learned that this morning he boarded a boat in Tiberias headed for Bethsaida. The boat makes frequent stops, and is due in Bethsaida at dusk.” Homez then dismissed his new clients, promising to be in

wieda. “Du hast jesajcht, daut Boas een Veheltnis met de Fru Zelda haud,” säd hee. “Waut weetst du von äa?”

“Zelda wont en een klijenet Darp toom Waste von de Staut,” auntwud Aquila. “See es ella aus Boas, un eene hinjarigsche Fru. See es de leejendeema von een klijenet Jeschaft en äarem Darp. See haud eenen Sän, dee to Boas Voda sajcht.”

“Du hast jesajcht, Marni wia eene Fru, dee met junt aus Boas siene tookjinfjtje Fru toopläwd,” fua Homez wieda. “Wua es äare Famielje, un wuahan es see jegone?”

“Marni es eene schmocke Fru, dee väl Joare jinja aus Boas es,” auntwud Aquila. “Aus see aunkaum, säd see, daut see von Betsaida wia, äwa de Jrens. Wie habe aunjenome, daut see doa eene Famielje haft, oppwool see nie von dee jerät haft. See haft eene Frindin en Tiberias, dee biem Howe wont. Wiels daut leejendom, daut wie behoole habe, bloos bitsichs es, kunn wia äa nich aunbeede, met ons to kome. Aus wie wajchjejoacht worde, säd see, daut see no Tiberias gone wudd, oba see es veleicht no Betsaida trigjegone.”

Homez siene latste Froag betroff Boas. “Kjenn jie eene jeneiwe Beschriewunk von Boas jäwe, un doamet uk irjent eene Moakjmole?” fruach hee. “Un kjenn jie de Eenselheite von Boas siene Aufreis jäwe?”

“Boas es een groote, kjaftja Maun von miene Hecht, oba es soo bie dartich Joare jinja,” auntwud Aquila. “Man kjant am leicht von sienen langen Roden Boat. Jrodsoo droacht hee eene Tätowierunk von eenem Wal opp sienem linkjen Oarm. Mien Äwasechta haft jeliheet, daut hee vondoag Morje een Boot en Tiberias bestieech, daut fa Betsaida jeleit woat. Daut Boot moakt ieremol Aunschläaj un

touch in the near future.

It was mid-morning and with Boaz in flight Homez was eager to take action. He asked for Winter's collaboration and when the latter agreed they sat down with Emily to prepare a plan. As the boat would not reach Bethsaida till dusk, Homez wanted to make enquiries which would give a better direction for their pursuit. Homez wanted to confirm Aquila's story by calling in at his former estate, and interviewing the new owner Remus. Marni and Zelda could have useful information about Boaz, so Homez sent Emily to see the former and Winter the latter.

Accompanied by his servant Winter climbed the escarpment and rode to Zelda's village west of the city. It was a blustery day, the wind howling down through the Valley of Doves churning the water below. Winter located Zelda's shop and found her attending to a customer. A boy some ten years old was toying with an abacus, waiting to run errands. After Zelda had finished with her customer she turned to Winter.

Zelda greeted Winter who showed interest in a shelf of fine pottery. Then he stated, "I've been informed about your friendship with Boaz, and wish to ask a few questions about him." Zelda looked sharply at the boy, but as he continued with his game, she reluctantly nodded. "What is his native city, and what is his work in Galilee?"

"The family of Boaz is from Bethsaida," Zelda replied. "He was born and raised there. But like many others he left to find his fortune. It was my misfortune to meet him and begin a

sull bie Schemma en Betsaida aankome." Homez veleet dan un vespruak, enne node Tookunft en Kontakt to senne.

Daut wia Meddach un met Boas enne Flucht wia Homez jespaut loos to sate. Hee bat om de Toopoarbeit vom Winta un aus dee sikj eenich stald, saute see sikj met Emily dol, om eenen Plon uttohake. Wiels daut Boot nich verem Schemma bat Betsaida kome wudd, wull Homez ieescht eenje Aunfroage moake. Homez wull de Jeschicht von Aquila bestätje, endäm hee sien jewäsnet Vemieeeje besocht un sikj met däm nieen leejendeema Remus unjahilt. Marni un Zelda kunne nutzboare Informazion äwa Boas habe, un doarom schekjt Homez Emily dee ieeschte to seene un Winta dee latste.

Winta jinkj met sienem Deena un de beid klautade dän Boajch enopp un reede dan toom Waste no Zelda äa Stua. Daut wia een stormicha Dach, de Wint juld derch daut Dol von Taube un weeld daut Wota wiet unje em See opp. Winta funk Zelda äa Stua un see wia jrod met eene Kund. Een Jung, dee soo tieen Joa oolt wia, späld met eenem Abakus. Nodäm Zelda met äare Kund foadich wia, dreid see no Winta.

Zelda bejreest Winta, un disa fruach äa dan am een Poa feine Tap to wiese. Dan säd hee: "Ekj hab von diene Frintschoft met Boas jehieet un mucht een poa Froage äwa am stale." Zelda sach däm Jung schoap aun, oba aus hee met sienem Späl wieda muak, nekjkopt see wadawellich. "Wua es siene Heimat Staut, un waut es siene Oabeit en Galiläa?"

"De Famielje von Boas es von Betsaida," auntwad Zelda. "Hee wort doa jebuare un es doa oppjewosse. Oba soo aus väle aundre veleet hee, om sien Läwe aundatwääjes to

relationship which now is over. For some years Boaz has been an agent of Remus, a rich man in Bethsaida. Boaz conducted the majority of his assignments in Galilee, but the most recent he performed here in Tiberias.”

“You stated that your attachment with Boaz is over,” Winter continued. “Can you tell me what his mission was here, and where he has gone?” “Remus is a rich man whose business dealings usually are honorable,” Zelda replied. “The recent mission which he entrusted to Boaz was not of that kind. It involved a blatant deception. I have not seen Boaz for weeks, but his plan was to return to Bethsaida where Remus had a new mission for him.”

When Winter arrived back at Homez’ compound Emily and he had already returned. Emily reported that she had found a depressed Marni, at the home of her friend. Marni was a pretty woman in her mid-twenties with a mournful face. When asked to answer questions about Boaz she began to weep, but finally agreed. Emily first asked where and when she had met Boaz.

“I met him a year ago in Bethsaida,” Marni answered. “At twenty-five I was still living with my widowed mother. Marriage opportunities had passed me by. While I had work as a tutor my life was incomplete. I met Boaz at a wedding and was elated. He had a rich patron, conducted himself with style, and talked proudly of a rosy future. His employer Remus had assigned him a delicate negotiation in Tiberias which promised to earn him a lot of money.

moake. Daut wia mien Onjleki, am to bejäajne un eene Frintschoft auntofange, dee nu vebie es. Seit eenje Joare es Boas een Veträda von Remus, een rikja Maun en Betsaida. Boas haft meist aule von siene Haundlung in Galiläa jedone, oba de jinjste, wort hia en Tiberias aufjespält.”

“Du hast jesajcht, daut diene Aunloag met Boas vebie es,” fua Winta wieda. “Kaut du mie saje, waut hee hia aunjinkj un wuahan hee jegone es?” Zelda gauf korte Auntwuat: “Remus es een rikja Maun, un siene Jeschafts Haundlung sent jeweenlich ierenhaaft. De jinjste Mission, dee hee Boas aunvetrud, wia aundasch. Daut jinkj om eene opensechtliche Enteischunk. Ekj hab Boas seit Wäakje nich mea jeseene, oba sien Plon wia, no Betsaida trigjtogone, wua Remus eene niee Mission fa am haft.”

Aus Winta to Homez sien Kuta aunkaum, wia dee un Emily aul trigj. Emily berecht, daut see Marni jefunge haud, em Hus von eene Frindin. Marni wia eene schmocke Fru en de Medd twintich Joare, met eenem truarichen Jesecht. Aus Emily wull Froage äwa Boas stale, funk see aun to ziple, oba schlieslich stemd see to. Emily fruach toiescht, wua un wan see Boas jetroffe haud.

“Ekj troff am een Joa trigj en Betsaida,” auntwuat Marni. “Ekj wia fiefontwintich un wond noch met miene Mutta, eene Wätfru. Määjlichkjeite mie to befrie wiere vebie jejlepst. Ekj haud Oabeit aus Liera jefunge, oba ekj wia ontofräd. Ekj troff Boas bie eene Kjast un wia bejeistat. Hee haud eenen rikja Patroon, fieed sikj met Stiel un spruak Stolt von eene roosiche Tookunft. Sien Oabeitsjäwa Remus haud am eene makelje Vehaundlunk en Tiberias toojewiese, wua hee väl Jelt vedeene sull.

“Boaz later invited me to live in the home of his adoptive parents. Against my mother’s wishes I accepted the invitation. When I arrived I found that Boaz had lied, and that he spent his free time with another woman. Then yesterday, to my great shock, he evicted me from that home. As well, Boaz told me that he was leaving. That man has done me a grave injustice and deserves to be severely punished.”

Winter then reported Zelda’s information that Boaz had been given a dishonest mission from Remus. Finally, Homez reported his slim findings. Homez had gone with Cato to the former estate of Aquila. There they had been informed that the new owner Remus was still in Bethsaida. The new overseer provided no other new information. Disappointed, they had left and gone to the waterfront in Tiberias. A shipping agent had confirmed the departure of the boat bearing Boaz to Bethsaida. Citing the boat’s schedule, Homez advised that with swift horses they could reach Bethsaida before the boat, and catch Boaz when he came ashore.

Cato had been entrusted with organizing the transport and when this was ready the threesome broke up their conference. Their route followed a path north between the escarpment and the lake. Magdala was reached in an hour, following a good road with little traffic. Past Magdala they turned eastward, their pace slowed by a host of pilgrims. Many trooped past in high spirits. Others were bearing litters carrying the weak and infirm.

Approaching Capernaum the escarpment swung shoreward leaving a narrow shelf

“Boas loot mie lota en, en daut Hus von siene Steef Elre to Läwe. Jäajen miene Mutta äare Wensche naum ekj de Enlodunk aun. Aus ekj doa aunkaum, funk ekj ut, daut Boas jeloage haud, un daut hee siene Frietiet met eene aundre Fru vebrocht. Dan Jistre, to mien groota Schock, joagd hee mie vom Hus. Jrodsoo säd mie Boas, daut hee uk velote wudd. Dis Maun haft mie een iernstet Onrajcht aunjedone un haft vedeent, strenj bestroft to woare.”

Winta berecht dan de Informazion von Zelda, daut Boas eene onierliche Mission fa Remus jedone haud. Schlieslich berecht Homez äwa siene weinje Erkjantnise. Homez wia met Cato to de jewäsne Wirtschoft von Aquila jegone. Doa wort an metjedeelt, daut de niea leejendeema Remus noch en Betsaida wia. De niee Äwasechta gauf am nuscht Wiedret to weete. Enteischt wiere see nom Howe en Tiberias jegone. Een Ajent doa haud de Aufreis vom een Boot zemorjes no Betsaida bestädicht. De Ajent haud Homez daut Bootsplon metjedeelt. Met stoakje Pieed kunne see noch Betsaida ver daut Boot aunkome, un Boas schlenje, aus hee aun Launt kaum.

Cato wia met de Organizacion vom Transport toovelessich worde un aus daut foadich wia, bruake de dree äare Konferens opp. See wudde eenem Wajch nuadlich tweschen daut Huachlaunt un däm See folje. See kaume no eene Stund en Magdala, opp eene goode Gaus met weinich Vekjia. No Magdala dreide see nom Ooste, oba daut jinkj mau langsam wiels eene Mause von Piljasch an vesiemde. Väle von dise Mensche jinje en gooda Stemmunk verwoaz. Aundre brochte Kranke un elre Mensche met.

Aus see dichtbie Kapernaum kaume schwunk daut Huachlaunt dicht nom See un doa bleef

between a high cliff and the lake. The town was filled with pilgrims headed to the hillside to hear the ministry. It was a short distance further to the River Jordan which marked the end of the domain of Herod Antipas. On crossing the river they entered the domain of Herod Philip. A short ride further took them to Bethsaida, and they then turned south to reach the waterfront.

On arrival at the Bethsaida dock Homez' party joined a crowd waiting to welcome incoming boat passengers. Winter heard their wonder at the ministry being conducted on the hills above Capernaum. At the scheduled hour a boat arrived at the dock, and those waiting stepped aside to allow the passengers come ashore. Excited passengers in a mood of ecstasy swept onto the dock. After finding their kinfolk the passengers hurried away into the city. Soon all passengers had disembarked, but no sign had been seen of Boaz. It seemed that they had missed him, but just then a litter was brought ashore by a pair of bearers. The corpse on the litter was male. It was the body of a tall robust man in his thirties, with a long red beard, and a tattoo of a whale on his left arm.

Homez boarded the boat, collared a crewman, and asked about the dead man. He was told that the man's name was Aristo. He had come aboard in Tiberias in the morning. The ship had sailed off on its slow journey northwards, following the shoreline at a short distance. Initially the wind had been light, but then a squall had hit outside of Magdala, and the man had been washed overboard. A boat had been let down but it had not reached him on time. Homez was faced now with a dilemma.

bloos eene schmaule Striep Launt tweschen een huagen Aufhank un daut See. De Staut wia met Piljasch runtvoll, dee toom Boaj opptoo jinje, om dän Deenst to hier. Homez siene Grupp must noch eene korte Strakj wieda toom Jordan Riefa riede. De Riefa markjeed daut Enj vom Jebiet von Herodes Antipas. Aum aundren Eewa vom Riefa wiere see aul en daut Jebiet von Herodes Philip. Eene korte Foat brocht an wieda no Betsaida, un dan dreide see nom Siede, nom Howe.

Bie de Aunkunft aum Howe en Betsaida kaum Homez siene Grupp opp eene Menj dee opp de Aunkunft von een Boot wachte. Winta hieed vom de Wundasch en de Deenste oppem Boajch bowa Kapernaum. To de jeplonde Tiet kaum een Boot aum Dock aun, un de Menj wacht jeduldich aune Sied, aus de Passazhiere rut kaume. Dise Passazhiere kaumen met groote Freid aun Launt. Nodäm see äare Vewaunte jefunge haude, jinje de aule schwind enne Staut. Boot wiere aule Passazhiere rauf, oba Homez haud nuscht von Boas jeseene. Daut schiend, aus see am vemist haude, oba krakjt dan wort een Bad von twee Droagasch to Launt jebrocht. Daut Kjarpa oppem Bad wia een Maunsmensch. Daut wia een groota, jewaulticha Maun en de dartiche Joare met eenem langen rooden Boat. Hee haud uk eene Tätowierunk von een Waulfesch aun sienem linkjen Oarm.

Homez bestieech daut Boot, funk een Matroos un fruach no däm Dooden. De Maun säd, daut de Nome vom Dooden Aristo wia. Hee wia zemorjes en Tiberias oppem Schepp jekome. Daut Schepp wia opp eene langsame Reise nom Nuaden jefoare, en korte Enjskje vonne Wotakaunt. Toieescht wia de Wint leicht jewast, oba dan plazlich haude see een Storm buta Magdala jetroffe, un de Maun wia äwabuat jefolle. Eene Lomm wia raufjelote worde, oba daut wia nich Rajchttietich fa am

Did the death of his quarry mean the end of the investigation? Homez thought no, as he wished to restore Aquila's possessions. He would continue the search and concentrate on finding Remus.

Enquiries made by Cato at the dock revealed that Remus was well known in the city. He was the owner of a large estate some distance up from the waterfront. It was late in the evening, and they would look Remus up first thing in the morning.

The next morning found the party standing outside the compound of Remus. Homez asked for permission to see Remus. Remus was a tall robust man. Immediately after catching sight of him Homez though he looked familiar, but he could not make a connection. Then he noticed a birthmark on Remus, a small red mole on his left cheek. Homez quickly settled the matter by asking if his previous name had been Boaz. Remus looked astonished but grudgingly confirmed that it had been.

Remus then related to them the story of his childhood. He had been born the first son of Aquila and Judith, the brother of three younger children. But his parents had pampered their other children, and shunned Boaz because of his birth mark. When his father had named his younger brother heir, Boaz had fled from home.

Remus had worked his way to relatives in the north. After years of hardship he had prospered. He had established a business and built a compound here in Bethsaida. One day he had returned to Tiberias in disguise, and found all his siblings gone. When he asked Aquila and Judith about the fate of their first

jekome. Homez haud nu een grootet Probleem. Sull de Doot von sien Ziel daut Enj von de Unjasieekjunk senne? Homez säd nä, hee wull je Aquila sien Vemieeeje trigj kjriee. Hee wudd noch wieda halpe un sikj bemieeje, Remus to finje.

Cato muak Aunfroage em Howe un wort jesajcht, daut Remus en de Staut bekaunt wia. Hee wia de leejendeema von een grootet Vemieeeje em Nuade von de Staut. Daut wia aul lot aum Owent jeworde, un see wudde Remus tiedich zemorjes sieekje gone.

Aum näakjsten Morje stunt de Grupp buta daut Vemieeeje von Remus. Homez fruach auf hee Remus seene kunn. Remus wia een groota, jewaulticha Maun. Soofuaz Homez dän Maun to seene kjrieech docht hee daut hee bekaunt utleet, oba hee wust nich fuaz wuarom. Dan bemoakjt hee een Jeburtstieekjen opp Remus, eene kjliene roode Doodemol opp de linkje Bak. Homez wull daut schwind kloa moake, un hee fruach, aus sien Väanome Boas jewast wia. Dit vefieed Remus, oba hee bestädicht wadawellich, daut et soo wia.

Remus vetald dan de Jeschicht von siene Kjintheit. Hee wia de ieeschta Sän von Aquila un Judith, de Brooda von dree jinjre Kjinja. Oba siene Elre haude äare aundre Kjinja vewant un Boas wäajen sien Jeburtstieekjen veachtet. Aus sien Voda sienen jinjren Brooda aus Oaw jenant haud, haud Boas siene Famielje velote.

Remus wia langsam to Vewaunte em Nuade jetrocke. No Joarelank von hoadet Leide haud hee een Jeschaft jejrint un sikj eene Wirtschoft en Betsaida oppjebut. Een Dach wia hee no Tiberias jefoare un funk ut daut aul siene Jeschwista jestorwe wiere. Aus een Framda haud hee Aquila un Judith besocht un äwa

born they said that he had been a wastrel who demanded his fortune and left home years ago.

Remus had left Tiberias in great anger, pledging revenge. A former brigand Aristo was in his employ and Remus used him to teach his parents a lesson. He had coached Aristo to play the prodigal son. Aristo had excelled in the role, deceiving Aquila and Judith and obtaining possession of their estate. According to plan, he had then transferred the title to Remus.

Remus now advised that he would visit his Tiberias estate in two days time. He would first hear the new Prophet, the Nazarene, on the mountain tomorrow. Homez tried to persuade him to restore the title to Aquila and Judith, but could extract only a promise to meet them.

Two days later Homez, Emily and Winter were guests at Aquila's former estate. They sat in the midst of a formal garden, with brick pathways and imposing stone sculptures. Above them towered coconut palms, and nearby gurgled a cool fountain. Remus sat comfortably with his entourage, playing the role of an imperial landlord. A great bustling was heard in the kitchen, from which sweet odors drifted. Cato ushered in Aquila and Judith, who faced Remus with apprehension.

Remus curiously began to tell the story of Joseph and his brothers. "Joseph was removed from his father's household by his brothers and sold into slavery in Egypt," he said. "Joseph prospered there and become Viceroy. When his brothers came to Egypt to buy grain in a famine, Joseph met them but

daut Schekjsol von äarem ieeschtjebuarnen jefroacht. Dee haude am jesajcht, daut hee een Veschwenda jewast wia, dee siene Oaw jefoddat un daut Hus velote haud.

Remus haud Tiberias dan en groote Wutt velote un Rach jeplont. Mank siene Aunjestalde wia een jewäsna Vebräakja Aristo un Remus benuzt am, om sienen Elre eene Lekzion to unjarechte. Hee haud Aristo belieet, dän veloarnen Sän to späle. Aristo haud sikj en de Roll äwatrotte, un Aquila un Judith jeteischt aus hee de Wirtschoft äwanaum. Hee wia Remus tru jebläwe un haud dän Tietel to am äwajäft.

Remus säd nu, daut hee siene Tiberias Wirtschoft en twee Doag besieekje wudd. Hee wudd ieescht dän nieen Profeete, dän Nazarena, Morje oppem Boajch toohiere. Homez vesocht am to äwaräde, dän Tietel to Aquila un Judith wada häatostale, oba kunn bloos een Vespräakje kjree, om an to trafe.

Twee Doag lota wiere Homez, Emily un Winta Jast bie Aquila siene verhäaje Wirtschoft. See saute enne Medd von een groota Goade, met Tiejel Stiej un jewaultje Steenstatuen. Huage Kokosnusspalme gauwe Schaute, un dichtbie gurjelt eene kjeele Wotakjwal. Remus saut maklich met siene Lied un späld de Roll von een Kjeisalicha Huswieet. Eene groote Bejeistrunk wort en de Kjääkj jehieet, von wua velockenda Jeroch kaum. Cato brocht Aquila un Judith enenn, dee Remus met Besorchnis jääjenäwa kjikjte.

Remus funk schnorrich aun de Jeschicht von Josef un siene Breeda to vetale. "Josef wort von siene Breeda ut sien Voda sien Hus jenome un en Ägipten en de Jefangenschoft vekoft," säd hee. "Josef jedeid doa un wort Vise Kjennich. Aus siene Breeda no Ägipten kaume, om en eene Hungaschnoot Jeträajd to

kept his identity secret. Only after the brothers had brought their father's favorite son Benjamin, and after they showed remorse, did Joseph reveal himself. He invited them to a great meal, and there assured them they would be generously provided for the rest of their lives."

Aquila and Judith were sitting quietly, in consternation. Was that a flicker of recognition in Aquila's face? Was there remorse in Judith for maltreating her son?

"My mother told me this story as a young child," Remus now continued. "Yesterday I heard it again, told in a grand new way. Mother, father, welcome to your home." All doubt was now removed. Parents and son came together in an emotional greeting, and then everyone sat down to a bountiful dinner.

kjeepe, troff Josef an, oba hilt siene Identität een Jeheemnis. Bloos nodäm de Breeda dän Lieblinkjssän Benjamin von äarem Voda metjebrocht haude, un nodäm see Leet jewast wiere, openboad Josef sikj. Hee loot an to eene groote Moltiet en, un vesechad an, daut see fa däm Äwalei von äa Läwe vesorjt wudde senne."

Aquila un Judith saute leise, en Veläajenheit. Wia daut een Fiaspell von Aunerkanunk en Aquila sien Jesecht? Gauf et Leetsenne en Judith, om äaren Sän to tualeide?

"Miene Mutta haud mie dise Jeschicht aus junget Kjint vetalt," fua Remus wieda. "Jistre hab ekj dee wada jehieet, vetalt oba opp eene niee Oat. Mutta, Voda, von Hoaten Welkom en jun Tus." Aulet Twiewel wort nu wajchjeriimt. Elre un Sän kaume toop en eenem ennalichen Jrees, un dan saute see sikj aula dol to eene groote Moltiet.

The good Samaritan

Homez and Winter had left Tiberias after the mid-day heat, traveling south to a small town to meet a client the next morning. Homez' servant Cato had traveled with them, and then kept guard as they stayed overnight at an inn north of town. The next morning they had their breakfast in the garden with birds chirping overhead. The roadway through town lay before them, a long incline to the left giving view of travelers at a far distance. Before them to the right lay the school, the well, and a small market. The sun was up, and as the rays crested the nearby hills they lit the road up before them.

This road to the north pierced a landscape providing excellent cover for bandits. As the two had come through this stretch the day before, they had looked sharp at every corner. The inn-keeper brought them more bread smothered with honey. Seeing their anxious looks he advised that all who sat here feared for the party coming. As they continued their wait Homez reminisced about their famous cases. He spoke of the Temple case where bandits had threatened, but guards had come to their rescue. He mentioned a second case where they had eluded bandits sent by an unknown assassin.

Winter was listening carefully when he noted a man appear at the crest of the hill far to the left. He was riding a sturdy dark horse. Could he be their client, Winter wondered? The man rode slowly down the long hill to the inn, and soon joined their group. He introduced himself as Clawson; it indeed was their client. Clawson was a tall man with a strong face

De boarmhoatja Samarita

Homez un Winta haude Tiberias no de Meddach Hett velote un see reisde nom Siede to eene kjiene Staut, om eene Kund aum nääkjsten Morje to trafe. Homez sien Deena Cato wia met an jekome un de Nacht hilt hee Wacht, aus see een Gausthus nuadlich von de Staut bleewe. Aum nääkjsten Morje aute see äa Freestikj em Goade aus Väajel bowa an zwitschade. De Gaus derch de Staut lach ver an, un een langa Boajopp wia no links met een Blekj von Reisende von wiet auf. Ver an rajsch stunt de School, de Darp Borm un een kjiena Moakjt. De Sonn wia aul opp, un aus de Strole äwa de Hempel dichtbie kaume, dachte see de Gaus ver an opp.

Dise Gaus nom Nuade jinkj derch eene wilde Launtschoft, dee eene väästonende Vestääkj fa Baundiete gauf. Aus de beid aum Dach verhää opp dise Gaus jekome wiere haude see opp jiede Akj jespaut verwoaz jekjikjt. De Gaustwieet brocht an nu mea Brot met Honnich bedakjt. Aus hee äare enjstliche Blekje sach, säd hee, daut aule dee hia saute, oppe wacht fa Reisende, emma groote fercht haude. Aus see noch lenja wachte, docht Homez von siene beriemde Fal. Hee räd von däm Tempel Faul, en däm Baundiete am jedroot haude, oba worde von siene Mana besiejd. Hee erwänd eenen tweeden Faul, wua see von Baundiete, von eenem onbekaunden Fient jeschekjt, wajch jekome wiere.

Winta hieed sorjfeltich to, aus hee enn wort, daut een Maun opp de Spetz vom Hempel wiet auf no links oppdukt. Hee ritt een stoakjet dunklet Pieet. Kunn hee äare Kund senne, fruach sikj Winta? De Maun ritt langsam dän langen Hempel erauf bat äa Gausthus un kaum dan opp an opptoo. Hee stald sikj aus Klose vää; dit wia dochwoll äare Kund. Klose

who looked them over shrewdly. Despite his humble outfit, they knew him to be a wealthy man. Bantering softly he pulled out refreshments for them, bread, cheese and ale. After some pleasantries, Homez invited Clawson to state his business.

“My full name is Markus Clawson,” he began. “Twenty years ago I left the high Alps with my family in search of warmer climate and better prospects. We arrived in this valley, where we have prospered. We operate a cheese factory, unique in this area, using technology brought from our homeland.”

“My problem concerns this factory. We make cheese from both cow and goat milk. Our products are sold all over the region, north to Tiberias, west to Caesarea, and south to the Holy City. While we have our own pastures and our own herds we also buy raw material from other producers. Our factory stands in a large compound south of town. The cheese is made there and then delivered to our agents. With God’s grace, we have mastered the techniques of collecting materials and turning them into a popular product. Until recently the operation ran smoothly, but now it has been interrupted.”

“With great care we gathered a staff which is competent and congenial. All work and supervision is done by free men. In our factory we employ relatives who have special knowledge. Our factory manager is a Palestinian by the name of Hillel. Our factory foreman is a relative by the name of Rymer. The foreman supervises the daytime production workers, those handling incoming deliveries, those sending off shipments, and those providing nighttime security. Our

wia een groota Maun met een forschet Jesecht, dee an schoapsennich aankijkt. Trotz siene bescheide Kjleedinj wiste see, daut hee een rikja Maun wia. Hee vetald saunft, un hold Vebietsels fa an rut, Brot, Kjees un Bea. No eenje Kjlienichkjeite lod Homez Klose en, siene Jeschicht to vetale.

“Mien volla Nome es Markus Klose,” säd hee. “Ver twintich Joa veleet ekj de Huagealpe, toom Nuade von Room, met miene Famielje, om een woamet Kjliema un bätre Utsechte to finje. Wie sent to disem Dol jekome, wua wie jedeit habe. Wie rane eene Kjeesfabrikj, dee en dise Jääjent eenseloatich es, met de Technologie von onse Heimat.”

“Mien Probleem es betrafs dise Fabrikj. Wie moake Kjees von Koo- un Kosenmalkj. Onse Produkte woare aulewääjen en de Jääjent vekoft, nuadlich no Tiberias, wastlich no Caesarea un siedlich to de Heilje Staut. Wäärent wie onse ieejne Weid un onse ieejne Häad habe, kjeep wie uk reiwet Materiol von aundre Wirtschofte. Onse Fabrikj steit en een grootet leejendom siedlich von de Staut. De Kjees woat doa jemoakt un dan aun onse Ajente jeleewat. Met Gottes Jnod hab wie de Kjantris Materiole tooptosaumle un see to eenem jelowden Produkt moake. Bat ver kortem, rand ons Jeschaft one Probleem, oba nu es daut to Enj.”

“Met groote Mieej vesaumeld wie eene fäiche Grupp, dee goot to liede es. Aule Oabeit un Äwasecht es von friee Mensche jedone. En onse Fabrikj schaufe Vewaunte, dee besondret Kjantris haft. De Fabrikj Vewaulta es een Palestinensa dee Hillel heet. De Fabrikj Oppsechta es een Vewaunta met Nome Reima. De Oppsechta kjemmat sikj met de Dachäwa Produktion. Hee haundelt met deejansje dee sikj met engonende Leewrunge befote, met dee dee Produkte aufschekje un

accountant, Beulah, is a woman with education and knowledge of figures. She oversees all the financial transactions; purchases, receipts, and government taxes.”

“In previous years I devoted my full attention to the business, but recently health problems have slowed me down. I have transferred much responsibility to my staff. My trust has mostly been well placed, but in one instance, it has not. An audit has shown a large shortfall in our shipments; all our products are not reaching our agents. A problem has arisen somewhere, hopefully just in the accounting or in the inventory.”

“For days I have wrestled with this problem, going over our operations and seeking a solution. Could thieves may be making off with our product at night? The factory compound is enclosed by high walls and is well guarded at night. If it is an inside job, is the thief a relative or a Palestinian? Investigating the matter will cause resentment, but allowing shortfalls to continue will mean failure of the business. I can not conduct an investigation myself, and need a man with experience. Can you solve this problem?”

Homez had followed Clawson’s story with interest and now respectfully asked him if he would answer some questions. Clawson nodded and gave Homez his full attention.

“Let us first consider this at a personal level,” Homez began. “Have you any known enemies, have you dismissed someone recently, or might the local population target you as a foreigner? Could this explain what is happening?”

uk met dee, dee enne Nacht Sechaheit besorje. Ons Rääkjenfiera, Beulah, es eene Fru met Bildunk un Kjäntnis von Nummasch. See kjemmat sikj mete fianansiele Haundlunge; Enkjeepe, Ennom, un Taks.”

“En de vegone Joare tooieejend ekj miene volle Oppmoakjsomkjeit opp daut Jeschaft, oba korz habe mie Jesuntheit Schwierickjeite trigj jehoole. Ekj hab väle Veautwuatunge aun miene Metoabeida äwasat. Mien Vetrue es mieschtsens goot jestalt, oba en eenem Faul es et nich. Eene Wirtschoftliche Kontroll haft eene groote Knaupheit en onse Schekjunge jewast. Eenje von onse Produkte kome veleicht bie onse Ajente nich aun. Een Probleem es irjent wua oppjekome, hopentlich bloos en de Jelträakjnunk ooda em Inventor.”

“Doagelank hab ekj met disem Probleem jekjamft; ekj sie äwa onse Haundlunge jegone un eene Leesunk jesocht. Nämte Stälasch de Nacht onse Produkte wajch? De Fabrikj es von eene huage Mua omjäft un es de Nacht goot bewacht. Wan daut eent von onse Oabeida es, es de Stäla een Vewaunta ooda een Palestinensa? De Unjasieekjunk von de Sach woat Oaja brinje, oba wan nuscht met dise Sach jedone woat kaun daut Jeschaft bankrott gone. Ekj bruck drinjent een Maun met Erfoarunk dee de Sach unjasieekje kaun. Kaust du dit Probleem leese?”

Homez haud Klose siene Jeschicht sorjfeltich toojehieet un fruach am nu, aus hee eenje Froage beantwuade wudd. Klose nekjkopt un gauf Homez siene volle Oppmoakjsomkjeit.

“Well wie daut toieescht aus ne perseenliche Sach betrachte,” säd Homez. “Hast du bekaunde Fiend, ooda hast du eenen Oabeida ver kortem gone lote, ooda kunn de hiesje Bevelkjarunk die aus een Utlenda beziele? Es et doawäajen, daut et passieet es?”

“You have phrased your question delicately,” Clawson commented. “I have harmed no man for him to seek revenge. Nor has there been a recent dismissal or ill treatment of our personnel. It is the firm's policy to act with fairness and justice, but naturally in our own view. I believe you are attempting to isolate a suspect. Is the culprit a relative or a Palestinian? I don't know the answer.”

“You fear that merchandise may be pilfered at night,” Homez continued. “Could you describe the procedure of your night-time guards?”

“The compound is surrounded by a high wall,” Clawson replied. “Glass shards are cemented on the top of the wall. All staff leave the compound at nightfall and the gate is secured. We have a watchman who keeps vigil outside the gate. I invite you to visit our factory and inspect our operations at first hand.”

Clawson excused himself as he had another appointment. He agreed to Homez' visit of the factory in the afternoon. After he had left Homez and Winter sought to get a handle on the situation. As the problem could be one of accounting, Homez decided to call in Emily who was an expert at figures. He would send Cato to Tiberias to bring her over. Due to the danger of the route, Homez made meticulous plans for Cato's travel.

Homez entrusted Cato with his large white horse for Emily to ride on the return trip. Time remained for Cato to reach Tiberias by nightfall. For the return trip Homez instructed

“Du hast diene Froag gaunz sachelkjes vääjestalt,” säd Klose. “Ekj hab kjeenen Maun beschädicht, daut hee Rach sieekje sull. Wie habe ver kortem kjeenem Entlote ooda onse Oabeidasch meshaundelt. Daut es de Rechtljenje von onset Jeschaft, met Jerajchtichkjeit to haundle, oba natieedlich en onse ieejne Aunsecht. Ekj jleew, du vesieekjst eenen Vedajchtichen to aufsondre. Es de schuldja een Vewaunta ooda een Palestinensa? Daut weet ekj nich.”

“Du ferchst, daut de Woare de Nacht vesat woare kjenne,” fua Homez wieda. “Kaust du de Jewanheite von de Nacht Wajchtasch beschriewe?”

“Ons Vemieeeje es von eene huage Waunt omjäft,” auntuwad Klose. “Glaus Schoawels sent opp de Bowasied enne Waunt zementieet. Aule Metoabeidasch velote daut Vemieeeje biem tweediesta un daut Puat woat toojeschlote. Wie habe eenen Wajchta, dee ver daut Puat Wacht helt. Ekj lod die en, onse Fabrikj to besieekje un onse Jewanheite met diene ieejne Uage beseene.”

Klose entschuldicht sik, wiels hee eenen aundren Termin haud. Hee stemd met Homez sien Besuach Nomeddach bie de Fabrikj too. Nodäm hee velote haud, sochte Homez un Winta de Sach kloa to vestone. Aus daut Probleem eent von Jelträakjnunk senne kunn, beschloot Homez, Emily dee fäich met Zole wia, häatobrinje. Hee wudd Cato no Tiberias schekje, om äa to hole. Wäajen de Jefoa oppem Wajch, muak Homez een sorjfeltichen Plon fa Cato siene Reis.

Homez haud Cato met sien grootet wittet Pieet aunvetrut, daut Emily opp de Trigjreis riede sull. Daut gauf noch jenuach Tiet fa Cato, bat Tiberias vere Dunkelheit to kome. Fa de

Cato to set out early in the morning. At a measured pace the two should arrive here at mid-day. No stops were to be made except at secure sites, and care should be taken on isolated stretches. Homez would be waiting at the inn for their arrival. Finally, Homez told Cato to remind Emily to bring her abacus.

In the afternoon Homez and Winter rode over to Clawson's compound. Discretely Homez examined the yard, the factory, and the warehouse. In his mind he traced each step of the factory's operation and gauged the security risk involved. He registered the storage depots for materials at various stages of the production, as well as the storage shed for the final product. Lastly, he studied the means of transport of the product to the outside, during working hours and at night.

The next morning Homez and Winter returned to the compound to meet the supervisory staff. Clawson passed them to the manager, Hillel, an officious serious man with a forbidding look. Hillel took them to Rymer, the factory foreman. He appeared fit to be foreman, a tough gentleman with a confident manner. Next Hillel introduced the accountant, Beulah, who was deep in her work, furiously sliding beads on her abacus. Homez was all eyes, watching for tell-tale signs. By late morning he had not solved the riddle. He only mentioned that at night he wished to stake out the factory.

A half hour before mid-day Homez and Winter were back at the inn taking their meal in the garden at the roadside. Eagerly they scanned the sparse traffic, waiting for Cato and Emily

Trigjreis haud Homez Cato Orda jejäfft, tiedich zemorjes loos to sate. Met eene jemätne Jeschwindichkheit sulle de beid Morje to Meddach hia aankome. See sulle goanich wua opphoole, buta aun sechre Städe, un sulle opp aufjesondade Strakje sea oppause. Homez wudd em Hoff vom Gausthus fa äare Aunkunft wachte. Schlieslich säd Homez to Cato, om Emily doaraun to erinre, daut see äa Rääkjenbrat nich vejäte sull.

Nomeddach fuare Homez un Winta to Klose siene Fabrikj. Homez unjasocht jeheem dän Hoff, de Fabrikj un de Schien. En sienem Kopp foljd hee jieda Schrett von de Fabrikj äare Haundlunk un beuadeeld de Sechaheitsrisiko. Hee rejistried de Städe fa Väärot en de veschiedne Stoope vonne Produksion, un uk de Oppbewoarunks Städe fa daut Enjprodukt. Schlieslich studieed hee daut Transport vom Produkt no Bute, wäärent de Oabeitstiet un to Nacht.

Aum näakjsten Morje jinje Homez un Winta trigj to Klose sien Vemieeeje, om de Oppsechtasch to bejäajne. Klose gauf am äwa to sien Vewaulta, Hillel, een iernsta Maun met eenem strenjen Blekj. Hillel brocht an to Reima, de Oppsechta vonne Fabrikj. Am sachtet krakjt no een Oppsechta, een hoada Maun met eene selfstbewuste Oat. Dan stald Hillel de Rääkjenfiera vää, Beulah, dee deep en äare Oabeit wia, un wuttich de Kjneep opp äarem Rääkjenbrat romschoof. Homez socht fa kjliene Tieekjens dee wichtiche Bediedunge habe kunne. Aum loten Morje haud hee daut Rotsel noch nich jeleest. Hee erwänd bloos, daut hee de Nacht trigj no de Fabrikj kome wull.

Ne haulwe Stund ver Meddach wiere Homez un Winta wada em Goade vom Gausthoff biesied däm Wajch. Iewrich sochte see dän wietlefticha Vekjia un wachte opp Cato un

who were due at any moment. The inn-keeper passed by and told them about a procession which had passed through town earlier in the week. It had been led by the Nazarene, who had been accompanied by a large retinue. He had stopped at the town square and spoken for hours to a huge crowd. By now Cato and Emily were overdue and Homez showed clear signs of worry.

Tea had been served and the two were calmly drinking from steaming cups when Homez spied a white horse on the crest in the distance. He leapt up and watched as the horse came down the slope. It was a man on a horse, a priest no less, accompanied on foot by a servant. The priest seemed rattled, did not reply to Homez' greeting, and nervously entered the compound. Homez returned to his seat and resumed his vigil.

A while later they spied more traffic approaching, this time at a rapid pace. Homez remained seated and watched unhappily as another man arrived. This was an officious Levite, who gave a sigh of relief on entering the compound. He sought out the inn-keeper and soon was in a furious conversation. Homez went over to ask about road conditions. The Levite told of a narrow escape from bandits just up the road. Having learned from the inn-keeper that Homez was an investigator, the Levite asked Homez for help to recover property lost in his escape. Homez promised to see him later.

Homez returned to his seat, his face looking troubled. He now feared foul play as the reason for Emily's non-arrival. The two spied traffic on the road a third time. The pace of the

Emily, dee to jiede Tiet fellich wiere. De Gaustwheet kaum han un vetald von eene Prozession, de ea en de Wääkj derch de Staut jegone wia. Dee wia vom Nazarena jefieet worde, dee von eenem grooten Volk bejleetet wia. Hee haud enne Staut oppjehoole un stundelank to eene riesje Menj jerät. Entweschen wiere Cato un Emily äwafellich un Homez wort emma mea narwees.

An wort Tee jebrocht, un de beid drunke ruich von daumfende Tausse, aus Homez een wittet Pieet wiet auf, huach aum Boajch sach. Hee sprunk opp un beobacht, woo daut Pieet daut Boajauf raufkaum. Doa wia een Maun oppem Pieet, een Priesta weenichstens, bejleetet von eenem Deena. De Priesta zettad, gauf kjeene Auntwuat to Homez aus hee am bejreest, un jinkj narwees em Gausthus. Homez kaum to sienem Plauz biesied däm Wajch trigj un naum siene Wacht wada opp.

Een Stootje lota zielde see mea Vekjia daut noda kaum, ditmol en eene stoakje Jeschwindichkheit. Homez bleef sette un beobacht onjlekjlich, aus wada een Maun aunkaum. Dit wia een oppdrinjicha Levit, dee met eenen Seifza von Velindrunk em Gausthus aunkaum. Hee socht dän Gaustwheet ut un wia boolt en eene wuttiche Unjahoolunk. Homez jinkj äwa von de Veheltnise vonne Gaus befroage. De Levit vetald von eene enje Flucht von Baundiete nich wiet auf. Aus hee jeflicht haud, haud hee wheetvolle Sache veloare. Vom Gaustwheet hieed hee daut Homez een Vemedla wia. Hee fruach Homez dan om Help, om siene veloarne Sache trigjtokjriee. Homez vespruak lota met am de Sach to beräde.

Homez kjeed wada to sienem Plauz trigj, sien Jesecht nu blaus un hoat. Hee fercht een Onjlekj aus Grunt fa Emily äa vetrakje. De beid sage nu Vekjia oppe Gaus een dreddet

travelers was painfully slow and an impatient Homez stepped to the roadside. As the travelers reached them they saw that it was a Samaritan walking slowly beside a donkey. The head of the Samaritan was covered with a large grey scarf that left only the eyes exposed, and he wore a flowing brown mantel. Lying on the donkey, tied so he could not fall, was a second man. This man was all but naked, hurt and bleeding.

The Samaritan guided the donkey to the inn and called loudly for help. Homez and Winter rushed over and removed the man from the donkey. They carried him into the inn and laid him on a set of cushions. The Samaritan said that he had found the man lying by the roadside, clearly the victim of robbers. He had poured wine on the wounds and stopped the bleeding. Still shrouded with his grey scarf the Samaritan now took out his purse and handed coins over to the inn-keeper to care for the wounded man. Claiming an urgent appointment he rushed off, promising to return and pay further expenses.

Winter went to fetch his medicine bag and now ministered to the victim, who advised that his name was Victor. He had serious wounds on his scalp and hands. Winter poured oil and wine on the wounds and dressed them. Homez had resumed his seat in the garden and was considering mounting a rescue expedition when he spied a group of travelers approaching in the distance.

Victor now demanded further attention, and Winter brought him food and water. Plaintively he told his story. He had left home headed for the Holy City and had safely reached the remote stretch of road north of town. Traveling alone, he had seen no one for miles. Suddenly

Mol. De Jeschwindichkheit vonne Reisende wia langsam un een onjeduldja Homez jinkj to de Gausesied. Aus de Reisenda bat am kaum, sach see, daut et een Samarita wia, dee langsam biesied eenem Äsel jinkj. De Kopp vom Samarita wia met eenem greiwen Schal bedakjt, dee bloos de Uage seene leet. Hee druach eene flissende brune Bedakjnk. Oppem Äsel lach een Maun aunjebunge, doamet hee nich faule kunn. Dis Maun wia meist noaktich, velatst, un bloodrich.

De Samarita fieed dän Maun toom Gausthus un roopt lud fa Help. Homez un Winta naume dän Maun met lel vom Äsel. See druage am em Gausthus enenn un läde am opp eene Rieej Kjesses. De Samarita säd, hee haud dän Maun oppe Gausesied jefunge, eendietich daut Opfa von Reibasch. Hee haud Wien opp de Wunde jegote un daut bleede oppjehoole. Noch emma metem greiwen Schal bedakjt, naum hee nu sien Jeltbiedel rut un gauf däm Gaustwheet Jeltstekja, om dän Vewundeten to halpe. Hee säd hee haud eenen drinjenden Termin, un veleet dan, oba vespruak, trigtokome un wiedre Koste to betole.

Winta jinkj siene Medizien Tausch hole un bedeend däm Opfa. De Maun säd daut sien Nome Viktor wia. Hee haud schwoare Wunde opp sien Kopp un oppe Henj. Winta goot Eelj un Wien opp de Wunde un bung dee opp. Homez haud siene Sett em Goade wada oppjenome un äwaläd, eene Radunks Expedition reed to moake, aus hee eene Grupp von Reisende, dee von wiet auf noda kaume, sach.

Viktor foddad nu wiedre Oppmoakjsomkheit, un Winta brocht am Äte un Wota. Kloagent, vetald hee siene Jeschicht. Hee haud sien Hus velote, om no de Heilje Staut to gone un wia secha bat de Strakj Gaus nuadlich vonne Staut jekome. Hee wia auleen jereist, un haud

a tall man dressed in a ragged brown tunic had approached him. He had ordered Victor to hand over his valuables, and when Victor hesitated, had struck him. He had robbed Victor of his clothes and property, leaving him bleeding on the roadside.

Victor had been delirious when he heard a man approaching. Recognizing him as a priest he had called for help, but the priest had passed quickly on the far side of the road. Shortly after a Levite had come by, had approached him, but then taken to his heels on hearing a noise down the roadside. Barely conscious and hallucinating Victor had heard a third man coming. This man had treated him, and taken him to safety.

The travelers by now had reached the inn and to Homez' relief they included Cato and Emily. Despite the tiring journey Emily looked as gorgeous as ever. The two had been delayed first by the passage of a slow caravan through a narrow defile. Then they had waited for more southward travelers to assemble, and so travel in safety.

Later Emily joined Homez and Winter for lunch in the garden. She looked years younger with a clean gown and a bright head dress. Homez turned the accounts of Clawson's factory over to her for later scrutiny. They were famished and dug into their meal. The Levite now appeared at their table with a request for Homez. He sported a full beard, and wore a costly dark grey mantel. Pompously, he said that he had dropped several scrolls in his rush to escape the robbers. He described the scrolls as priceless, containing unique records.

kjeenem fa Miele jeseene. Oppeenst wia een groota Maun, dee en eenem velumpton, brunen Rock jekjeet wia, am opptoo jekome. De Maun haud Victor velangt, siene Wieetsache äwatojäwe. Aus Viktor zoagd, haud hee am jeschlone. Hee haud Victor siene Kjeleeda un siene Sache jestole un haud am bloodrich oppe Gausesied ligje jelote.

Viktor wia wonsennich jewast, aus hee hieed daut een Maun noda kaum. Hee erkjand am aus een Priesta un haud am fa Help jeroopt, oba de Priesta wia schwind opp de aundre Sied Gaus jegone. Korz nodäm wia een Levit jekome. Disa wia no Victor jekome, oba aus hee een Jelud aune Gausesied hieed, wia hee veschwunge. Kaum bewust un haluzinierent haud Viktor eenen dresden Maun jehieet noda kome. Dis Maun haud am jeholpe un no Sechaheit jebrocht.

De Grupp von Reisende wiere nu bie daut Gaustus aunjekome un to Homez siene Velindrunk, kaume Cato un Emily toop met an. Trotz de aunstrenjende Reis sach Emily soo harlich aus emma. De beid wiere toieescht vetrocke, bie eene Karawane dee langsam derch een schmaulen Derchgank jinkj. Dan haude see opp mea siedlich Reisende jewacht, om en eene jratre Grupp en Sechaheit to kome.

Lota kaum Emily to Homez un Winta em Goade fa daut Meddachäten. See sach Joare jinja met eenem nieet Kjeleet un eenem dachen Koppduak. Homez gauf de Konten von Klose siene Fabrikj to äa fa äare lotre Betrachtunk. See wiere aule vehungat un aute met grooten Apetiet. De Levit kjeem nu no äarem Desch met eene Bedd fa Homez. Hee haud een grooten Boat un druach een kostboaren, dunkel greiwa Mauntel. Oppjeblost, säd hee, daut hee haud en siene Iel miere Schreft Rolle faule lote, om de Reibasch to entkome. Hee

beschreef de Rolle aus nich to betole dee ieejenoatice Auftieekjnunge haude.

When Homez politely asked about his mission the Levite burst into a long story. He had been sent by the high priest of the Temple to gather information on the Nazarene who had preached in the town days ago. Reports had been received that the Nazarene had blasphemed, and the Levite asked whether Homez had heard any such sayings. Homez quickly said that he was from out-of-town. The Levite further advised that he was building a case to accuse the Nazarene to the Romans.

Aus Homez heeflich no siene Mission fruach, vetald de Levit eene lange Jeschicht. Hee wia von däm Huagen Priesta vom Tempel jeschekjt worde, om Informazion äwa däm Nazarena to saumle, dee fa Doag en de Staut jeprädict haud. Berechte wiere aufjeschekjt worde, daut de Nazarena jelastat haud, un de Levit fruach, aus Homez irjent soowaut jehieet haud. Homez säd schwind, daut hee nich von dise Staut wia. De Levit säd wieda, daut hee eenen Faul bud, om däm Nazarena de Reemasch auntokloage.

Homez advised that he would be on the lookout for the lost scrolls and the Levite took his leave. He passed the room of Victor, who had wakened and was feeling stronger. Victor spied the Levite passing and urgently called him. He asked for an explanation for leaving him abandoned on the roadside. Showing no remorse the Levite slickly improvised an explanation. He had been in a great hurry doing important work for the Temple, and besides had no medicines to treat him.

Homez säd dan, daut hee am halpe wudd, fa de veloarne Schreftrolle to sieekje, un de Levit veaufscheet sikj. Hee jinkj bie Viktor sien Rum vebie, dee oppjewakjt wia un sikj stoakja feeld. Viktor sach dän Leviten un roopt am drinjent aun. Hee bat om eene Erkläärunk doafää, daut hee am aune Gausesied velote haud. De Levite wees kjeen Leetsenne un gauf eene schlichte Erkläärunk. Hee haud eene groote lel wichtiche Oabeit fa däm Tempel to moake, un butadäm haud hee kjeene Medziene, om am to halpe.

Homez and Winter checked how Emily was faring and then went to see Victor. Winter examined his injuries and was pleased with his examination. No bones were broken, and the head blow had caused no concussion. Homez now asked Victor how he could be of service.

Homez un Winta jinje seene woo et Emily jinkj, un nohää jinje see Viktor to besieekje. Winta unjasocht siene Velazunge un wia met siene Priefunk tofräd. Kjeene Knoakes wiere jebroake, un de Stuks aum Kopp haud kjeene Jehirneschedderunk veusoakt. Homez fruach nu Viktor, woo hee halpe kunn.

“I have sent a message to my people and they will send me clothes and money,” Victor replied. “I need assistance in the recovery of my stolen clothes and goods. As well I wish you to find the robber who attacked me, and the rescuer who saved my life.”

“Ekj hab Norecht to mien Volkj jeschekjt, un see woare mie Kjeleeda un Jelt brinje,” auntwuad Viktor. “Ekj bruck Help bie daut Wieda Häastalen von miene jestolne Kjeleeda un Sache. Ekj wensch daut du dän Reiba, dee mie aunjejräpe haft, un de Rada, dee mien Läwe jerat haft, finje deist.”

“I need a list and description of your missing property,” Homez replied. “Also, I need a description of the robber and the rescuer. Was the face of the rescuer covered? Did the speech of either reveal his origin?”

Victor stated that he had been wearing a blue robe when attacked and carrying a rucksack filled with silver ornaments. He gave a short list of other property that had been taken. He then addressed the second part of Homez’ question. “The robber made no attempt to hide his identity. He brazenly approached me and demanded my money and goods. Terrorized, I responded slowly to his request, so he viciously attacked me. I remember him as a tall dark-skinned man with unkempt brown hair, and a tattoo of a serpent on his left bicep. His beard was ragged and had streaks of grey. He had no head covering, and was clad in a simple brown tunic. The rescuer had his face uncovered when he approached me. He was a slight man, of lighter skin and fine facial features. While groggy, I sensed that he looked familiar. From his speech I sensed that he was a local man. I trust you will find them, for I have scores to settle with both of them.”

After interviewing Victor, Homez sought out the priest hoping that he had seen the robber. But the priest brushed him off as an insolent intruder. It was dark by now and Homez, Cato and Winter headed over to Clawson’s factory. On arrival they circled the compound, getting a feel for the setting. All was quiet, the gate was locked, and the watchman was crouched over a small fire. They moved closer and made themselves comfortable. Wrapped in blankets

“Ekj bruck eene List un Beschriewunk von de Sache dee die jestole sent,” auntuwad Homez. “Ekj bruck uk eene Beschriewunk vom Reiba un vom Rada. Wia daut Jesecht vom Rada bedakjt? Holp de Betoounk von äare Räd äare Häakunft to openboare?”

Viktor säd, daut hee een bleiwet Kjelet aunjetrocke haud, aus hee aunjejräpe wort, un daut hee eenen Rigjesak druach runtvoll met selwane Schmucksache. Hee gauf eene korte List von aundre Sache, dee jestole wiere. Hee gauf dan Auntuwat toom tweedet Poat von Homez siene Froag. “De Reiba proowd goanich, siene Identität to vestääkje. Hee kaum strakj to mie un foddad mien Jelt un miene Sache. Sea jegrult, auntuwad ekj am mau langsam. Doarom jreep hee mie haslich aun. Hee wia een groota dunkelhuticha Maun, met wilde brune Hoa un eene Tätowierunk von eene Schlang opp sienem linkjen Oarm. Sien Boat wia velumt un greiw un hee haud kjeene Koppbedakjnk. Hee haud eenen eenfachen brunen Rock aunjetrocke. Däm Rada sien Jesecht wia nich vedakjt, aus hee ieescht noda kaum. Hee wia een denna Maun, von lichtre Hut un een feinet Jesecht. Oppwool noch dieslich, späad ekj, daut hee toovelessich wia. Von siene Räd späad ekj, daut hee een Einheima wia. Ekj vetru doaropp, daut du dee beid finje woascht, wiels ekj hab Sache, met an beid to berääkjne.”

No de Befroagunk von Viktor socht Homez dän Priesta ut, met de Hopninj, daut hee dän Reiba jeseene haud. Oba de Priesta kijkt Homez bloos aun aus een onveschämnda Vebrääkja. Daut wia nu dunkel un Homez, Cato un Winta jinje to Klose siene Fabrikj. Bie de Aunkunft jinje see daut Vemieeeje om un bekijkjte aules jeneiw. Aules wia stell, daut Puat wia toojeschlote, un de Wajchta stunt äwa een kijlienet Fia jehockt. See kroope noda

and hidden behind bushes they saw the watchman doze off. Hours later they jerked up as they heard shuffling along the trail. In the darkness they made out a muzzled donkey, attended by a short slim figure. Cato murmured that it might be a woman.

They watched as the figure picked a ladder from a thicket and brought it to the wall. The thief rapidly climbed the ladder, bearing a wooden object. It was a U-shaped platform which the thief placed over the glass shards on the wall. The thief then called out softly. A soft answer was heard from inside the compound. The trio watched the thief hoist up merchandise, which he placed on the platform and then hoisted down outside the wall. The thief now lifted up the platform and descended down the ladder. He hid the ladder and platform again hidden in the thicket. After loading the merchandise on the donkey the thief took his departure. The watchman meanwhile was still sleeping.

“Quick, follow the thief, find his hideout, and report to me at the inn,” Homez whispered. “I will wake the watchman and arrest the man inside.”

Cato and Winter immediately set off, tracking the thief at a distance. A pale moon shone below light clouds and they tracked the thief with little effort. Winter heard Cato curse softly as he stubbed his foot on a rock. The path curved around outcrops and they hurried not to lose their target. Turning a corner they spied the donkey ahead. They sensed a different motion in the donkey; it was slowing and meandering at will. Had the thief felt their presence and been scared off? Then they saw the outlines of a compound ahead. The

un muake sikj maklich. See haude sikj met Dakje bedakjt un hinja Bescha vestoake, un sage nu däm Wajchta aufdusle. Stunde lota wuake see opp, aus see oppem Wajch Jeschloff hieede. En de Dunkelheit kunne see eenen Äsel seene, dee biesied eenen korten, schmaulen Jeschekj jinkj. Cato brummeld, daut et eene Fru senne kunn.

See sage too, aus daut Jeschekj eene Lada ut eenem Struck hold un aun de Waunt länd. De Stäla klautad schwind de Lada enopp, een Holtdinkj en eene Haunt. Daut wia een U-formja Plautform, dee de Stäla äwa de Glausschoawels opp de Waunt läd. De Stäla roopt dan leise. Eene wieekje Auntwuat wort vom Ennaren vom Vemieeje to hier. De drie beobachte dän Stäla, dee de Woa opphoof, opp däm Plautform läd, un dan buta de Mua rauf leet. De Stäla hoof nu däm Plautform un stieech de Lada rauf. Hee vestuak de Lada un däm Plautform wada em Struck. Nodäm hee de Woa opp däm Äsel jehowe haud naum de Stäla siene Aufreis. De Wajchta schleep noch emma.

“Schwind, däm Stäla hinjaraun, sien Vestääk finje, un dan mie aules em Gausthus malde,” fuscheld Homez to Winta. “Ekj woa dän Wajchta oppwakje un dän Maun doa benne fange.”

Cato un Winta jinje fuaz loos un foljde dän Stäla wiet auf. Eene blausse Mon schiend unja lichte Wolkje un see kunne dän Stäla leicht folje. Winta hieed Cato leise flieekje, aus sien Foot opp eenem Steen stad. De Stich wrigjelt rom de Felse, un see ielde, äa Ziel nich to veliere. Aus see om eene Akj kaume, zield see dän Äsel veropp. See späade eene aundre Bewääjunk em Äsel; dee jinkj langsoma un kjrenjeld han un hää. Haud de Stäla äare Aunwäsenheit jefeelt un wia de utjeretst? Dan sage see eene Wirtschoft

donkey now halted, its reins taken by a woman.

Keeping to the shadows they approached with caution. The woman led the donkey to a small shed where she unloaded the cargo, arranging it on shelves inside. Here clearly was the thieves' hideout. The two carefully noted its location and found their way to the main road. They found Homez already back at the inn, eager to hear their report.

Homez listened to them carefully and then related his own story. He had awakened the watchman and told him of the robbery. The watchman claimed the accomplice must still be inside the compound. His plan must be to wait till morning and then slip out the gate.

All was quiet inside the factory, so Homez and the watchman waited, giving the accomplice time to fall asleep. They then stealthily searched for the man, Homez following the watchman who knew the factory well. After a lengthy search they heard soft snoring in the whey storage area. The two seized the accomplice, and bound him tightly. He was a big man, dark-skinned and with ragged brown hair. A serpent tattoo adorned his left bicep. His beard was brown with streaks of grey on the sides. He wore no headscarf, only a simple brown tunic. Homez then took the man to the town lock-up.

Homez and Cato rested some hours and Winter went to check on Victor, who was recovering well. Just before dawn Homez, Winter and Cato set out for the thieves' hideout. Cato led them to the compound, which they circled in silence. The sky was brightening and they saw before them a warren of crumbling cottages. In the continuing silence they set out to reconnoiter.

veropp. De Äsel hilt nu aun, un wort von eene Fru aunjebunge.

See hilde sikj toom Schaute un jinje langsam nodä. De Fru fieed dän Äsel to eene kjliene Schien, wua see de Woa auflod, un opp Jestale hanläd. Hia wia eendietich de Vestääkj vonne Stälasch. De beid moakjte sorjfeltich ääre Städ, un funge dan äarem Wajch to de Hauptgaus. Homez wia aul trigj em Gausthus, iewrich äaren Berecht to hiere.

Homez horcht an sorjfeltich to un vetald dan siene ieejne Jeschicht. Hee haud dän Wajchta oppjewacht un am vonne Stälärie vetalt. De Wajchta gauf vää, de Komplize must noch em Vemieeeje senne. Sien Plon must woll senne, bat Morje wachte un dan ut de Puat rutsche.

Daut wia gaunz stell en de Fabrikj, soo wachte Homez un de Wajchta jeduldich, un gauwe dän Komplize Tiet entoschlope. See sochte dan heemlich fa däm Maun. Homez foljd däm Wajchta, dee de Fabrikj goot kjand. No eene lange Sieekj hieede see een wieekjet Schnoakje em Molkjenloaga. De beid jreepe dän Komplize un bunge am faust. Hee wia een groota Maun, dunkelhutich un met velumpte brune Hoa. Eene Schlange Tätowierunk vedunkeld sien linkjen Oarm. Sien Boat wia brun met waut greiwet aune Sied. Hee druach kjeene Kopp Bedakjunk, bloos een eenfacha bruna Rock. Homez naum dän Maun toom Jefenkjnis enne Staut.

Homez un Cato reiwde sikj eenje Stunden ut un Winta jinkj Viktor notoseene, dee aul bäta wia. Korz verem Morje Schemma jinje Homez, Winta un Cato toom Vestääkj vonne Stälasch. Aus see doa han kaume, jinje see däm stell erom. De Himmel wort lichta un see sage ver an eene Rieej von proste Hiesa. En de Morje Stell bekjijkte see aules. See stade opp daut Tiahock un Cato wees nom Äsel dee em

They came across the animal enclosure and Cato pointed out the donkey used in the theft. Cato next showed Homez the shed where the stolen goods were stored.

After the sky had further brightened they heard stirring in the cottages. Children began to stir and then three women emerged to cook at an outside fire. The tribe gathered for the morning meal presided over by the woman seen last night, clearly the matriarch. Three men then set off, apparently headed for work. Following a lengthy period of scolding the mothers and children retreated to their cottages. Homez signaled for a further wait. The compound was again silent, with no sign of men about.

The sun was just rising when Homez rose and swiftly approached the door of the main cottage. Here hours ago Winter had seen the woman enter after unloading the donkey. While Homez called out loudly the other two men remained under cover. A lengthy silence ensued, but then the matriarch emerged from the door.

Seeing a lone man apparently harmless the woman came outside. While no longer young she appeared healthy and still strong. Behind her wrinkled face lay strong peasant wisdom and a conniving mind. Homez motioned towards Winter and Cato and they approached with hands in plain view. The old woman held her ground, and began to relate her story.

She had married young and her husband had brought her into the wilderness onto this poor stretch of land. They had scratched out a living from the poor soil, but once children arrived the land had been insufficient. The man had found work with neighbors, bringing a slight

Deepstol jebrukt wia. Cato wees Homez de Schien, wua de jestolne Woa jeloagat worde.

Aus de Himmel aul lichte wia, hieede see de Mensche enne Hiesa oppstone. Kjinja funge aun to schriee, un dan kaume dree Frues erut, om bute een Fia to moake. De Staum vesaumeld sikj fa de Morjes Moltiet. Dee wort hääjestalt von de Fru, dee Winta un Cato de latste Nacht jeseene haude, eendietich de Oole Mutta. Dree Mana muake sikj dan auf, schienboa to de Oabeit. No eene lenjre Tiet vom Schelle trocke sikj de Muttasch un Kjinja en äare Hiesa trigj. Homez tieekjend fa eene wiedre Wachtiet. Daut Vemieeje wia wada stell, one Aundiedunk von Mana.

De Sonn stunt krakjt opp, aus Homez oppstunt un rausch no de Dää vom Haupthus jinkj. Hia haud Winta Stunde verhää de Fru nom Auflode vom Äsel jeseene nengone. Homez roopt nu lud, wäarent de aundre beid en Vestääkj bleewe. Eene lange Stell foljd, oba dan kaum de Oole Mutta to de Dää.

Aus see bloos een eensomen Maun to seene kjrieech, dee schienboa oschuldich wia, kaum de Fru rut. Wäarent see nich mea junk wia, schiend see noch jesunt un stoakj to senne. Hinja äa foldichet Jesecht lach eene selfstendje Woarheit un een stoakja Jeist. Homez tieekjend to Winta un Cato un see kaumen noda. De oole Fru stunt stell un funk aun äare Jeschicht to vetale.

See haud sikj junk befriet un äa Maun haud äa en de Wieste opp disen oamen Strakj Launt jebrocht. See haude een Läwe ut däm oamen Boddem jekrauzt, oba sooboolt see Kjinja jehaut haude, wia daut Launt nich jenuach jewast. De Maun haud Oabeit met Nobasch

improvement to their lives.

A busy road lay some miles away along which rich travelers passed, proudly showing off their wealth. Many of these travelers were far from home and headed for a distant destination. Often they traveled alone, unaware of danger. To relieve them of some of their excess burden was a sore temptation. For years her husband had yielded to this temptation with tragic results in the end. Caught in the act and unable to pay restitution, he had been sold into slavery and was never seen again.

“I now have three good daughters and one bad son,” the matriarch concluded. “My daughters are married, living with me in this compound. Their husbands are good men, who find honorable work with neighbors and in the nearby town. My daughters are good women who raise their children according to the teachings of the Law and the Prophets. But all our life has been a struggle, for we are Samaritans.”

Homez now asked permission to look over the compound and they moved to the enclosure holding the brown donkey. Homez asked whether the donkey had acquired those festering back sores carrying packages of cheese. The matriarch stared at Homez in silence. They next headed for the shed holding the stolen goods. A virtual treasure trove was found here. Homez pointed to a set of scrolls and asked whom those belonged to. They spotted a blue robe and a rucksack filled with silver ornaments. On one wall the shelves were filled with packages of cheese.

“You mentioned that you have one bad son,” Homez now said to the matriarch. “Can you describe him to us? Is he a tall dark-skinned man with a brown and grey beard? Does his

jefunge un haud eene leichte Vebätrunk fa äa Läwe jebrocht.

Eene beläwde Gaus lach een poa Miel auf, un opp dee kaume rikje Reisende vebie, dee Stolt äa Rikjdom beweese. Väle von dise Reisende wiere wiet von Hus un jinje to eenem wiet auf Ziel. Foaken reisde see auleen, onbewust vonne Jefoa. An een beskje Lod aufnäme, wia eene groote Vesieekjunk. Joarelank haud äa Maun to dise Vesieekjunk jefolle, met een truarichen Schluss aum Enj. Hee wort en de Dot jefange, kunn de Strof nich betole, un wort enne Sklowarie vekoft un nie wada jeseene.

“Ekj hab nu dree goode Dajchta un eenen schljachten Sän,” säd nu de Oole Mutta. “Miene Dajchta sent befriet un wone met mie en dit Vemieeeje. Äare Ehemana sent goode Mana, dee met de Nobasch un en de no Jeläajne Staut ierenvolle Oabeit finje. Miene Dajchta sent goode Frues, dee äare Kjinja no däm Lia vom Jesaz un de Profeete opptrakje. Oba ons gaunzet Läwe es een schwoara Kauf, wiels wie Samarita sent.”

Homez fruach nu fa de Erlaubnis, daut Vemieeeje derchtosieekje, un see trocke toom Hock, wua de bruna Äsel stunt. Homez fruach, aus de Äsel de kjietaje Rigjewunde von Pakskje Kjees toojeieejent haud. De Oole Mutta glotst Homez aun oba säd nuscht. See fuare wieda no de Schien, wua see daut Jestolnet vestoake haude. Homez wees opp eene Rieej von Schreftrolle un fruach, wäm dee jehieede. See sage een bleiwet Kjeet un eenen Rigjesak met selwane Schmucksache. Opp eene Waunt wiere de Jestale met Kjeespakskje runtvoll.

“See habe erwänt, daut see eenen schljachten Sän habe,” säd Homez nu to de oole Mutta. “Kjenne see ons am beschriewe? Es hee een groota dunkelhuticha Maun met eenem

left arm bear a red serpent tattoo? Where is he now? Do you have any other children, and where are they now?"

The matriarch did not reply to Homez' question but gently recited a verse from the Scriptures, "Whoever despises his neighbor is a sinner, but blessed is he who is generous to the poor."

She then asked if Homez had made an arrest. Homez refused to answer, but quoted some verses of his own. "The integrity of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them," he said. "Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out."

Homez collected the scrolls of the Levite and the property of Victor and a few samples from the factory. On arrival at the inn he first returned the property of the Levite. The Levite demanded that action be taken according to the law. Homez pointed out that the goods had not been stolen, instead abandoned, and had been restored in undamaged condition. Homez next went to look up Victor. He was up from his bed and waiting for the arrival of his people. They were bringing him fresh clothing, money, and would take care of him. He expressed delight on seeing his blue robe and rucksack. The robe was dirty, stained with blood and soil, but the inn keeper promised to see to its washing. The purse was restored, but the money was missing.

Victor fumed with anger when advised that the robber had not been found. He asked Homez to continue the investigation until the culprit was arrested. Homez mentioned that he was working on another case involved theft, and that the culprit was in the lock-up. "It is

brunen un greiwen Boat? Haft sien linkja Oarm eene Rode Schlange Tätowierunk? Wua es hee nu? Habe see noch aundre Kjinja un wua sent dee nu?"

De Oole Mutta gauf Homez nich Auntwuat, oba spruak saunft eenen Varsch von de Schrefte: "Wäa sienen Näakjsten veachtet, es een Sinda, oba jesääjent es hee, dee de Oamen friejäwrich es."

See fruach dan, aus Homez wäm Jefange jenome haud. Homez stiepad sikj Auntwuat to jäwe, spruak oba siene ieejne Varzh. "De Truheit von de Jerachte fiet an, oba de Bieejunk von de Verodasch vestieet an," säd hee, "Wäa en de Opprechtichkheit waundelt, jeit secha; oba wäa en vekjieede Wäaj waundelt woat utjefunge woare."

Homez saumeld de Rolle vom Levite un de Sache von Viktor un een poa Proowe von de Fabrikj. Bie de Aunkunft em Gausthus kjieed hee toiescht de Sache vom Levite trigj. De Levite foddad, daut de Haundlunk nom Jesaz jetroffe sull. Homez wees doaropp han, daut de Woare nich jestole wiere, sonda aufjējäft, un en onbeschädichten Toostaunt trigjjejäft wiere. Homez jinkj dan no Viktor. Hee wia von sien Bad opp un wacht opp de Aunkunft von siene Lied. See wudde am fresche Kjleeda un Jelt brinje. Hee freid sikj äwa sien bleiwet Kjleet un däm Rigjesak. Daut Kjleet wia enjeschwient, met Bloot un leed jeforwe, oba de Gaustwieet vespruak, daut et jewosche senne wudd. De Jeltbiedel wort wada häajestalt, oba daut Jelt fäld.

Viktor schumd fa Wutt, aus hee hieed, daut de Reiba nich jefunge wia. Hee foddad Homez opp, wiedatosieekje, bat de Jewaulteewa faustjenome wia. Homez säd, daut hee eenen aundren Faul von Deepstol haud, un daut de Jewaulteewa em Jefenkjnīs wia. "Daut es

possible that the same thief committed both crimes,” Homez said. “Come and see if you recognize the prisoner.”

Homez lead the way to the lock-up. Victor hobbled painfully, but was eager to cooperate. At the lock-up the guard stopped them outside. The prisoner’s brother was visiting, having brought food and water. Victor found a chair as he was already winded. The prisoner’s brother emerged and in embarrassment sought to slip by unnoticed.

But Victor instantly shouted, “Come here, Sir. Thank-you for rescuing me. I wish to reward you. Anything within my means, it will be granted.” They entered the lock-up and Victor now identified the prisoner as the robber. Victor's face darkened later when he heard the request made by his rescuer.

When Homez met Clawson that evening he cajoled him into seeking a conditional release of the prisoner. The next morning Homez' party departed for Tiberias, where a new case was already waiting for Homez.

määjlich, daut deeselwja Stäla beid Vebräakje aunjegone haft,” säd Homez. “Komm met un saj mie, auf du dän Jefangnen kjanst.”

Homez leid Viktor toom Jefenkjnis. Viktor jinkj lom met Weedoag, oba wia reed met to moake. Biem Jefenkjnis hilt de Wajchta an bute opp. De Brooda vom Jefangna, dee Äte un Wota jebrocht haud, besocht am krakjt nu. See funge een Stool fa Viktor aus see wachte. De Brooda vom Jefangna dukt dan opp un vesocht onbemoakjt vebie to schluwe.

Oba Viktor schrieech oppe Städ: “Komm häa, mien Har. Dankscheen fa de Radunk. Ekj mucht die beloone. Aulet en mien Meddel, woa ekj die jäwe.” See jinje em Jefenkjnis un Viktor betieekjend nu dän Jefangnen aus de Reiba. Lota vedunkeld Viktor sien Jesecht, aus hee de Bedd von sienem Rada hieed.

Aus Homez Klose zeowes troff, betobbad hee am, eene bedinjde Frielotunk vom Jefangna to sieekje. Aum näakjsten Morje fua Homez siene Grupp trigj no Tiberias, wua aul een niea Faul fa Homez wacht.

Centurion

It was early morning. Homez, Winter and Cato were on route to the coast to attend a wedding in Caesarea Maritima. Homez' niece Emily had preceded them some days ago, and Winter's son Alexander was on route to the seaside capital to meet them there. The bride was a friend of Emily while the groom a colleague of Alexander. The wedding would be a major highlight in their lives.

The three had left an inn on the Jesreel valley early in the morning. The sun was to their left as Cato guided the chariot along the Via Romana, Homez and Winter hanging on at the corners. An Agricola now appeared ahead, and a while later the ancient fortress of Megiddo. The 6th Roman Legion had their quarters here. The Legion was in camp, resting from a campaign in the east.

"The Legion has taken choice land for their territory," Homez proclaimed. "Observe the abundant harvest ripening in the fields. There is no better land in Galilee." The fortress loomed to the right on an adjacent hill. Governing an empire required sturdy troops who marched best on a full stomach, and these waving fields of barley and wheat would keep them going.

Presently the party passed a detail of Roman soldiers, resting after a rigorous march. The soldiers were in battle gear, clad in metal helmets, breast shields, and leg guards. With lances, cutlasses, and pickaxes at ready the men were outfitted for a skirmish. These were strong solid men who were in excellent condition from lengthy rigorous training. Cato slowed the chariot down as they approached a Centurion, the commander of the men. He

Centurion

Daut wia tiedich zemorjes un Homez, Winta un Cato fuare toom Mäaeewa, to eene Kjast en Caesarea Maritima. Homez siene Nicht Emily wia ver eenje Doag verutjegone, un Alexander de Sän von Winta wia uk oppem Wajch to de reemische Hauptstaut, om an doa to trafe. De Brut wia eene Frindin von Emily, un de Briegaum een Kolleg von Alexander. De Kjast wudd een wichtichet Erieejnis en äarem Läwe senne.

De drie haude aum frieen Morje een Gausthus em Jesreel Dol velote. De Sonn wia no links, aus Cato dän Woage velenjd de Via Romana fua. Homez un Winta muste sikj aunstrenje nich rauftofaule aus hee rom de Akje prald. Een Agricola dukt nu vääre opp, un een Stootje lota kaume see to de oole Stalunk von Megiddo. De 6. Reemische Legion haud äa Kwatia hia. De Legion wia em Loaga un rud ut no eene Kampanje em Ooste.

"De Legion haft daut baste Launt en de Jääjent jenome," säd Homez. "Kjikjt bloos de rikje Arnt, woont oppe Felda riep woat. Daut jeft kjeen bätret Launt en Galiläa." De Stalunk stunt biesied een Hempel aun de rajchte Sied. Een grootet Rikj to beharsche, brukt stoakje Truppe, dee aum baste met een vollem Moage marschieede, un dise rikje Felda von Joascht un Weit kunne an stoakj hoole.

Boolt fuare de drie eene Grupp von reemische Soldote vebie, dee no hoadet Marschiere nu sikj vereiwe. De Soldote wiere en Schlacht Tracht jekjleet, met Metolhelme, Brostschildasch, un Beenschitze. De Mana druage uk Lanze, Schwieets un Spetzhacke un soo wiere see fa een Schermetzel utstefieet. Daut wiere stoakje, forsche Mana, dee en gooden Toostaunt von eene jrintliche Bildunk wiere. Cato gauf nu metem Woage no,

was taller than his mates, rigidly upright, with a square but intelligent face. Laurel leaves decorated his tunic. He was respectfully addressed as Centurion Cornelius.

Homez confidently hailed the man, and asked about the road ahead. "Rugged hills lie before you," came the measured reply from the Centurion. "It is quiet for the moment, but this route is home to brigands. A caravan passed by some hours ago. You should soon overtake it." As Cato resumed the journey they saw the troops rise, collect their armament, and prepare to resume their march.

The road had been arrow straight since the Jesreel valley but now entered broken terrain, meandering through rocky hills. Here was excellent cover for brigands. Roman Legionars were invincible on broad planes, where trained troops could exercise in rigid formation, and lunge forward at the first sign of weakness. Broken terrain, with narrow passes constricted their movement, favoring their opponents, the irregulars and outlaws. Their style of attack was free form, like a swarm of bees, best done when the enemy was isolated, where he could not use his formation.

Rounding a corner Winter now saw the caravan that the Centurion had mentioned. It was laboring up an incline, in straggling order. Cato slowed down, giving relief to their team of horses. The braying of donkeys, mules and camels now beset them. Cato looked at Homez but he merely shrugged. They were trapped behind the caravan in this narrow pass with no chance of overtaking. Cato drove for some tiring moments behind the caravan,

aus see sikj eenem Centurion nodade, de Kommandaunt von de Mana. Hee wia jrata aus siene Mana, stiew opprecht, met eenem veakauntjet, oba schneiwet Jesecht. Luabääbläda putzte sien Rock ut. Hee wort respakjtvoll aus Centurion Kornelius aunjerät.

Homez roopt dän Maun toovesechtlich aun un fruach am nom Wajch. "Schroffe Hempel ligje no väare," kaum de jemätne Auntwuat vom Centurion. "Daut es stell fa nu, oba opp disem Wajch wone väl Baundiete. Eene Karawan es ver eene Stund veropp jegone. Du sust de boolt äwahole." Aus Cato wada loos sad, stunde de Truppe aul opp, saumelde äa Kjrichsjescher un muake sikj reed, wieda to marschiere.

De Gaus derch däm Jesreel Dol wia jlikj aus een Feil jewast, oba nu kaume see to een Jebiet, wua de Wajch derch steenaje Hempel schlenjeld. Hia gauf daut Launt väastonenda Bedakj fa Baundiete. De reemische Legionäre wiere opp plaute Städe nich äwatomajchte, wua utjebilde Truppe en stiewe Jeschekje uteewe kunne, un bie de ieeschte Aundiedunk von Schwakheit no väare gone kunne. Jebroaknet Jebiet, met schmaule pause veenjde äare Ordnunk, bejensicht äare Jääjnasch, de Onräajelmässje un Baundiete. Äa Aunfaulsstil wia soo aus een Biee Schwoarm, aum baste fa een isolieeta Fient, dee nich aus ne Grupp kjamfe kunn.

Aus see lotta om eene Akj kaume sach Winta de Karawane, dee de Centurion erwänt haud. Dee jinkj jrod een Boajopp langsam enopp, en vestreide Ordnunk. Cato lot nu no un gauf de Pieed een Stootje Lindrunk. Jebrell von Äsels, Multiere un Kameele wia nu to hiere. Cato kijkt Homez aun, oba hee rukst bloos de Schulasch. See wiere en disem enja Derchgank hinja de Karawan jefange, one Jelääajenheit dee to äwahole. Cato fua fa eenje

rocky outcrops restricting him to the narrow roadway.

Presently the caravan passed the bottleneck, and the roadway widened. Low hills lay on the sides, covered with boulders and low bushes. Homez and Cato stiffened as they viewed terrain providing perfect cover for ambush. Within minutes their fears were realized. A trumpet sounded and then dozens of men leaped up from their cover shouting fiercely. Compared to the troops down the road, these men were a pale shadow. They wore leather helmets, if at all, and no body armor. Ragged tunics covered their bodies. These were the outcasts of the nation, the deserters and the malcontents, who earned a pitiful existence preying on wayfarers. In moments the motley assembly had come charging forward, screaming madly, and striking terror into the caravan.

The brigands directed their charge at the caravan's vanguard which held for some moments but then wilted. The rear and center had already turned, every man for himself, racing away from the approaching demons. The chase was on. The vanguard, despite its best effort to escape, was blocked by the slower civilians in the caravan, and was forced to turn and fight. At the first sight of the outlaws Cato had brought the chariot to a halt and made a swift turn. They were lightly armed, not in a position to repulse the attackers.

"The odds are against us, we must summon help," Homez shouted. Cato complied and rushed the chariot back to the Centurion's

aunstrenjende Momente hinja de Karawane. Biesied wiere steenaje Oppschlusse, dee an opp de schmaule Foabon bejrenste.

Nu haud de Karawan daut Budelhauts passieet un de Foabon wort breedada. Läaje Hempel lage aun de Siede, met jebroakne Felse un läaje Bescha bedakjt. Homez un Cato worde stiew, aus see daut Jebiet jeneiw bekjijkte. Dit gauf de neiwste Dakjunk fa een Aunjreff. Benna weinje Minute wort äare Angst vewerkjlicht. No een Trompeete Klommua trocke Mana bie de Dutz von äarem Dakjssel ut, un schrieetje rietent. Em ver äwareen to de Truppen trigj oppe Gaus wiere dise Mana een blaussa Schaute. Wan äwahaupt, druage see ladane Helme, un kjeene Kjarpa Paunsa Sache. Zakje Waums bedakjte äare Kjarpa. Daut wiere de Utjestade vonne Nazion, de Utretzasch un de Ontofrädne, dee Waundra un Piljasch raupte. En weinje Minnute kaum de Vesaumlunk rut, rand verwoaz met wutja Jeschrech, un brocht een grooten Schrakj en de Karawan.

De Baundieten rechte äa Aunjreff aun de Vähaupt von de Karawane, dee fa een Stootje hilt, oba dan schwak wort. De Hinjare un daut Meddelpunkt haude sikj aul jedreit, enjieda Maun fa sikj selfst, dee von de doanaun komende Beese Jeista wajchrade. De Jacht wia opp. De Vähaupt, trotz äare baste Bemieejunk to entkome, wort von de langsamre Ziviliste en de Karawan oppjehoole un wia jedwunge, sikj to wenje un to kjamfe. Biem ieeschten Aunblekj von de Baundiete haud Cato dän Woage toom Stellstone jebrocht, un dan dän schwind omjewonge. See wiere leicht bewaufnet, un kunne de Aunjriepasch nich trigjdriewe.

"De Schanse sent jääjen ons, wie motte Help roope," schrieech Homez. Cato erfeld dän Orda, un fua dän Woage trigj to de Mana vom

men behind them.

Cato had turned a single corner when they came upon them. The Legionars had heard the clamor and now were coming in full steam forward. Cato made a second turn. He raced the chariot back eager to enter the fray, now that the odds were more even. Their chariot reached the battleground, and they were encouraged with a changed condition. The vanguard and troopers of the caravan had taken heart and held the line. They were now returning blow for blow, sorely pressing the brigands.

The arrival of the Legionars turned an even skirmish into a rout. Chanting their own battle cry and racing in formation they struck terror into the outlaws. A few brigands tried to disengage and then the whole mass took to their heels. The better training of the professionals now was seen. Those outlaws not dispatched outright were collared with nets and brought back in shackles. Confused fighting continued for some time before order was restored. The travelers counted their losses, while the Legion's medics provided bandages for the wounded. Cato now sought to resume the interrupted journey, as Caesarea remained the night's destination, but was stymied.

A prisoner round-up now began around them. A rough enclosure was fashioned and captured outlaws roughly thrown inside. Legionars and caravan guards worked closely together. Homez, Winter and Cato watched the proceedings, grateful at their escape from danger. Presently caravan guards approached and eyed the trio with suspicion. Not recognizing them as caravan members they

Centurion hinja an.

Cato haud bloos eene Akj jedreit, aus see opp dee aul kaume. De Legionäre haude daut Jeschrech jehieet un kaume nu en vollem Gank. Cato wenjd om toom tweeden Mol. Hee prold dän Woage trigj, om däm Kaumf to beträde, nu, daut de Schanse jlikja wiere. Äa Woage errieekjt daut Schlachtfelt, un see worde met eenem veendaden Toostaunt ermooticht. De Väahaunt un de Soldote von de Karawane haude Hoat jenome un de Lienje jehoole. See gauwe nu Stuks fa Stuks, un drekjte de Reibasch drinjet trigj.

De Aunkunft von de Legionäre wakjseld een jlikjen Kaumf to eene wilde Flucht von de Baundiete. De Legionäre roopte äa ieejnet Schlacht Klommua un aus see en Formazion aunkaume schluage see groote Angst en de Baundiete. Een poa Baundiete vesochte sikj to leese un dan jinkj de gaunze Mauss opp de Hake. De bätre Bildunk von de Fachlied wort nu to seene. De Baundiete, dee nich derchjestekjt worde, worde met Nats toopjebrocht un en Henjspaunsels trigjebrocht. Daut Kaumf duad bloos ne korte Tiet, ea Orda trigjebrocht wort. De Reisende vonne Karawan schazte äa Veluss, wäarent de Doktasch von de Legionäre Wundbinje fa de Vewundete leewade. Cato socht nu de vetrokne Reis wada opptonäme, wiels Caesarea daut Ziel fa de Nacht bleef. Hee wort oba oppjehoole.

Een Toopbrinje von Jefangne opp daut Schlachtfelt funk nu aun. Een growa Hock wort jebut, un Jefangne grow nenn jeschowe. Legionäre un Karawan Wajchtasch schaufte enj toop. Homez, Winta un Cato beluade daut omgone, dankboa fa äare Flucht von de Jefoa. De Karawan Wajchtasch kaume nu noda un bekjijkte de dree met Mestru. See erkjande an nich aus Metjlida, un brochte an nom Hock.

herded them inside the enclosure. Homez protested loudly, stating that he was a Roman citizen. When he forcefully proclaimed his profession a Legionar went to call the Centurion. The intercession was to no avail. Homez' transport was confiscated, and the three were added to the captives.

Shackled and closely watched the prisoners were marched to the Roman camp. Homez, Winter and Cato hurried along, keeping pace with the guards to avoid beatings. They had suffered no injury in battle and wished to remain whole if they could. The brigands showed no comradery, the injured ones forced to cope as best they could.

It was several hours before they reached the camp's stockade. Homez, Winter and Cato were in better condition and provided some assistance to those faltering at the end. The stockade was at some distance from the main camp, which was large and of permanent construction. The prisoners were herded into an ancient system of stone buildings, which provided only rough shelter. As newcomers they struggled for breathing space in the overcrowded conditions. Misery abounded here, but having been relieved of his medical bag there was little that Winter could do.

"In my four years as a Legionar I did not see the inside of a prisoner stockade," Homez remarked. "When returned to camp from a March I resided on the Via Principale of the camp, in comfortable officers quarters." Before he had carried a rod to exact punishment, and had never felt the pain of the other end. Homez now resumed his loud protests and uttered threats to pressure the guards for an early interrogation. By early evening they were called out and faced a tribune, the officer in charge of the camp for the day.

Homez stald sikj lud jääjenaun un stald faust, daut hee een reemischa Birja wia. Aus hee jewaultich sienen Beroop bekaunt muak, jinkj een Legionär dän Centurion to roope. Daut Kloage wia one Erfolg. Homez sien Transport wort wajchjenome, un de drie worde met de Jefangne toopjebrocht.

Met Henjspaunsels bedrenjt un met de Jefangne toop worde see en daut reemische Loaga marschieed. Homez, Winta un Cato ielde sikj un hilde met de Wache Schrett, om Schlääj to vemeide. See haude em Kaumf kjeene Velazunk erleet un wulle jieren soo bliewe, wan see kunne. De Baundiete beweese kjeene Komrodie; de Velatste muste soo goot aus määjlich foadich woare.

Daut dieed miere Stunde, bat see to daut Loaga von de Legionäre kaumen. Homez, Winta un Cato wiere en eenem bätren Toostaunt, un stalde Unjastettunk fa dee, dee aum Enj schwak worde. Daut Hock wia wiet auf vom Hauptloaga, daut groot un duarhaufft wia. De Jefangne worde en een oolet Jebied von Steinbude nenjebrocht, daut bloos groffe Schutz gauf. Aus Nielinje kjamfte see fa Odemrum enne äwafelde Stow. Jaumadol wia aulawääjes, oba nodäm siene medizienische Tausch wajchjenome wort, kunn Winta weinich doone.

"En miene vea Joare aus Legionär hab ekj de Bennakaunt von eene Stockade nie jeseene," bemoakjt Homez. "Aus ekj vom Marsch nom Loaga trigjkaum, wond ekj en de Via-Principale vom Loaga, em maklichen Kwatia fa Offizia." Ea haud hee eene Stang fa Bestrofunk omjehaut, un haud niemols de Weedoag vom aundren Enj jefeelt. Homez sad nu sien ludet Kloage fuat un drekt Jedreiw ut, om de Wajchta fa een tiedjet Vehia to bemotten. Aum frieen Owent worde see jeroopt un no een Tribun jebrocht, dee fa daut

Loaga veauntwuatlich wia.

“You have consorted with outlaws, a crime that merits severe punishment,” the officer pronounced. “You will be kept in the stockade for execution, or for transport to the quarries.” Homez insisted on seeing Centurion Cornelius, whom he described with enough technical detail to identify himself as a former Legionar. That gentleman in time made an appearance.

Winter could now see Centurion Cornelius more closely, and was impressed by his ramrod erectness and the haughty look in his face. Homez angrily described his case advising that important dignitaries were awaiting his arrival in Caesarea Maritima this evening. Cornelius listened to Homez’ story with an impassive face, and then asked Homez about his current profession. Somewhat puzzled Homez gave a summary of his record. The Centurion turned without comment and departed. Soon the three were called out and released. Standing before them at the gate was Centurion Cornelius.

The Centurion asked them to accompany him to a nearby canteen. In a boisterous room he shouted an order for drinks. Turning to Homez he said that he had an urgent personal problem and needed help. Homez realized that he was not facing a request here, as he was dealing with a powerful man. He wondered what type of problem could frustrate a Centurion.

The Centurion bluntly stated that the problem he faced concerned a family member outside the camp. Homez listened with seeming indifference, but braced himself, expecting a

“Du hast met Baundiete toop jewoakjt. Daut es een Vebräakje, daut eene strenje Strof vedeent,” säd de Offizia. “Du woascht en de Stockade fa de Hanrechtunk jechoole woare, ooda fa Transport toom Steenbräakje.” Homez bestunt doaropp, dän Centurion Kornelius to seene, dän hee met jenuach technische Eenzelheite beschreef, om sikj aus jewäsna Legionär faust to stale. Dis Har met de Tiet kaum dan toom Vehia.

Winta kunn nu dän Centurion Cornelius kloara seene, un wia von siene stiewe Stalunk un sien huach mootjen Blekj beendrukt. Wuttich, beschreef Homez sienen Faul, daut wichtiche Beamte opp siene Aunkunft en Caesarea Maritima vondoag Owent wachte. Kornelius hieed de Jeschicht von Homez met een onverieedet Jesecht, un fruach Homez dan no sien jäajenwuaticha Beroop. Met korte Wieed, gauf Homez eene Oppfotunk von siene Oabeit. De Centurion dreid sikj one Bemoakjunk om un jinkj erut. Boolt worde de dree jeroopt un dan frijelote. See vefieede sikj biem Puat; doa stunt de Centurion Kornelius.

De Centurion loot an en, to eene Kantine dichtbie. En een stormichet Rum schrieach hee eenen Befäl fa Jedrenkje. Hee dreid sikj no Homez, un säd, hee haud een drinjendet perseenlichet Probleem, un brukt Help. Homez erkjand, daut hee sikj hia nich eene eenfache Froag toohieed, wiels hee hia met eenem majchtjen Maun haundelt. Hee fruach sikj, woone Oat Probleem een Centurion vehindren kunn.

De Centurion stald faust, daut daut Probleem, daut hee jäajenäwa haud, een Famielje Metjlied buta vom Loaga betroff. Homez hieed met schienboare Jlikjeltichkeit too, oba docht

long pleasant conversation followed by a sudden violent climax.

“Ten years ago I married a local woman, Francesca,” Cornelius began. “She was the daughter of a village chief in the hills to the south. A son was born to us, and then the Legion went on campaign. I returned a year later and found that Francesca had returned to her village with our child. I have seen neither since, causing me great heartache.”

“After the recent disturbances a punitive expedition was sent out into those hills. While not a part of that campaign I heard that the action was bloody and that my wife’s village was hit. I am worried about her safety and want to know if she survived. This year I am Primus Pilus, and this stops me from making direct enquiries myself. As a civilian you have the freedom to travel. Searching for Francesca will have its dangers, but I feel certain that a former Legionar will fulfill his duty. He will return and report about a successful completion of his mission.”

“Concerning your upcoming engagement in Caesarea Maritima I will dispatch a messenger citing the reason for your delay. The explanations given will lead to full understanding by your party. When you are ready to depart I will provide resources that will ensure a successful mission. Do consider the matter now.”

The Centurion stepped out and they finished their drinks. They looked at each other in dismay, recalling that in the morning they had hopes of attending a joyous wedding. Instead, they had run headlong into life-threatening

bie sikj daut see een langet aunjenämet Jespräakj toohiere wudde, jefolcht von eenem dollen Huach Punkt.

“Ver tieen Joare befried ekj mie met eene hiesje Fru, Francesca,” säd Kornelius. “See wia de Dochta von een Darp Heiptlinj en de Hempels em Siede. Een Sän wort ons jebuare, un dan jinkj de Legion opp eene Kampanje. Aus ekj een Joa lota trigj kaum must ekj hiere, daut Francesca met onsem Kjint en äa Darp trigjegone wia. Ekj hab de beid nie wada jeseene; daut haft mie schwoa jetroffe.”

“No de jinjste Stierunge wort eene Strof Expedition en dise Hempel jeschekjt. Ekj jehieed nich to dise Kampanje oba wort en, daut de Kauf blootich wia un daut daut Darp von miene Fru jetroffe wort. Ekj moak mie Sorje om äare Sechaheit un mucht weete, aus see daut äwaläft haft. Dit Joa sie ekj Primus Pilus, un daut helt mie doavon auf, selbst gone utkundje. Aus Zivilist hab jie de Frieheit to reise. De Sieekj no Francesca woat jefädlich senne, oba ekj sie mie secha, daut een jewäsna Legionär trigjkome woat un eenem gooden Erfolg en siene Mission berechte.”

“En Betrafs opp äare Mietinj en Caesarea Maritima woa ekj eenen Bootschofta schekje, dee dän Grunt fa jun schluare jäwe woat. De Erkjläarunk woat toom volstendichen Vestentnis to june Grupp leide. Wan du reed best to gone, woa ekj seene daut de Meddel reed stone, dee eene Mission met gooden Erfolg secha stale woare. Besenn die nu äwa de Sach, un lota woa wie wada räde.”

Der Centurion jinkj rut un see drunke äare Jläsa ladich. See sage sikj met Veläajenheit aun un erinade sikj, daut zemorjes see jehopt haude, no eene scheene Kjast to foare. Aunstaut wiere see en bedroende Jefoa

danger. Homez spoke quickly to Cato, asking about his state of affairs, and requesting his help on an assignment clearly beyond the call of duty. Homez next turned to Winter who assured him of his support. Homez sat back then, with eyes closed, seeking to get a full view of the situation.

“There is more to the story than the Centurions is admitting,” the three suddenly heard from a tipsy man at a nearby table. “Although the Centurion joined the Legion for adventure he is seeking citizenship from the empire, and needs an honorable discharge. He is himself a local man, and is under intense observation. He cannot run foul of regulations. But there is another more important matter, more important than a woman and a child. The brother of the Centurion is a peddler in the hills who supplies his customers with many products. Some of his customers are outlaws, and some of his products are weapons.”

“The Legion is seeking the whereabouts of his brother. The Centurion desires the brother removed from the area, alive if possible. This may take more than persuasion. That man has a passion, and it is not for Romans. He will oppose any project that will bring comfort to the Centurion.” Homez judged the words were said with little conviction, and wondered whether some were said with spite, or all of them.

Their spontaneous informant had left by the rear exit before the Centurion returned. The Centurion asked them to come out, and there stood their chariot and horses as before. Winter was gratified that his medical bag was returned with the rest of the property. The three looked with new eyes at the Centurion.

jerode. Homez spruak schwind to Cato, fruach no siene Omstende, un foddad siene Help met een Oppdrach, daut dietlich bowenäwa siene Flicht jinkj. Homez räd dan to Winta, dee am von siene Unjastettunk vesechad. Homez sad sikj dan met jeschlotne Uage trigj un docht de Sach jrıntlich derch.

“Daut jeft mea to de Jeschicht, aus de Centurion toojeft,” hieede de dree oppeenst von eenem bedrunken Maun aun eenem Desch dichtbie. “Oppwool de Centurion sikj de Legion aunschloot om een Jewoagde Läwe to habe, sieekjt hee de Stauts Birjschoft un brukt een ierenvollet Entlote vonne Legion. Hee es selfst een Einheima un steit unja iewaje Beobacht. Hee kaun kjeene Väaschrefte velaze. Oba daut jeft noch eene aundre wichtiche Aunjeläajenheit, wichticha aus eene Fru un een Kjint. De Brooda vom Centurion es een Pedla en de Hempel, dee siene Kunde met väle Produkte goot besorcht. Mank siene Kunde sent Vebaunde, un mank siene Produkte sent Jewäare.”

“De Legion well daut Vebliew von sien Brooda finje. De Centurion wenscht dän Brooda ut däm Jebiet, läwendich, wan mäajlich. Daut kaun mea aus Uadeel brucke. Dis Maun haft eene Liedenschoft, un daut es nich fa de Reemasch. Hee woat sikj jäajen jiedret Projekjt kjemre, daut däm Centurion maklich moakt.” Homez docht daut de Wieed met weinich Uadeel jesajcht worde wiere, un fruach sikj, aus dee nich ut Niedatrajchtichkjeit staudme.

Äa klaupoaticha Informant wia biem hinjrem Utgank rutjegone ea de Centurion trigjkaum. De Centurion bat an, eruttokome, un doa stunt äa Woage un äare Pieed. Winta wia froom, daut siene medizienische Tausch met äare aundre Sache trigjjejäft wort. De dree kjikjte met nieen Respakjt toom Centurion. Homez säd too, de

Homez agreed to take the commission but requested permission to ask a few questions.

Kommission auntonäme, oba wull ieescht een poa Froage stale.

“Before setting out on the mission I need a set of clear instructions,” Homez said. “You have mentioned the search for your wife Francesca and your son. What exactly is your expectation about them, and besides this, do you have other objectives?”

“Ea ekj de Mission aurfange kaun, bruck ekj eenen kloaren Befäl,” säd Homez. “Du hast de Sieekj no diene Fru Francesca un dienem Sän erwänt. Waut krakjt es dien Velange äwa an, un butadäm blift doa noch waut to doone?”

The Centurion glared around angrily, wanting to search out the teller of tales. The merriment around them continued, and in clear conscience, all avoided his gaze. The Centurion then answered Homez. “You have come from Tiberias, you have stated,” he said. “Beyond Tiberias, a half day’s journey lies Capernaum, a town on the north shore of the Sea of Tiberias. My country villa is in that town. If Francesca and my son live, then bring them safely to Capernaum where servants will receive them. Should you locate my brother, Timaeus, a man who bears the same tattoos as I, you should order him to leave the country. He is to return to his uncle’s household in Judea.”

De Centurion glotst wuttich erom un wull dän Vetala utsieekje. De Lostichkheit om an sad sikj fuat, un en eenem kloaren Jewesse vemeede aule sienen Blekj. De Centurion auntwad dan Homez. “Du best von Tiberias jekome, hast du jesajcht,” säd hee. “Jantsied von Tiberias licht opp eene haulfdoagje Reis Kapernaum, eene Staut aum nuadlichen Eewa vom Tiberias See. Mien Kuta es en dise Staut. Wan Francesca un mien Sän noch läwe, dan brinj an secha no Kapernaum, wua miene Deenasch an oppnäme woare. Sust du mienen Brooda, Timäus, finje, een Maun dee de jlikje Tätowierungen droacht soo aus ekj, sust du am befäle, daut Launt to velote. Hee saul nom Hus vom Onkel en Judäa trigjgone.”

“Only the locals are familiar with the paths through the hills,” Homez now pointed out. “We will need a guide who can locate your wife’s village, and who knows your brother. We will need transport to take supplies for an extended journey. And we will need a pass to obtain military clearance.”

“Bloos de Einheima sent met de Wäaj derch de Hempel bekaunt,” säd Homez nu. “Wie brucke eenen Fiera, dee daut Darp von diene Fru finje kaun un wäa dien Brooda kjant. Wie brucke Transport, om Väarot fa eene lange Reis näme. Un wie brucke eenen Pauss, om millitäärische Erlaubnis kjreee.”

“A guide will be at your inn in the morning,” the Centurion replied. “He will bring a pass and satisfy your other requests. You can hire or purchase whatever transport and supplies that you need. I will now send the message to Caesarea Maritima. Report to me in a week at the latest.”

“Een Fiera woat en dien Gausthus Morje zemorjes senne,” auntwad de Centurion. “Hee woat een Pauss brinje un diene aundre Wensche befrädje. Du kaust pachte ooda kjeepe, waut Transport un Väarot, daut du brukst. Ekj woa nu de Norecht no Caesarea Maritima schekje. Mald mie aum lotsten en eene Wäakj.”

Homez, Winter and Cato then took their transport and as the hour was late returned to the inn which they had left in the morning. It was a gloomy ride, but Homez did not descend into despair at this unlucky turn of events. At the inn Homez made the necessary arrangements with the inn keeper. Their transport was useless in the hills and would be left here. In the morning they would hire mules and buy supplies for the ride into the hills. Winter meanwhile renewed the supplies in his medical bag, stocking up for all emergencies.

Early next morning the guide arrived as promised. He was a practical, sturdy man who said he was as a former military man. He introduced himself as Galeo and said that he was a cousin of Francesca. He had been born in the hills, and returned to them every year. He had brought a military pass, which guaranteed free travel through the area. Homez immediately was at his throat for more information. "When and where was the last time you saw Francesca and her son, and how were they keeping?" he asked. "And what do you know about their current location?"

"I saw the two last winter when I returned to my native village," Galeo replied. "I went to attend my younger sister's wedding. The two came from their village, some miles away. They were bundled up with shawls and scarves in the cold, but enjoyed the festivities. I have had no other contact with them. But news about the recent punishment expedition have seeped out. Francesca's village was raided last week."

With the assistance of Galeo Homez hired mules and collected supplies for a week's journey. Homez aimed to keep the group

Homez, Winta un Cato naume dan äarem Transport, un aus de Stund lot wia fuare see trigj nom Gausthus, wua see zemorjes velote haude. Daut wia eene diestre Foat, oba Homez wia nich bie dit onjlekklichet Omkjia en Vetwiewlunk jerode. Biem Gausthus muak Homez de neediche Aunordnunge met däm Gaustwheet. Äa Transport wia nutzloos en de Hempel un wudd hia bliewe. Aum Morje wudde see Multiere pachte un Väärot fa de Foat en de Hempel kjeepe. Winta haud entweschen Väärot en siene medizienische Tausch oppjefrescht, om fa aule Nootfal reed to senne.

Aum näakjsten Morje kaum de Fiera soo aus vesproake. Hee wia een praktischa, jestukta Maun. Hee stald sikj aus Galeo vää, een jewäsna Millitää Maun, un säd, daut hee een Vada von Francesca wia. Hee wia en de Hempel jebuare un kjeed jiedat Joa trigj. Hee haud eenen Millitääpauss metjebrocht, dee an friee Foat derch de Jääjent jäwe wudd. Homez wull fuaz mea weete. "Wan un woo wia daut latste Mol, daut du Francesca un äarem Sän jeseene hast un woo wiere see?" fruach hee. "Und waut weetst du äwa äarem jääjenwuaticha Plauz?"

"Ekj sach de beid em Winta, aus ekj to mien Heimat Darp trigj jinkj," auntuwad Galeo. "Ekj wia bie de Kjast von miene jinjre Sesta. Francesca un äa Sän kaume ut äarem Darp, eenje Miel wiet auf. See worde met Schals un HaulsdiEEKja en de Kold jepinjelt, oba freide sikj opp de Zerremonee. Ekj hab kjeenen aundren Kontakt met an jehaut. Oba ekj hab de Nieichkjeite äwa de jinjste Strof Expedition jehieet. Francesca äa Darp wort latste Wääkj äwafolle."

Met de Unjastettunk von Galeo jinkj Homez nu Multiere pachte un saumeld Väärot fa ne Reis von eene Wääkj. Homez wull aum leefsten, de

mobile. All four of them were heavily armed, and did not present an easy target. Homez was relying on Galeo to keep them out of danger. By mid-morning the four were headed south-west, leaving the Roman road behind them.

The route taken by Galeo led through the poorest of countrysides. At intervals they passed decayed houses, and listless inhabitants dressed in rags. The terrain was difficult; the path became uneven and rocky. Strange markings appeared on the ground, to which Galeo and Homez nodded significantly.

Homez soon showed himself pleased with their guide who proved astute and a good source of information. From him Homez learned of the customs in these hills. The poverty of the inhabitants was a rude shock to Winter, who was accustomed to the luxuries of the planes and cities. Their struggle with poor crops, inadequate shelter, disease, hunger and danger were described by Galeo. This then was the life at the margins of the empire, where people eked out a miserable existence under a ruthless occupation.

After some hours of toiling upwards under a grilling sun they stopped to rest in the shade of ancient cedars. A spring nearby provided a pool of clear water. Homez now asked about Francesca, her marriage to Cornelius and the reason for her departure.

“Cornelius, although a Centurion in the Legion is not a Roman,” Galeo answered. “His family lives in Capernaum, but his origin is in these hills. Francesca was a stunning beauty, a blooming flower from the hills. Cornelius met her at a festival, and was immediately captivated. Francesca meanwhile found in

Grupp bewääjlich to hoole. Aule vea wiere schwoa bewaufnet un gauwe Jääjnasch kjeen leichtet Ziel. Homez wudd sikj opp Galeo velote, an vonne Jefoa to hoole. Aul Vermeddach fuare de vea nom Siedwaste un leete boolt de reemische Gaus no hinje.

De Wajch de Galeo jewält haud jinkj derch de oamste Launtschoft. To Tiede jinje see vedorwne Hiesa un onlostiche Enwonasch, dee en Kodre jekjeet wiere, vebie. Daut Jebiet wia schwierig; de Wajch wort groff un dan steenrich. Opp däm Boddem kjeeme sondaboare Tieekjen, opp de Galeo un Homez nekjkopte.

Homez wees boolt daut hee met äarem Fiera tofräd wia. Dee bewees sikj aus kluak un eene goode Kjwal fa Bescheet. Von am lied Homez von de Sitte en dise Hempel. De Oamoot von de Enwonasch wia een onheefliche Schock fa Winta, dee aun de Luksus von de jeakade Felda un Städe jewant wia. Galeo beschreef de Probleme von de Enwonasch; plätaje Arnte, nich jenuach Schutz, Krankheit, Hunga un Jefoa. Dit wia dan daut Schekjsol aum Raunt vom Rikjdom, wua Lied, unja eene rikjsichtloose Besazunk, een miseroblet Läwe dulde muste.

No eenje Stunde unja eene brennende Sonn boajopp piljre, hilde see unja oole Zeedabeem aun, sikj utreiwe. Een Borm dichtbie gauf an kloaret kjeet Wota. Homez fruach nu no Francesca, äare Ehe met Kornelius un dän Grunt fa äare Aufreis.

“Kornelius, oppwool een Centurion en de Legion es kjeen Reema,” auntwud Galeo. “Siene Famielje wont en Kapernaum, oba siene Häakunft es en dise Hempel. Francesca wia eene wundaboare Scheenheit, eene blieejende Bloom von de Hempel. Kornelius troff äa opp een Fast, un wort fuaz jebunge.

Cornelius all she could dream for; of splendid family, manly reputation, and optimism for the future.

“They had a son a year after the marriage and lived happily together. The pressure of army life weighed on them, but they met every challenge. When the Legion went on campaign, the two suffered a painful separation. They believed it would be temporary, and Francesca seemed well adjusted. On returning, Cornelius was greatly surprised that she had left town with their son and gone into the hills.”

They resumed their journey and presently heard loud resounding booms. Galeo called the small detail to a halt. He answered Homez’ silent question. “Those explosions stem from artillery strikes ahead,” he said. “A military operation has been on-going for several days. We must continue, for there is no other route to our destination. I expect that the action will be confined to a side valley, but fear that we may be challenged.”

After a brief rest they continued forward. On turning a corner they got a full view of the operation. A Roman artillery detachment was camped in a small clearing. They faced outlaws quartered in stone dwellings built among cliffs at the side of the valley. The Romans were using catapults that hurled huge rocks at the dwellings. After each report a shower of arrows came back at the Romans, showing continued defiance by the dwellers.

A further advance brought them to a Roman check-point. While waiting, they continued to observe the military operation, the assault on

Francesca entweschen funk en Kornelius aulet, waut see dreeme kunn; von harliche Famielje, menlicha Roop, un Vetrue fa de Tookunft.

“See haude eenen Sän een Joa no de Kjust un läwde jlekjlich toop. De Druck vom Läwe em Hää wuach schwoa opp an, oba see worde met aules foadich. Aus de Legion oppe Kampanje jinkj, muste de beid betre Weedoag von de Tranunk liede. See jleewde, äare Tranunk wudd mau kort diere, un Francesca schiend goot enjestalt to senne. Aus Kornelius trigjkaum wia hee sea äwarauscht, daut Francesca de Staut met äarem Sän velote haud, un trigj no de Hempel jegone wia.”

See naume äare Reis wada opp un boolt hieede ludet donre. Galeo roopt kort un de kjliene Grupp hilt opp. Hee auntwuad Homez siene stelle Froag. “Dit donre staumt von Artillerie Schosse veropp,” säd hee. “Een millitärische Ensauz es seit miere Doag em Gank. Wie motte wieda, wiels daut jeft kjeenen aundren Wajch to onsem Ziel. Ekj jleew, daut de Ensauz en een Dol aune Sied beschrenkjt es, oba fercht, daut wie erutjefoddat woare senne.”

No eene korte Pause jinje see wieda. Aus see bie eene Akj dreide kjrääje see eenen vollen Äwablekj von dän Ensauz. Eene reemische Artillerie Aufdeelunk wia en eene kjliene Schneis jeloagat. See stunde ver Baundiete dee en Steenhiesa wonde, dee unja Felse aum Sied vom Dol jebut wiere. De Reema benuzte Katapulte, de riesje Steena no de Wonunge schliesade. No jiedrem Schoss kaume Feile to de Reema trigj, un wees wieda daut Trotze von de Enwonasch.

Een wiedret verwoaz gone brocht an to eenem reemischen Kontroll Punkt. Wiel see Wachte, beluade see dän millitärischen Ensauz, dän

the tiny village with siege weapons. Despite having a strongly fortified position the outlaws faced a bleak prospect. There was no doubt about the outcome of the operation.

The group set out again as the sky began to darken. Sheltering in a cave at night Homez questioned Galeo about Cornelius and his brother. "There could be no greater contrast between two brothers," Galeo replied. "Cornelius was the first born, a big robust man, forceful and impulsive. With his entry into the Legion and rapid rise to Centurion he took the family on a path to prominence. The younger brother Timaeus was a retiring man, and a poor leader. He detested the Romans, the foreigners who had seized control and destroyed local customs. He longed for his roots, the ancient life that his people had enjoyed for centuries. The differences between them did not lead to conflict. Cornelius was on the road while Timaeus in the hills."

Early next morning they were again on the move. The trail began to narrow and incline, and then they entered a narrow gorge with looming cliffs on either side. A strong wind gusted through the narrow passage carrying a putrid smell that seemed to strengthen. Buzzards whirled overhead, and they saw others resting on the rocks above. The gorge widened and they entered a small valley surrounded by steep inclines. A disheartening view of a wrecked village lay before them. No sign of humans was seen, only buzzards feasting near the houses. They had arrived at the scene of a massacre.

The Legion had recently wiped out the entire

Aunfaul opp daut kjliene Darp met Beloagrunk Jewääre. Trotz eene stoakje Stalunk haude de Baundiete eene diestre Tookunft. Daut gauf kjeen Twiewel äwa daut Utkom von dän Ensauz.

De Grupp jinkj wieda, aus de Himmel sikj aunfunk to vedunkle. Aus see en eene Heel äwa Nacht bleewe, fruach Homez Galeo äwa Kornelius un sienen Brooda. "Daut kunn kjeenen jratren Unjascheet tweschen twee Breeda jäwe," auntwuad Galeo. "Kornelius wia de ieescht jebuarna, een groota, stoakja Maun, krauftvoll un haustich. Nodäm hee sikj de Legion aunjeschlote haud un hee schwind Centurion wort, brocht hee de Famielje Riem un Gloria. De jinjra Brooda Timäus wia een trigjtrakjenda Maun, un een schwaka Fiera. Hee kunn de Reema nich liede, de Utlenda, dee nu de Kontroll haude un de hiesje Sitte vestieede. Hee sänd sikj no siene Wartel, daut oole Läwe, daut sien Volkj seit Joahundate jeneete haud. De Unjascheet tweschen an fieed nich to Trubbel. Kornelius wia emma wiet auf, wäärent Timäus en de Hempels bleef."

Aum näakjsten Morje wiere see tiedich unjawääjes. De Wajch bejinkj sikj to verenje un boajopp to gone, un dan kaume see to eene schmaule Schlucht met dreiwende Klippe opp beid Siede. Een stoakja Wint, dee derch däm schmaulen Derchgank huscht, druach eenen vedorwnen Jeroch, dee stoakja wort. Hofkjes wirbelte äwa Kopp, un see sage, woo aundre opp de Steena bowe stunde. De Schlucht wort dan breeda un see beträde een kjlienet Dol, daut von steile Neijunge omjäft wia. Een truaricha Blekj opp een vestieedet Darp lach ver aun. Von Mensche wia nuscht to seene, bloos Hofkjes dichtbie de Hiesa. See wiere toom Plauz von eene furchtboare Schlacht aunjekome.

De Legion haud ver kortem daut jesaumte

encampment. No house stood intact. The siege they had seen yesterday, had been enacted here some days before. They conducted a search for survivors, amid ruined crops, devastated trees and wrecked houses. Galeo' face reflected the horror that surrounded them on all sides. It was the bodies of children that were the most distressing.

Canvassing the houses they found only cadavers. With heavy heart Galeo now headed for the house of Francesca. It was a ruin like the others, having suffered heavy impact. They paused at the entrance and stopped to listen. The strong smell of death marked in other buildings was not felt here. Suddenly they heard a low whimper, and then soon another. Survivors lay to the rear in the rubble!

Under a pile of crumbled masonry, they saw first arms and then the remainder of a badly injured woman covered under a layer of dust. Galeo gave a cry as he went forward. "Francesca," he cried, his voice breaking. They gathered around the woman and began to remove the rocks that entrapped her. She had bruises on her legs where a beam had fallen on her, and more bruises on her head and upper body. They prepared a litter, to lift her up, and remove her from the building. She resisted their motions, pointing to a rear corner of the room. They peered in the direction she had pointed, listening closely.

Another moan was heard and then they were sure another person lay wounded in the corner. "First take care of Marcus," Francesca now whispered. Winter motioned instructions to take Francesca out and to make her comfortable. They then returned to dig Marcus from the rubble.

Loaga utjelascht. Kjeen Hus em Darp stunt opprajcht. Waut see Jistre jeseene haude, wia hia aul Doage verhää veordnet worde. Homez siene Grupp socht nu fa Äwaläwende, mank vewiestade Beem un Kulture, un vestieede Hiesa. Galeo sien Jesecht spieejeld dän Schrakj wada, dee an von aule Siede romgauf. Daut wiere de Leiche von Kjinja, dee an aum meisten beonruijde.

Aus see de Hiesa derchsochte, funge see bloos Leiche. Met schwoarem Hoat jinkj Galeo nu opp daut Hus von Francesca. Daut wia eene Ruine, woont schwoare Stuks erleet haud. See hilde aum Engank aun, om tootohorche. De Jeroch vom Doot, dee en aundre Jebiede stoakj wia, wia hia nich to späare. Oppeenst hieede see een leiset Hiele, un dan boolt een aundret. Äwaläwende lage hinje em Wrak!

Unja eenem Klompe vebroaknet Muawoakj sage see ieescht een Oarm un dan daut Äwalei von eene schwoa velatste Fru, dee met eene Stoffschicht bedakjt wia. Galeo blood, aus hee verwoaz jinkj. "Francesca," roopt hee, met jebroakne Stemm. See vesaumelde sikj om de Fru un funge aun, de Steena wajchtonäme, dee äa jeschlenjt hilde. See haud Wunde aun äare Been, wua een Baulkje opp äa jefolle wia, un mea Wunde oppem Kopp un Bowakjarpa. See muake een Bad reed, om äa opptohäwe un vom Jebied näme. See wees oba opp eene hinjre Akj vonne Stow. See zielde doahan, un horchte too.

Een aundret Stäne kaum von doa un dan wiere see secha, daut een Mensch en de Akj vewundet lach. "Jie motte toieescht Marcus bedeene," fuscheld Francesca. Winta gauf Orda, om Francesca eruttohole un äa maklich to moake. See kjeede dan trigj, om Marcus vom Wrak to growe.

On examining Francesca, Winter found that while her limbs were sound she was weak from the lengthy exposure. Bending down to give her a drink of water he recoiled in horror. A monstrosity was formed around Francesca's face. Then it struck him, the reason for Francesca's flight from her husband to the hills. She was a leper, badly afflicted. A body once beautiful had been ravaged by the disease. When Marcus was brought out she cried out in relief. Resignation now entered her wasted face.

With her final strength, she addressed Galeo in a whisper. "Timaeus is gone," she said. "He did his best for us, but the troops caught him. He was taken together with two other villagers. The Romans tortured them in the street; their cries haunted us all night. Many years ago, when I was struck by the disease I could not face Cornelius. I returned to the hills where I was born, taking along Marcus for he had no one else. The disease has spared my child. Take him back to Cornelius."

With painful care, they took Marcus to Capernaum. He had been weak when they found him, and the long journey sapped his strength further. At the Centurion's villa in Capernaum Homez described to Cornelius their discovery of Francesca and Marcus. The Centurion then turned to Winter to ask about the condition of his son.

"He is very ill," Winter answered, not sparing his emotions. "I can not cure him. Only divine intervention could save him."

Pressing matters in Tiberias beckoned, Homez had on-going cases to tend to and Winter had his regular practice. They could not

Bie de Unjasieekjunk von Francesca funk Winta, daut see, wäarent äare Jlieda faust wiere, von daut lange Liede schwach wia. Aus hee sikj bekjt, om äa een Wotajedrenkj to jäwe, kjieed hee vefieet trigj. Een Onjeheia wia aun Francesca äa Jesecht jewosse. Dan voll am daut bie, de Grunt fa Francesca äare Flucht von äarem Maun to de Hempel. See wia eene Leprakranke. Een Kjarpa eenmol scheen wia von de Krankheit vestieet worde. Aus Marcus erutjebrocht wort, roopt see erleichtat opp. Äa velatstet Jesecht wees daut see met äa Schekjsol foadich jeworde wia.

Met äare latste Krauft fuscheld see to Galeo, "Timäus es nu wajch," säd see. "Hee haft sien Aulabastet fa ons jemoakt, oba de Truppe naume am Jefange. Hee wort met twee aundre Darpbewonasch toopjebrocht. De Reema kjwälde an oppe Gaus; wie hieede äa Schriee de gaunze Nacht. Väl Joare trigj, aus ekj von de Krankheit betroffe wia, kunn ekj daut nich dulde daut Kornelius mie soo seene wudd. Ekj jinkj to mien Darp trigj, wua ekj jebuare wia, met Marcus, wiels hee kjeenem aundrem haud. De Krankheit haft mien Kjint veschoont. Brinj am trigj no Kornelius."

Met groote Mieej naume see Marcus no Kapernaum. Hee wia schwak jewast aus see am funge, un no de lange Reis wia hee noch schwaka. En Kapernaum en Centurion siene Villa berecht Homez to Kornelius äwa äare Entdakjunk von Francesca un Marcus. De Centurion dreid dan to Winta, om am däm Toostaunt von sien Sän to froage.

"Hee es sea krank," auntuwad Winta direkjt. "Ekj kaun am nich heele. Bloos jettliche Help kaun am rade."

Wichtiche Sache wachte fa Homez en Tiberias, un Winta haud siene ieejne Paziente to besorje. See kunne hia nich vewiele. Bie

linger here. On their return they heard of a religious procession headed for Capernaum, lead by the Nazarene. In Tiberias they met Emily who had returned from the wedding in Caesarea.

“That was my highlight for the year,” she gushed to Winter. “Your son was the favorite of the single women. The bride was gorgeous, covered in rich dress and wearing costly jewels. Even Proctor Pontius Pilate and his wife Claudia Procula were in attendance.”

Two days later was the Saturnalia feast and to make up for missing the wedding Homez invited Emily and Winter for an excursion on the Sea of Tiberias. Winter met the two at the waterfront, on a beautiful sunny day. Half the town was already carousing. They walked along the seashore towards the dock to board their boat. At a distance Winter caught sight of a Roman officer and a child, and thought the man looked familiar.

“That man surely is our good friend the Centurion Cornelius,” Winter said. They watched as the child, it was a boy, pranced about like a colt in new born freedom.

“And the boy is your former patient Marcus,” Homez replied. “He is doing well, wouldn’t you say?”

ääre Trigjfoat hieede see von een relijeeset Jetrakj, daut no Kapernaum vom Nazarena jefieet wort. En Tiberias troffe see Emily, dee von de Kjast en Caesarea trigjjekome wia.

“Daut wia mien Huach Punkt vom Joa,” säd see to Winta. “Soogoa de Präfekt Pontius Pilatus un siene Fru Claudia Procula wiere doa. Dien Sän wia de Lieblinkj von aul de Frues.”

Twee Doag lota wia daut Saturnalia Fast un wiels see de Kjast vesiemt haude lod Homez Emily un Winta en, fa eene Spaziareis oppem Tiberias See. De Sonn schiend kloa aus Winta, Homez un Emily sikj biem Eewa troffe. Aus see de Wotakaunt velenjd jinje om äa Boot biem Dock to bestiee sage see väle Mensche dee aul Fast muake. Wiet auf sach Winta eenen reemischen Offizia un een Kjint un docht, dee Maun wia bekaunt.

“De Maun es secha ons gooda Frint de Centurion Kornelius,” säd Winta. See sage dan, woo daut Kjint, daut een Jung wia, soo aus een Falm en niejebuarne Frieheit romhupst.

“Un de Jung es dien jewäsna Pazient Marcus,” auntwad Homez. “Däm jeit et goot, jleewst nich uk soo?”

Multitude

The encounter of Homez with the Centurion Cornelius of Capernaum had major repercussions. When Homez did not appear at the society wedding in Caesarea Maritima and the explanation was sent by a Centurion, Homez gained fame as a master of security missions. The cure of the Centurion's son by the Nazarene shone further light on Homez. Unknown to Homez, his name shortly came to the attention of the first family in the capital.

Homez' business was thriving in Tiberias and he had recruited Winter to be his right arm. Despite their collaboration, each kept his own enterprise running, Homez his dealership of precious metals, and Winter his medical practice. Supporting their enterprise was Emily, Homez' niece. Her wide social network brought clients, and her clear vision often solved the intriguing mysteries brought to them.

The three of them met often in the garden of Homez' restored compound. On cool evenings the three would gather before dinner and discuss pressing matters of business or concerns of the nation. On quiet days they reminisced about their interesting cases. On this particular day, they discussed an extortion case which had been successfully completed.

Cato now entered to announce the arrival of a new client. Cato brought an air of informality to their operation which at times irritated their more illustrious clients. Today, Cato showed no such lightheartedness. He entered with dignity and announced the client with elaborate ceremony. A solitary figure then entered; it was clear that she was a Roman of high rank. Cato stated that she came from the

Groote Vesaumlunk

Homez siene Bejäajunk met däm Centurion Kornelius von Kapernaum haud wichtiche Trigjwirksomkjeite. Aus hee nich bie de Jemeenschoftskjast en Caesarea Maritima oppdukt un de Erkljäärunk von eenem Centurion jeschekjt wort, kjrieech Homez Rum aus Meista von Sechaheits Oppgowe. De Heelunk vom Centurion sien Sän derch dän Nazarena brocht mea Achtunk to Homez. Onbekaunt to Homez, kaum sien Nome vää enne ieeschte Famielje vonne Hauptstaut.

Homez sien Sechaheits Jeschaft haud en Tiberias jedeit, un hee haud Winta aus sien rajchta Oarm aunjestalt. Trotz äare Toopoabeit hilt enjieda sien ieejnet Unjanäme. Homez haud sien Jeschaft en Edelmetole, un Winta haud siene medizienische Praxis. Daut Jeschaft wort von Emily, Homez siene Nicht unjastett. Äa nobalichet Natwoakj brocht Kunde, un met äare kloare Ensecht kunn see foaken aunpakende Jeheemnise leese.

De dree troffe sikj foaken em Goade von Homez sien omjebuden Kuta. Aun kjeele Owents vesaumelde de dree sikj toom Owentkost un unjahilde sikj met de beroopsmässje Aunjelääjenheite vonne Nazion. Aun ruje Doag erinade see sikj aun äare intressaunte Fal. Aun disem Dach råde see von eenem Erpressunk Faul, dee met gooden Beschluss veschlote wia.

Cato kaum nu enenn un kjindicht de Aunkunft von eene niee Kund. Cato brocht Schlichtheit to äa Jeschaft, dee maunchmol äare beriemde Kunde oajad. Vondoag wees Cato kjeene soone Maklichkjeit. Hee kaum met lernst enenn un kjindicht de Kund met onhendje Zeremonie aun. Een eenselnet Jeschekj kaum dan enenn; daut wia kloa, daut see eene Reemische Fru von huage Stalunk wia.

coast, from Caesarea Maritima, and formally introduced her as Claudia Procula. This person was the wife of Pontius Pilate, the Proctor of Judea.

When Claudia entered the three rose, and watched in hushed silence as she assumed her seat. The wife of Pilate was still young, a striking woman with a fine elongated face, a classic roman nose, and dark haunting eyes. Her expression was calm, but there was firm authority in her movements. A brilliant headdress covered her hair, a flowing red mantel covered her slender body, and a huge pendant hung at her throat. Her look swept over the garden and then turned towards them. The look was stern, but without scorn or rejection. Homez was not intimidated but showed deep respect for the illustrious visitor.

The husband of this woman, Pontius Pilate, ruled Judea with a ruthlessness that made him the most well known, if not the most reviled man in the province. His wife in contrast reigned in obscurity, her name seldom mentioned. Rumors circulated now and then about her. One story said that a thief had entered her household, stole her jewels, and had been ordered to have both hands cut off. Word also circulated that she came from the court of the emperor, had been raised in his household, and had gained the posting to Judea for her husband. She had been assured that Pilate would prove himself in this difficult province, and return triumphantly to claim the imperial throne. Absently Winter wondered, would a visit to a Tiberias garden assist her to become the consort of Caesar?

Cato säd, daut see vom Mäaeewa kaum, von Caesarea Maritima, un stald äa formell aus Claudia Procula vää. Dise Persoon wia de Fru von Pontius Pilatus, de Präfekt von Judäa.

Aus Claudia nenkaum stunde de dree opp, en stelle Beobacht, aus see sikj hansad. De Fru von Pilatus wia noch jung, eene oppfaulende Fru met eenem feinet, eirundet Jesecht, eene ooltmoodsche reemische Näs un dunkle Uage. Äa Utdruck wia ruich, oba see wees fauste Autorität en äare Bewääjunge. Een jlensenda Koppschmuck bedakjt äare Hoa, een flissenda rooda Mauntel bedakjt äa schlanket Kjarpa, un een riesja goldna Aunhenja honk von eene Kjäd aun äa Hauls. Äa Blekj jinkj äwa däm Goade un see dreid sikj dan to an. De Blekj wia stoakj, oba one Spott ooda Aufsoag. Homez wia nich veenjst, oba wees deepe Respakjt fa däm beriemten Gaust.

De Maun von dise Fru, Pontius Pilatus, beharschd Judäa met eene Rikjsichtsloosichkeit, dee am toom bekaundsten, wan nich toom beschempton Maun en de Prowins muak. Siene Fru doajäajen harscht em Dunkel, äa Nome wort seldom erwänt. Jeräd äwa äa rand han un wada enne Rund. Eene Jeschicht säd, daut een Stäla en äa Hushault jekome wia, un Golt Schmuck jestole haud. Daut wort velangt daut von äa, daut beid siene Henj aufjeschnäde worde. Daut wort uk jesajcht, daut see ut däm Kjeisa sien Hoff staumnd, daut see en sien Hus oppjewosse wia, un daut om äatshaulwe äa Maun no Judäa jeschekjt wort. See wia secha jewast, daut Pilatus sikj en dise schwieriche Prowins bewoare wudd, un triumfierent no Room trigj kome, om dän Kjeisatron to velange. Aufwäsent, fruach Winta sikj, aus een Besuach en eenem Tiberias Goade äa halpe wudd, de Fru vom Kjeisa to woare?

Homez, although showing a lightly reddened face had kept full control of his faculties, and graciously asked Claudia to indicate how he could be of service. Claudia remained silent some moments and then spoke in a strong clear voice. "You surely recognize me as the wife of the Proctor of this province," she began. "I must advise you that I am not here in an official capacity. I have come on a personal matter."

Homez nodded, signaling Claudia that he would note this distinction, and then leaned forward, eagerly waiting for her to disclose her problem. "The matter which I wish to discuss has a history dating back to my childhood in Rome," she continued. "It goes back twenty years when as the granddaughter of Caesar Augustus I grew up in the royal household. In that household there lived a boy named Cyrus, a boy my own age. Cyrus was handsome, had passionate interests, and was loved by all. He was of royal birth, but lacked a champion.

"The children in the household attended school and played together. In our games often Cyrus and I were companions. We developed special signals for each other. In pairs games we would often be victorious. One day when I was twelve, I suddenly found that Cyrus was gone. It was a terrible blow to me. I asked where he had gone but nobody answered. Meeting ruthless obstruction at every turn I finally let the matter go.

"Years later I learned that Cyrus had been considered a threat to the family. With no powerful champion he had been removed from the household. Where he was taken nobody knew for certain, but rumors had him sent into

Homez, oppwool hee een leicht roodet Jesecht bewees, haud de volle Kontroll äwa siene Fäichkjeite, un fruach Claudia jnädich, to wiese, woo hee benutzlich senne kunn. Claudia wia een Stootje stell un spruak dän met eene stoakje Stemm. "Du kjanst mie secha aus de Fru vom Präfekt von dise Prowins," säd see. "Ekj mott die saje, daut ekj nich en aumtliche leejenschoft hia sie. Ekj sie fa eene perseenliche Uasoak jekome."

Homez nekjkopt, un wees Claudia, daut hee dise Unjascheedunk moakje wudd, un dan länd hee sikj no väare un wacht jespaunt doaropp, daut see äa Probleem openboa moakje wudd. "De Sach, dee ekj beräde well, es en miene Kjintheit en Room aunjefunge," fua see wieda. "Daut sent twintich Joa trigj, aus ekj aus daut Grootkjint von Kjeisa Augustus em Kjennichlichen Hushault oppwoss. En disem Hushault wond een Jung Nomes Cyrus, een Jung von mien ieejnet Ella. Cyrus wia schmock, haud liedenschoftliche Interesse un wort von aule jeleeft. Hee wia von Kjennichliche Jeburt, oba hee haud kjeen Patroon.

"Aule Kjinja em Hushault besochte de School un spälde toop. En onse Spels wiere Cyrus un ekj foaken Poatnasch. Wie twee entwekjelde besondere Tieekjens fa enaunda. En Spels von Poare jewonn wie foaken. Een Dach, aus ekj twalf wia, funk ekj oppeenst ut, daut Cyrus wajch wia. Daut wia een schrakjlicha Stuks fa mie. Ekj fruach aulawääjes, wua hee han jegone wia, oba kjrieech kjeene Auntwuad. Wiels ekj rikjsichtloose Hindanis bie jiede Runt troff, leet ekj de Sach entlich gone.

"Joare lota erfua ekj, daut Cyrus eene Jefoa fa de Famielje jewast wia. One een majchtjen Patroon wia hee utem Hushault jenome worde. Wua hee jenome wort, wist kjeena jewess, oba de Jeräd wia daut hee en de

slavery to the east. While I kept quiet as told, I never forgot him. Though he was gone I continued to consider him a close friend. I welcomed the posting of my husband to this distant province in the belief that he had been sent to this area, for my hope was still to see Cyrus one day again.

“Recently an old friend advised me that Cyrus was still alive. A rumor said he had escaped from his owners and was a fugitive in Galilee. A party had been sent from Rome to find him. As you know the new prophet, the Nazarene, is conducting a ministry in Galilee, north of Tiberias. I feel certain that Cyrus will come to see him. Cyrus was always first in pursuing a new idea, in taking on a new challenge. And he had a passion for healing, divinity, and the hereafter.

“Pilate’s men have reported that mass meetings are being held daily around Capernaum. I believe a good chance has come to find my childhood companion. As a foreigner and a woman, it is unseemly to search on my own. A local companion will help me blend in with the crowd. I wish to engage you to help me find Cyrus before the ministry at Capernaum is ended.”

When she had finished Claudia leaned back in her chair in relief. Through the corner of his eye Winter had been watching Homez and Emily take in the story. While Homez’ face reflected professional concentration he had noted several flicks of the eyebrows which were signs of doubt. Emily, while keeping an impassive face, had several times showed restlessness. Claudia during the whole story had been nonchalant, oblivious to the reaction she was making.

Sklowarie nom Ooste jeschekjt wort. Wäarent ekj soo ruich aus jesajcht bleef, hab ekj am nie vejäte. Oppwool hee wajch wia, betracht ekj am noch emma aus eenen dichta Frint. Ekj bejreest de Entsendunk von mien Maun no dise Prowins em Gloowe, daut hee no disem Jebiet jeschekjt worde wia. Miene Hopninj wia noch emma, Cyrus noch eenmol to seene.

“Onlangs haft mie een oola Frint Norecht jeschekjt, daut Cyrus noch läft. Daut gauf Jeräd, daut hee von sienen leejendeema entkome wia un no Galiläa jeflicht wia. Eene Grupp wia von Room jeschekjt worde, am to jriepe. Du weetst, daut de niea Profeet, de Nazarena, eene Mission en Galiläa fiet, nuadlich von Tiberias. Ekj see mie secha, daut Cyrus am besieekje woat. Cyrus wia emma de leeshta opp de Sieekj no eene niee ledee, endäm hee eene niee Proow socht. Un hee haud eene deepet Jefeel fa Heelunk, Gottheit un de Jantsied.

“Pilatus siene Mana habe berecht, daut jieda Dach groote Vesaumblunge bie Kapernaum stautfinje. Ekj jleew, daut een gooda Schans jekome es, mienen Kjintheit Bejleita to finje. Aus Utlenda, un eene Fru, es daut nich zimlich, auleen to sieekje. Een hiesja Bejleita kaun mie halpe, mie enne Menj to vemische. Ekj mucht die aunnäme, mie to halpe, Cyrus to finje, ea de Mission en Kapernaum äwa es.”

Aus see foadich wia, länd sikj Claudia en äarem Stool trigj. Vonne Akj Uage haud Winta jeseene woo Homez un Emily de Jeschicht oppnaume. Oppwool Homez sien Jesecht professionelle Oppmoaksjomkjeit spieejeld haud Winta faustjestalt, vonne een schnipse vonne Uagbronnen, daut hee Twiewel haud. Emily, wäarent see een onbewäajlichet Jesecht behoole haud, haud miere Mol Onru jewäse. Claudia wia bie äare gaunze Jeschicht jlikjeltich jewast, un kjemmad sikj

nich waut de dree denkje muchte.

Homez now sat forward in his chair and for the first time in his practice showed signs of submissiveness. He offered to assume the case at once, rather than following long hard questions. Winter judged Homez to be charmed if not captivated by his client. Now in his most tactful way he asked for permission to pose a few questions. Claudia nodded, offering him a small smile.

Homez sad sikj nu en sienem Stool trigj un wees toom ieeschten Mol en siene Praxis Aundiedunk von Saunftheit. Hee beed Claudia fuaz aun, dän Faul to äwanäme, aunstaut lange hoade Froage to stale. Winta docht daut Homez bezeibat wia, wan uk nich von siene Kund jebunge wia. Nu en siene taktvolste Wieed bat hee om Erlaubnis, een poa Froage to stale. Claudia nekjkopt, un wees am een kjlienet Frintel aun.

“Here in Tiberias we have heard of large crowds gathering in Capernaum but have no inside information,” Homez said. “Have you received information about the nature and location of these meetings?”

“Hia en Tiberias hab wie von groote Menje jehieet, dee sikj en Kapernaum vesaumle, oba habe kjeen bätret Bescheet,” säd Homez. “Habe see Bescheet woo un wua dee sikj trafe?”

“The meetings resemble those of John the Baptist, the so-called Prophet in the Wilderness, the one King Herod executed,” Claudia replied. “The present ones though are larger and more open. They are focused on the hillsides north of Capernaum. Crowds number in the thousands; men predominate, but there are also women. The main instructor is the Nazarene, but his assistants do much of the teaching. His assistants comprise of twelve men and a number of women. The meetings often extend for days.”

“De Vesaumblunge likjne dee von Johannes de Deepa, däm sojenanda Profeet en de Wiltinis, däm Kjennich Herodes hanjerecht haft,” auntwud Claudia. “Dise nu sent oba jrata un opna. See woare mieeschtens opp de Hempel nuadlich von Kapernaum jehoole. Mausszole sent en de Dusende; Mana sent de mieeschte, oba daut jeft uk Frues. De Hauptliera es de Nazarena, oba siene Helpa sent aum meisten to seene. Siene Helpa bestone ut twalf Mana un eene Aunzol von Frues. De Trafe velenjre sikj foaken Doagelank.”

“To help you to locate Cyrus we will need a physical description,” Homez pointed out. “No doubt his appearance has changed since you last saw him. You said that in childhood games you two had special signals. What were those signals and could they be of use to find him? He may appear in a large crowd that may constantly be in motion.”

“Om an to halpe, Cyrus to finje, bruck wie eene kjarpaliche Beschriewunk,” säd Homez. “Kjeen Twiewel, sien Utseene haft sikj veendat, seit See am toolatst jeseene habe. See säde, daut enne Kjintheit Spels jie twee besondere Tieekjens haude. Waut wiere dise Tieekjens un kunn daut ons halpe am to finje? Hee kaun en eene groote Menj oppducke, dee stendich en Bewäajunkj es.”

“Cyrus had many signs to display his emotions,” Claudia answered. “He gave out a

“Cyrus haud väle Tieekjens, om siene Jefeele to wiese,” auntwud Claudia. “Hee piept leise,

low whistle when in great excitement. Otherwise, we should search for a tall, dark, intelligent man, who is outstanding. He will certainly be wearing a large pendant.”

“You mentioned that Cyrus had passionate interests,” Homez continued. “Can you mention one that will help find him?”

“Cyrus was interested in religions and their use to exert power,” Claudia replied. “The declaration of Julius Caesar as a deity opened up many questions for Cyrus. What faculties does a deity possess compared to an ordinary human? Also is there an afterlife, what are its characteristics, and how does one attain it? Cyrus searched for the deeper meanings of life, and we will find him at the heart of any profound discussion.”

“I have agreed to provide help, but need to know the scope of the operation,” Homez now continued. “For what time will you have need of our service? How should danger to yourself or my people be handled?”

“These matters have been given serious thought by my advisors,” Claudia answered. “I have use of a mansion just outside Capernaum. My people will provide security there, and will provided you with accommodations. Your services will be required for seven days. I will attend the public meetings and wish to pass as a regular pilgrim. As I am a foreigner I will need a guide and to be accompanied at all times. For security we will blend into the crowd, all the while keeping a lookout for Cyrus.”

Homez nodded and Claudia rose to return to her attendants. Homez promised that he

wan en groote Opprääjunk. Aundatwääjen sull wie fa eenem grooten, dunklen, kluaken Maun sieekje, de väastonent es. Hee woat sechalich eenen grooten Aunhenja droage.”

“See haude erwänt, daut Cyrus Liedenschöftliche Interesse haud,” fua Homez wieda. “Kjenne see ons eent von dise nane, daut ons halpe woat am to finje?”

“Cyrus intressieed sikj fa Relijione un äa Jebrock, om Majcht uttoeewe,” auntuwad Claudia. “De Erkläärunk daut Kjeisa Julius eene Gottheit wia, muak väle Froage fa Cyrus op. Woone Fäichkjeite haud eene Gottheit em ver äwareen met jeeenliche Mensche? Jeft daut een Jantsied, waut sent de leejenschöfte doavon, un woo kjemt Maun doahan? Cyrus socht no de deepre Bediedunge vom Läwe, un wie woare am em Hoat von een deep-sennichet Jesprääkj finje.”

“Ekj hab vesproake, Deenst to jäwe, mott oba dän Omfank vom Bedriew weete,” fua Homez wieda. “Fa woone Tiet woa jie onse Deenste brucke? Woo saul Jefoa fa Junt ooda miene Grupp behaundelt?”

“Dise Aunjelääjenheite worde von miene Rotjäwasch iernst nojedocht,” auntuwad Claudia. “Eene Villa es fa mie buta Kapernaum jepacht worde. Miene Lied woare sikj doa fa de Sechaheit kjemre un doa woat Unjakunft fa junt senne. Äare Deenste woare fa säwen Doag needich senne. Ekj well bie de effentliche Vesaumblunge metmoake un well soo aus een räajelmässicha Pilja utseene. Wiels ekj een Utlenda sie, bruck ekj eenen Fiera un mott aulewääjen to aule Tiet bejeitet senne. Fa Sechaheit kjenn wie ons mank de Menj enmische, un emma Cyrus sieekje.”

Homez nekjkopt un Claudia stunt opp om trigj to äare Bejeitasch to gone. Homez vespruak

would come to Capernaum and be at her disposal in the morning. When she was gone, Homez instructed Cato and a bondmaid to prepare for the journey.

Emily, Homez and Winter then met again in the garden. Emily was bursting with indignation. "The entire story is bogus," she said forcefully. "This surely will be no hunt for a long-lost friend. But what is her agenda? What could an intelligent woman of royal background be looking for at the Nazarene's ministry?"

Homez looked thoughtfully at his niece, as her instincts were seldom off the mark. "There was of course no option in taking the case," he remarked. "While the story sounds believable on the surface, it surely is unlikely. Many years have passed, and childhood infatuations have a short life span. We will play this by ear. Clearly Claudia wants to visit the meeting in secret, and tomorrow will appear in disguise. We will help her lose herself in the crowd. She has chosen us to help her. We must satisfy her demands."

An hour later they left for Capernaum. Accompanying Homez, Emily and Winter were Cato and a bondmaid. They set off on the road skirting the sea, prepared for a long journey. Cool winds blew off the lakeshore as they hurried forward in a countryside that was filled with palm trees and grapevines. After Magdala they joined the main road from the coast to Damascus. They jostled with throngs of pilgrims, who were in a religious frenzy. The pilgrims were of all ages, modest in dress, and bearing packages of food and bedding. A dignified Pharisee brightened the crowd, marching methodically with great

ää no Kapernaum to gone un tiedich Morje fa ää reed to stone. Aus Claudia wajch wia, gauf Homez Orda to Cato un eene Kjääaksche, fa de Reis reedtoomake.

Emily, Homez un Winta troffe sikj dan wada em Goade. Emily wull opplauze von Veläajenheit. "De gaunze Jeschicht es faulsch," säd see met Nodruck. "Daut woat secha kjeene Sieekj fa een lang veloarna Frint senne. Oba waut es ää werkjlicha Plon? Waut kunn eene schoapsennje Fru vom Kjeisalichen Hinjagrunt enne Mission vom Nazarena sieekje?"

Homez kijktj nodenklich to siene Nicht, wiels ääre enjebuarne Natua seldom wiet vom Ziel wia. "Daut gauf natieedlich kjeene Määjlichkjeit, dän Faul nich auntonäme," bemoakt hee. "Oppwool de Jeschicht vonne Bowakaunt to jleewe es, es dee sechalich onwoomääjlich. Väle Joare sent vegone, un Kjinjaleew haft een kortet Läwe. Wie woare dit mete Uage wiet op späle motte. Daut es kloa daut Claudia de Vesaumlunk em Jeheem besieekje well, un Morje woat vekjleet kome. Wie woare ää halpe, sikj en de Menj to veliere. See haft ons jewält, ää to halpe. Wie mott ääre Fodrunge erfelle."

Lota em Dach fuare see no Kapernaum. De dree wiere von Cato un eene Kjääaksche bejleitet. See beträde eene Gaus, dee om See romjinkj, un wiere reed fa eene lange Reis. Een kjeela Wint blosd vom See, aus see derch eene Launtschoft, dee met Palme un Wienranke runtvoll wia, ielde. No Magdala kaume see to de Hauptgaus von de Kust no Damaskus. See drenjde sikj met Schoare von Piljasch, dee en groote relijeese Freid wiere. De Piljasch wiere von aule Ellastoope, bescheiden en Kjeet, un druage Låwesmeddel un Badwausch. Een wirdja Farisää dacht de Menj opp un marschieed metodisch

determination. Stragglers stuck to the edges of the crowds; among them were fortune-tellers, pick-pockets and women of the night.

Suddenly Homez pointed to a haggard woman moving painfully on all fours. She was an elderly vagabond named Tabita, known to all Tiberians. Suffering from an unknown illness, she sat at a busy corner all year begging. Homez on many occasions had spoken with her and given her small coins. She clearly had been on the road for hours but could expect to arrive in Capernaum no sooner than tomorrow. Homez offered her transport but she waved him off, wanting to complete the pilgrimage on her own.

On arrival at Capernaum they headed to the compound cited by Claudia and settled in. Along the way Homez had proposed a plan for Claudia's commission. For greater reach the party would split into two. One person would accompany Claudia while the others would circulate freely, searching for Cyrus.

The next morning Claudia agreed to Homez' plan, and asked him to serve as her companion that day. Claudia's dress this morning was subdued. She carried a simple grey scarf on her head and a peasant mantel wrapped around her. Countering this simple portrayal was a massive blood-red pendant suspended from a gold chain. The pendant was in constant oscillation, Claudia's slightest motion exciting its vibration.

Winter and Emily roamed widely encountering small groups listening to dedicated teachers earnestly spreading their message. These men were the disciples of the Nazarene, who this day had retreated to the mountain for

met groote Entschlottenheit. Hinjaraunranasch foljde de Menj; unja an wiere Woasajasch, Spetzbube, un Frues vonne Nacht.

Oppeenst wees Homez opp eene vemuckade Fru, dee sikj met weedoag opp aule vearen bewääjd. See wia een elra Waundra, met Nome Tabita, dee aule Lied en Tiberias bekaunt wia. See litt aun eene onbekaunde Krankheit, un prachad aun eene beläwde Akj daut gaunze Joa. Homez haud bie väle Jeläajenheite met äa jerät un äa kjliene Jeltstekja jejäft. See wia sechalich stundelank opp de Gaus jewast, kunn oba en Kapernaum nich ea aus Morje aukome. Homez beed äa Transport aun, oba see säd daut auf; see wull de Piljareis auleen moake.

Bie de Aunkunft en Kapernaum jinje see toom Kuta daut Claudia aunjeäft haud. Unjawääjes haud Homez eenen Plon fa Claudia äarem Oppdrach väajeschlone. Om wieda to fote, wudde see sikj en twee Gruppe deele. Eene Person wudd Claudia bejleite, un de aundre twee wudde frie kjriesle un no Cyrus sieekje.

Aum näakjsten Morje stemd Claudia Homez sien Plon too un säd daut see am aun disem Dach aus äa Bejleita habe wull. Vondoag wiere Claudia äare Kjleeda von leistre Kalia. See druach eenen eenfachen greiwen Schal oppem Kopp un een schlicht un eenfacht brunet Kjleet. Oba jäajen dise proste Doastalunk druach see een groota, Bloot rooda Aunhenja, dee opp eene lange Goltkjäd schockeld. De Aunhenja wia en stendjen schwinje, Claudia äare jerinjste Bewääjunk brocht een wildet schwinje.

Winta un Emily trocke äwre Hempels un funge kjliene Gruppe, dee Lierasch toohieede, dee äare Bootschoft iernsthauft vebreede wulle. Dise Mana wiere de Jinja vom Nazarena, Dee sikj disen Dach oppe eene Boajespetz fa

meditation. They heard serious discussion of the Mosaic Law, and the importance of observing the intent of the Law not merely its form. They scanned the faces of the most passionate listeners, searching for the tell-tale pendant, and the physical characteristics that Claudia had stated. All day they searched but to no avail.

Homez accompanied Claudia and noted that, while she was scanning faces apparently searching for Cyrus, she was more intent on absorbing the essence of the proceedings. When the two paused to take their mid-day meal she summarized her thoughts, expressing them with a clarity that greatly impressed Homez.

“An important feature of this religion is the worship of a single God, a God who has chosen this people above all others,” she said. “A covenant was made requiring the people to worship Him and to follow His commandments. Breaking of a law became not only a crime against the state but a sin against God. In return for their devotion the people could count on His support in their conflict with nature and with other nations.

“In the Roman religion there are a host of Gods, some of whom are Roman and others foreign. A single form of worship does not exist, nor a single code of law tied to religion. Religion is a contract between Gods and humans. Humans worship the Gods through prayer and sacrifice. In return the national Gods protect the nation, and the household Gods protect the home. There is no universal guarantee of divine support. Thus there is much uncertainty and great attention to omens.

Nodenkje trigj jetrocke haud. De Twee hieede iernsthaufte Jesprääkje äwa daut Moserot un de Wichtichkeit, de Aufsecht vom Jesaz un nich bloos de Form to beoobachte. See bekijkjte sikj de Jesechta von de Liedenschoftlichte Toohierasch, sochte no een intressaunten Aunhenja un de fiesische leejenschofte, de Claudia aunjejäft haud. Dän gaunzen Dach sochte see oba one Erfolg.

Homez bejleitet Claudia un stald faust, daut see, wäarent see Jesechta aunkjikjt, un schienboa no Cyrus socht, de Aufsecht haud, daut Wäsent von de Prädicht to oppnäme. Aus de beid Pause muake fa daut Meddachäte, foot see äare Jedanke toop un drekjt dee met eene Kloorheit ut, dee Homez sea beendrukt.

“Een wichtichet Moakjmol von dise Relijion es de Veierunk von een eensjen Gott, een Gott, dee dit Volkj äwa aule aundre jewält haft,” säd see. “Een Bunt wort jemoakt, woont daut Volkj oppfoddad, am auntobäde un siene Jeboote to folje. Daut brääkje von de Jesaze es nich bloos een Vebrääkje jääjen de Staut, sonda uk eene Sind jääjen Gott. Aus Vejeltunk fa äare Hangow kjenne de Mensche opp siene Unjastettunk en äarem Trubbel met de Natua un met aundre Nazione tale.

“En de reemische Relijion jeft et veschiedne Jetta, von dee eenje reemisch un aundre framde sent. Eene eensje Form von Aunbädunk jeft et nich, uk nich eene eensje Rajschordnunk, dee aun aule Relijione jebunge es. Relijion es een Vetrach tweschen Jetta un Mensche. Mensche veiere de Jetta derch Jebäd un Opfa. En Vejeltunk schitze de nazionale Jetta de Nazion, un de Hus Jetta daut Hus. Daut jeft kjeene auljemeene Garantie von de jettliche Unjastettunk. Soo jeft et väl Onjewesheit un groote Oppmoakjsomkheit opp Väatieekjens.

“A college of priests serves to interpret omens for the nation. Each priest defines a square space where he looks for omens. These men serve high public figures but they do not benefit the general population. Recourse is often made to the most irrational devices. Legions carry chicken bones which are cast for a sign before the undertaking of major battles. Great decisions are left to the reckless, and great damage is done which could be avoided.”

Homez had been listening to Claudia and at the same time searching for any man resembling Cyrus. With his gaze sweeping the crowd he had not kept eye surveillance of her. With her last statement Homez turned to her and then recoiled in shock. Claudia continued her observations, but Homez noticed a major difference. The golden chain was no longer around her neck, and gone also was her pendant.

By now darkness was falling and as they had covered much ground over the day there seemed little chance for its recovery. They had been so absorbed with the search for Cyrus and the movement of the crowd that they could not remember when they had last seen it. The search for it could only begin the following day.

The next morning Claudia was wearing a new pendant. She asked Emily to accompany her. Homez, Cato and Winter in the meantime would search for the pendant and for Cyrus.

The crowd this day was larger but Claudia kept a fast pace forcing Emily to hurry. They were climbing further uphill when Emily

“Eene Grupp von Priestasch deent dootoo, Väatieekjens fa de Nazion uttolaje. Enjieda Priesta betieekjent eenen Plauz, wua hee no Väatieekjens sieekjt. Dise Mana deene huage effentliche Mensche, oba see halpe nich de auljemeene Bevelkjarunk. Tooflucht woat foaken opp daumelje Meddel jemoakt. Onse Legionen droage Heenaknoakes, dee ver daut Unjanäme von groote Schlachte fa een Tieekjen doljeschmäte woare. Groote Entscheidunges sent de rikjsichtloose äwalote, un een groote Schode woat jemoakt, dee vemeide woare kunn.”

Homez haud Claudia toojehorcht un socht tojlikj eenen Maun, de Cyrus likjend. Wiels hee haud uk sult de Menj beseene, wia sien Blekj nich emma opp äa jewast. Met äare latste Jeräd dreid Homez sikj to äa un vefieed sikj sea. Claudia sad met äare Beobachte wieda, oba Homez bemoakjt eenen grooten Unjascheet. De Goldne Kjäd wia nich mea om äa Hauls, un vom Aunhenja kjeene Räd.

Entweschen foll nu de Dunkelheit, un wiels see dän Dach wiet jegone wiere, gauf et weinich Schans fa de Veholunk vom Aunhenja. See wiere soo sea met de Sieekj no Cyrus un de Bewääjunk von de Menj vesunke, daut see sikj nich denkje kunne, wan see dän toolatst jeseene haude. De Sieekj fa däm kunn ieescht aum foljenden Dach anfange.

Aum näakjsten Morje druach Claudia eenen nieen Aunhenja. See wull daut Emily äa bejleite sull. Homez, Cato un Winta wudde no däm Aunhenja un no Cyrus sieekje.

De Menj aun disem Dach wia jrata, oba Claudia hilt to eene huage Jeschwindichkeit, daut Emily dwunk, sikj to spoode. See

suddenly called Claudia. Standing before her was Tabita, the infirm vagabond from Tiberias. But she was infirm no more. Recognizing Emily as a fellow Tiberian she burst out in loud praise. "For twenty years I was a cripple," she cried. "I could not move, I had no friends or relatives, and was dependent on alms for my daily bread. One touch of the robe yesterday and I was cured. I will return to Tiberias but you will not find me at that corner."

Tabita stumbled away, re-learning to walk, and Claudia listened with doubt as Emily told her the story. "Actually on my own ride to Capernaum I do remember seeing a woman struggling on the roadside on her knees," Claudia commented. "You must be right when you say it was her. A fast cure for such an infirmity is surely beyond the ability of even the most talented physician. It intrigues me that it was carried out by a potential national leader.

"In Rome national leaders arise from the ranks of military heroes who have won great victories over foreign tyrants. Julius Caesar conquered the barbarians in Egypt, Gaul and then Britain. Pompey gained fame by subjugating Palestine. Leaders in Rome show their power through exercise of force, the razing of cities, and the enslaving of entire populations. In Palestine on the other hand it is an expectation that God will send the Messiah, the ultimate leader. He will liberate the country from foreign domination and restore the people's superior role among nations.

"Romans follow Greeks in deifying their great military and political heroes and worshipping

klautade wieda boajopp, aus Emily oppeenst Claudia aunroopt. Tabita, de lome Fru von Tiberias, stunt ver an. Oba see wia nich mea behindat. Aus see Emily aus eene von Tiberia erkjand, bruak see en ludem Loff ut. "Twintich Joa lang wia ekj een Kjräpel," roopt see. "Ekj kunn nich gone, ekj haud kjeene Frind ooda Vewaunte, un wia opp Aulmoose fa mien däajlichet Brot aufhenjich. Met een Kontakt met Sien Rock Jistre wort ekj jeheelt. Ekj woa no Tiberias trigggone, oba du woascht mie nich mea aun dee Akj finje."

Tabita strempeld wajch, must wada gone liere, un Claudia hieed met Twiewel to, woo Emily äa de Jeschicht vetald. "leejentlich opp miene ieejne Foat no Kapernaum kaun ekj mie denkje, eene Fru to seene, dee aune Gausesied opp de Kjneee jinkj," säd Claudia. "Du motst rajcht habe, wan du sajchst, daut et see wia. Eene schwinde Heelunk fa soo eene Kjarpaliche Schwakheit es sechalich jantsied von de Fäichkjeit von de begowde Oatste. Daut es mie sea intressaunt, daut et von eenem mäajlichen nazionalen Fiera derchjefieet wort.

"En Room entstone nazionale Fierasch von de Rieeje von millitäärische Helde, dee groote Siej äwa utlendsche Tieraune jewonne habe. Julius Caesar haft de Barbare en Ägipten, Gallien un Enjlaunt enjenome. Pompeius jewonn Rum, endäm hee Palestina bedwunk. Fierasch en Room wiese äare Majcht derch de Eewunk von Jewault, de Vebrennung von Städe un de Vesklowunk von gaunze Velkja. En Palestina doajäajen es daut eene Hopninj, daut Gott dän Messias, de jratsta Fiera, schekje woat. Hee woat daut Launt von framde Harschoft friemoake un de hechre Roll vom Volkj unja de Nazione wadahaastale.

"De Reema folje de Grieche, endäm see äare groote millitäärische un polietische Helde

them. A deification of Julius Caesar followed his death. He never possessed supernatural powers. In my childhood I lived in the household of Tiberius, and he showed no supernatural power. In Palestine, God has the power to perform great miracles through the Prophets, including healing the sick and raising the dead.

“The Nazarene surely is capturing the loyalty of the masses and thus has the potential to become a great national leader. He seeks not to impress with great campaigns and the enslaving of foreign populations. Instead He heals the sick, and counsels the pilgrims on how to live a better life. He goes beyond the teachings of established religion, for reasons that are not clear to me. Do the miracles generate faith or is it the other way round? Do they serve to show the divinity of the Nazarene?”

“The good will of the Nazarene can be seen as the cures are done without charge. I have been told that the Jewish King Solomon of antiquity also possessed supernatural powers. He knew the art of casting out demons and curing the sick. The present Temple authorities have no such skills. Instead their interest is in administering a static religion. They maintain the privileges of their position through a bargain with a foreign power. It is no wonder that the revival begun by John the Baptist ended with his execution. It is clearly thriving here under the Nazarene. I can see no danger in this man to Rome. He is a threat to the local religious authorities which have lost the allegiance of the people.”

vejettliche un aunbäde. Eene Vejettunk von Julius Caesar foljd sienem Doot. Hee besaut nie äwanatieedliche Krauft. En miene Kjintheit wond ekj em Hushault von Tiberius, un hee wees kjeene äwanatieedliche Majcht. En Palestina haud Gott de Majcht, groote Wundasch derch de Profeete to volbrinje, enslutent de Heiljunk von Kranke un de Opparstonunk von de Doode.

“De Nazarena erkjant sechlich de Truhoatichkjeit von de Mauss un haft soo de Määjlichkjeit, een groota nazionala Fiera to woare. Hee sieekjt nich, met groote Kampanje un de Vesklowunk von utlendsche Velkja to beendrucke. Aunstaut heilt hee de Kranke un lieet de Piljasch, een bätret Läwe to habe. Hee jeit äwa de Liere vonne aunerkjande Relijion, ut Jrinde, dee mie nich kloa sent. Brinje de Wunda Gloowe, ooda es et omjedreit? Deene see doatoo, de Gottheit vom Nazarena to wiese?”

“De gooda Welle vom Nazarena kaun maun seene, woo de Kuare one betole jedone sent. Mie es jesajcht worde, daut de hebräischa Kjennich Salomon von lang trigj uk äwanatieedliche Kraufte besaut. Hee kjand de Kunst, Beese Jeista ruttoschmiete un de Kranke to heele. De vondoagsche Tempel Oobrichkjeit haft kjeene soone Fäichkjeite. Aunstaut besteit äa Interesse doarenn, eene statische Relijion aum rane to hoole. See behoole de Väärajchte von äarem Aumt derch een Haundel met eene utlendsche Majcht. Daut es kjeen Wunda, daut de Erwakjunk de Johanes de Deepa aunfunk, een Enj met siene Hanrechtunk haud. Daut es kloa daut see unja däm Nazarena jedeit. Ekj kaun kjeene Jefoa fa Room en disem Maun seene. Hee es eene Jefoa fa de irdische relijeese Autoritäte, dee de Truheit vom Volkj veloare habe.”

Homez, Winter and Cato had been carrying out a two-pronged search, peering at faces to find Cyrus and scouring the ground for Claudia's missing pendant. During the mid-day rest Winter observed Emily and Claudia seated quietly on huge rocks nearby. At this juncture a noisy group came toiling up the hillside. A group of bearers was carrying a man sitting majestically on an extravagant palanquin. The man was young, clearly very rich, and with a kind heart. On reaching an obstruction he plunged his hand into a bowl, clutched a handful of coins, and threw these into the crowd. The crowd scattered searching for the coins and the group easily passed the obstruction.

Emily tore her sight from the rich man and sat admiring Claudia's new pendant, which matched the brilliance of the one lost the day before. This one was a green emerald. In its gyrations it was constantly flashing, hypnotizing Emily. Claudia was lost in deep thought, paying no heed to her surroundings. She showed no sorrow that no trace had been found of Cyrus. Emily noted a man nearby who had been shadowing them all morning. This man she knew was a bodyguard of Claudia, providing another level of security. Also nearby Emily noted the other members of her party.

With the mid-day rest completed Emily and Claudia again approached one of the disciples, who advised that the Nazarene was still meditating on the mountain. This disciple was a woman. As before, a large crowd had collected to hear the sermon. The teaching clearly stemmed from the Nazarene, who had thoroughly trained His followers. For several hours the two listened, absorbing in wonder the explanation of a radical new doctrine.

Homez, Winta un Cato haude eene tweejeleische Sieekj derchjefieet, de Jesechta to seene om Cyrus to finje, un dän Boddem to seene fa Claudia äaren veloarnen Aunhenja. En de Meddachstund beoobacht Winta Emily un Claudia ruich dichtbie opp riesje Steena sette. Doa kaum nu eene lude Gruppe dän Hempel enopp. Eene Gruppe von Droogasch druach eenen Maun, de majestätisch opp eenem Palanquin saut. De Maun wia jung, sea rikj un met eenem naten Hoat. Aus hee eene Beschrenkjunk errieekjt, naum hee eene Hauntvoll Jeltstekja von eene Tausch, un schmeet de en de Menj. De Menj vestreid sikj en de Sieekj no de Jeltstekja un daut Palanquin verand leicht daut Hindanis.

Emily trock äarem Blekj vom rikjen Maun un kijkt dän nieen Aunhenja von Claudia aun, dee met de Pracht vom Verhäaje äwareenstemt. Daut wia een jreena Smaragd. En siene Bewäajunk blinkjad et stendich, un beduseld Emily. Claudia wia en deepe Jedanke jerode un acht goanich opp äare Omjäajent. See wees kjeen Kumma, daut kjeene Spur von Cyrus jefunge worde wia. Emily bemoakjt eenen Maun dichtbie, dee an dän gaunzen Morje beschautet haud. Dis Maun, däm see kjand, wia een Lief Wajchta von Claudia un stald ne wiedre Stoop von Sechaheit fa Claudia. Uk en de Noheit von Emily kunn see de aundre Metjlieda von äare Grupp seene.

To de Meddachpause jinje Emily un Claudia wada to eenem von de Halpasch, dee an säd, daut de Nazarena noch opp däm Boajch wia. Dis Halpa wia eene Fru. Soo aus verhäa haud sikj eene groote Menj vesaumelt, om de Prädicht to hiere. De Lia staumd eendietich vom Nazarena, dee siene Aunhenja jrintlich jebilt haud. Fa miere Stunden hieede de beid to, un wundade sikj äwa de Erkjläarunk von de radikale niee Lia.

When the disciple paused for a moment Claudia launched her critique of the golden rule. "I am familiar with the traditional teaching here, the principle of an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth," she said. "Such a measured response is rejected in this new teaching. The new teachings states that it is wrong to even think of revenge. One should love ones enemies, turn the other cheek to an aggressor, show kindness and respect even to those who harm one. 'Do unto others as you would have them do to you.' Of course this includes not judging others.

"If such a teaching were ever adopted in Rome there would be enormous changes. The entire world of entertainment, that of gladiator games, would be suspended. All Legions would be disbanded, and the operation of foreign campaigns suspended. The justice system would be transformed, with self-defense no longer be a valid plea. Finally women would experience great ascendancy, and no longer be suppressed by force. Can these teachings be taken literally? Facing a pitiless aggressor could a nation risk not to defend itself? Do these teachings apply solely to the spiritual domain, and not to the secular?"

Claudia next directed her attention to the teachings on money. "It is natural to enjoy life, and to acquire the means to enjoy its pleasures," she said. "The traditional teaching is that being rich is a sign of favor from God. Such a teaching favors the collection of riches and praises the wealthy. The new principle is that one should not collect treasures here on earth, but store them up in heaven. This teaching pressures those with wealth to spend

Aus de Scheelarin eenen Uagenblekj en hilt, funk Claudia aun met äare Erkläärunk von de Goldne Rääjel. "Ekj kjan de ooltmoodsche Lia hia, de Prinziep von een Uag fa een Uag un eene Tän fa eene Tän," säd see. "Eene soone jemätne Auntwuat woat en dise niee Lia aufjelänt. De niee Lia besajcht, daut et faulsch es, soogoa aun Rach to denkje. Maun sull de Fiend goot senne, de aundre Bak to eenem Aunjriepa jäwe, Leew un Respakjt fa dänen wiese, dee eenen Schod doone. 'Do to de aundre, soo aus du west daut see to die doone.' Natieedlich enthelt daut uk, aundre nich to beuadeele.

"Wan soone Lia jeemols en Room jemoakt woat, wudd et riesenoatich Veendrunge jäwe. De gaunze Welt von de Unjahoolunk, dee von de Gladiator Spels, wudd motte oppjehieet woare. Aule Legione wudde aufjeleest woare un de Haundlung von utlendsche Kampanje vebode. De Jesaze vom Mort wudde motte omjeendat woare, wiels Selfstschutz kunn nich mea aus een jeltja Grunt jebrukt woare. Schlieslich, Frues wudde een grootet Oppstieeje erläwe un nich mea met Jewault unjajedrekjt woare. Kaun dise Lia wuatlich jenome woare? Wan een erboarmunksloosa Aunjriepa eene Nazion dreiw, kunn see daut woage, sikj nich to veteidje? Jehieet dise Lia bloos oppem jeistlichen Jebiet un nich oppem weltlichen?"

Claudia dreid nu to de Lia von Jelt. "Daut es natieedlich, daut Mensche welle daut Läwe jeneete un de Meddel doatoo sieekje," säd see. "De ooltmoodsche Lia es, daut rikj senne een Tieekjen es von Gottes Jnod. Soone Lia bejensicht een Rikjdom to sieekje, un loft de Rikje. Daut niee Prinziep es, daut maun hia kjeene Schaza opp leed saumle, sonda em Himmel aufbewoare, saul. Dise nie Lia sat de rikje Mensche unja Druck, äa Rikjdom nich fa

it not on themselves but on others. The assumption is that an eternal life will follow the current life. Will people accept that serving God is more important than hoarding money?

“Common sense dictates that one take precautions and prepare for the future. The new teaching advises one to stop worrying about worldly things like food and clothing. One should first seek God and righteousness, and all other things would then come to us. Can this teaching apply to everyday life? Or does it apply to end times, when normal life is suspended, and the main concern is focused on its ending?”

Emily had become completely captured by Claudia's thoughts, basking in a feeling of security with the close presence of Claudia's bodyguard and members of her group. She had forgotten her main objectives of finding the lost pendant and Cyrus. She was thus totally taken unawares when Claudia suddenly announced that she had her fill of the meetings and was calling off the operation.

Claudia now motioned to Homez and Winter, and the men came to join them. Homez reported that the lost pendant had been found but no sign had been seen of Cyrus. He also said that a new contact had been made with the spies sent by the high priests from the Temple. A fatal conflict was brewing, he warned, and trouble would erupt should the Nazarene return to the Temple. Claudia listened carefully to Homez as this information was vital to her husband's administration. She cautiously referred to the uneasy truce existing between the Romans and the Temple authorities. She then informed Homez that she was abandoning the search for Cyrus.

sikj selfst to vebrinje, sonda fa aundre. Maun mott oba aunnäme, daut een eewjet Läwe daut Läwe oppe leed folje woat. Woare de Mensche de Lia, daut Gott to deene wichticha es aus Jelt to vedeene, goot heete?

“De weisa Mensch es väasechtich, un moakt sikj reed fa de Tookunft. De niee Lia sajcht, daut Maun sikj nich Sorje om weltliche Sache soo aus Äte un Kjeleeda moake sull. Maun sull toieescht Gott un Jerajchtichkjeit sieekje, un dan woare aule aundre Dinja kome. Kaun dise Lia fa dän Auldach jelle? Ooda jelt et bloos fa de Tiede aum Enj Welt, wan daut jeweentliche Läwe aum Enj es, un wan Maun sikj fa daut Enj reed moake mott?”

Emily wia fellich von Claudia äare Jedanke jefange, en eenem Jefeel von Sechaheit met de enje Aunwäsenheit von Claudia äa Lief Wajchta un de Metjlida von äare Grupp. See haud äare Hauptziele vejäte, dän veloarnen Aunhenja un Cyrus to finje. See wia doarom vellich veduzt, aus Claudia oppeenst aukjindicht, daut see von de Mission jenuach haud, un no Hus gone wull.

Claudia tieekjend nu to Homez un Winta, un de Mana kaume to äa. Homez berecht, daut see haude dän veloarnen Aunhenja jefunge, oba kjeenen Tieekjen von Cyrus jeseene. Hee säd uk, daut een niea Kontakt met däm Spion jemoakt worde wia, dee von de Huage Priestasch vom Tempel jeschekjt worde wia. Een doodlicha Trubbel wudd kome, woarnd hee, un Oaja wudd utbräakje, wan de Nazarena toom Tempel trigjkaum. Claudia hieed sorjfeltich to Homez, wiels dise Informazion fa de Vewaultunk von äa Maun needich wia. See betroock sikj väasechtich opp de onruje Jewäare Stellstaunt tweschen de Reemasche Harschoft un de Tempel Oobrichkjeit. See deeld dän Homez met, daut see de Sieekj no Cyrus oppjåwe wull.

Homez, Emily and Winter then took leave of Claudia, who was immediately joined by her bodyguard. With dusk falling she headed back to her compound. Homez, Emily and Winter now prepared to return to town. Homez appeared dazed, on the verge of deep depression. While the lost pendant of Claudia had been found, Cyrus had not. Homez commented that aside from the fees he had earned the mission had been futile.

Their musings were interrupted when they saw a huge disheveled ruffian suddenly swoop down on Claudia and seize the emerald pendant she was wearing. Clumsily, he took to his heels, seemingly oblivious of Claudia's bodyguard. Within moments the ruffian was caught, and thrown to the ground by the bodyguard. With his sword on the ruffian's chest the bodyguard looked at Claudia for instructions. The threesome saw her struggle with her primal emotions and finally cry, "Release the man; let him go in peace."

Homez, Emily un Winta säde Audee to Claudia, dee fuaz me äarem Lief Wajchta veleet. De Schemma foll aul un see wull trigj to äa Kuta. Homez, Emily un Winta muake sikj reed trigj no de Staut to gone. Homez schiend beteibd, aum Raunt von eene deepe Veläajenheit. Wäarent see dän veloarna Aunhenja von Claudia jefunge haude, haude see nuscht von Cyrus jeseene. Homez erkjläad, daut aufjeseene von daut Breefjelt daut hee vedeent haud, wia de Oppdrach vejäfs jewast.

Äare Jedanke worde unjabroake, aus see eenen riesjen, velumpton Turbauss sage, dee oppeenst no Claudia rand un äa Aunhenja wajch reet. Onbeholpe socht hee to entgone, schienboa haud hee Claudia äa Lief Wajchta nich jeseene. En een Uagenblekj wort de Turbauss von däm Lief Wajchta nom Boddem jeschmäte. Met sienem Schwieet opp de Brost vom Turbauss kijikt de Lief Wajchta no Claudia fa Aunwiesunge. Homez, Winta, un Emily kijikte too aus Claudia toieescht een korten Kaumf met äare eamolje Jefeete haud, un dan roopt: "Lot dän Maun toch; lot am en Fräd gone."

Mary and Martha

A cool breeze swept over the plane blowing dust into the weary travelers' eyes. Overhead a host of stars shone brightly. Polaris was dimmer than other stars, but as the caravan marched forward along the winding path, this star gave them direction. A struggle up a lengthy incline was followed by the thrilling sight of a town far below. Isolated lights twinkled in the streets, wood fires flickered to keep watchmen warm, and lanterns swayed as tradesmen headed off to work early.

Homez, the most successful detective in Galilee, was traveling through Samaria to Tiberias. His lovely niece Emily and his colleague Winter were accompanying him on this trip. Cato, Homez' servant was guiding the donkey, keeping the threesome abreast of the caravan which they had joined. Travel by night avoided the heat of day. Emily was exhausted, when they reached the outskirts of town. A glimmer of light showed in the east as they arrived at the inn where they would spend the hot day.

They had been a week in the Holy City. Homez had obtained a commission there, and was now in pursuit of a thief who had raided his client's home. As was her custom Emily was supporting her uncle. Winter's mission had been to visit his son Alexander in Bethlehem. Joining the caravan had been important in this area notorious for bandits.

In short order Cato had a fire going and was organizing refreshments. They had left shortly after sundown, marched for hours without resting and were famished. The morning dawned, and the town came to life. A lull

Maria un Marta

Een kjeela Wint blösd äwa de Stap un pust Stoff en de Uage von de meede Reisende. Huach em Himmel funkelde een Schoof Stiernkjes. Polaris wia dunkla aus aundre Stierns, oba fa de Karawan dee een kruglichen Wajch foljd, gauf dis Stiern Rechtunk. See muste eenen langen boajopp gone un dan worde de Reisende met eene spaunende Secht von eene Staut wiet unje beloont. Aufjesondade Lichta funkelde en de Gause, Holt Fiasch hilde de Wajchtasch woam, un Latoarne schwankte aus Mana bosich no de Oabeit jinje.

Homez, de erfoarna Detektiew von Galiläa, reisd derch Samaria no Tiberias. Siene schmocke Nicht Emily un sien Kolleg Winta wiere metjekome opp dise Reis. Homez sien Deena, Cato, leid dän Äsel verwoaz. De dree marschieede biesied en de Karawan dee see Jistre biejegone wiere. See reisde de Nacht wiels daut kjeela wia. Emily wia huntmeed, aus see bie de Raunt von de Staut aunkaume. De Doages Aunkunft wia aul to seene aus see bie een Gausthus stell hilde, wua see biem heeten Dach Vebliew habe wudde.

See wiere eene gaunze Wäakj en de Heilje Staut jewast. Homez haud doa een Oppdrach jekjräaje, un nu wia hee een Deef, dee Homez siene Kund bestole haud, oppe Hake. Soo aus see daut jewant wia, holp Emily äaren Onkel en siene Oabeit. Winta haud sien Sän en Betlehem besocht. See haude sikj de Karawan aunjeschlote wiels dise Jäajent voll met Baundiete wia.

Cato stekjt fuaz een Fia aun un koakt an dan Freestikj. See haude korz no Sonnenunjagank loos jesat. Dan haude see fa Stunde eendrajchtich marschieet, un wiere nu vemuckat. Aus et dan dach wort kaum de

followed which was soon ended by a noisy interruption.

A wailing was heard in the distance and then a funeral procession slowly wound to town. As the procession passed them the travelers rose and pressed forward in curiosity. The deceased had been of importance, for a group of professional mourners marched at the head of the column and a multitude followed behind. Four pallbearers transported the catafalque ahead of the widow and family, who were beating their breasts and emitting loud laments. Homez suddenly caught sight of a figure that instantly had his full attention.

Homez saw the man only for a second, a sudden wind gust having shifted the man's headgear. The man was marching at the border of the procession and on seeing Homez he plunged into the center of the crowd. Homez recognized the man as Barnabas, the man he was pursuing. With great daring he was trying to slip through town disguised as a mourner. Homez shouted and with Cato following was soon in hot pursuit.

The procession trans-formed itself as a cloud, constantly contracting and expanding. It avoided restrictions and sought level ground. The pace set by the lead women hastened since the heat of day was approaching. Homez had noted the grey headdress of Barnabas, but this color was seen everywhere, and he lost the man after a few moments. Shouting a command to Cato, Homez plunged off in a separate direction, desperately scanning the crowd.

When the cemetery was reached the procession began compressing. Homez and Cato crossed paths, disappointment on their faces, for the man had vanished. Meanwhile the deceased was prepared for burial, and

Staut to Läwe. Daut wia aules stell fa een Stootje un dan kaum eene lude Stierunk.

Een Loamentiere wia von wiet auf to hieren un bootl kaum een Bejrafnis Jetrakj langsam en de Staut enenn. Aus daut Jetrakj vebie jinkj stunde de Reisende nieschierich opp. De Vestorwna wia een wichticha Maun jewast; eene Grupp von beroopsmässje Truarende marschieede väare un een Schoof Mensche kaume an hinjaraun. Vea Mana druage daut Soakj ver de Wätfru un Famielje, dee sikj de Brost schluage un lud hielde. Homez kjrieech oppeenst eene Figua to seene dee uagenbleklich siene volle Achtunk haud.

Homez sach dän Maun bloos fa eene Zekund, aus de Wint am siene Koppbedakjunk to Sied schoof. De Maun jinkj aum Raunt vonne Grupp un aus hee Homez sach rasääkjeld hee enne Medd vonne Menj. Homez erkjand dän Maun aus Barnabas, de Maun dee hee hinjaraun wia. Sea driest wull dis Schlosäwendoot sikj derch de Staut schlikje aus een Truarenda. Homez roopt lud un met Cato wia dän Maun fuaz hinjaraun.

Daut Jetrakj vewaundeld sikj aus eene Wolkj, trock sikj en un dend sikj ut. Dee vemeid Beschrenkjunge un socht jlikja Grunt. Daut Gank von de Frues aum väare wort stoakja wiels de Hett vom Dach nu aunkaum. Homez haud de greiwe Koppbedakjunk von Barnabas jeseene, oba dise Kalia wia aulawääjes, un hee velua dän Maun no een poa Zekunde. Hee roopt een Befäl to Cato, rand en eene aundre Rechtunk, oba hilt de Menj emma uzhent em Uag.

Aus daut Jetrakj biem Kjoakjhoff aankjeem drektj dee sikj wada toop. Homez un Cato kjeeme opp eenst toop, Enteschunk en äare Jesechta, wiels de Maun veschwunge wia. Entweschen wort de Doodja toom Beieedjunk

placed in the tomb. The gravestone was rolled forward and the mourners scattered. Homez and Cato headed back to the inn where Emily and Winter saw them come back empty-handed.

With the caravan halted Homez made himself comfortable. Cato had pitched a tent at the roadside and Emily was sleeping peacefully while the three men sat plotting the next move. The fugitive might still be in town. Likely he would go to ground, seeing this as the best chance to escape. Homez and Winter slept a few hours while Cato sat on watch. When they awoke, it was Cato's turn.

The inn-keeper now passed by and Homez asked about the town and its inhabitants. The town lay on a major trade route, came the reply, but far from a Roman encampment. Many bandits passed through town and besides them there were local outlaws. This week the town had experienced an unusual event. The Nazarene with a large crowd had arrived and lingered for days. He had healed the sick, called for repentance and righteousness, and demanded peace and good will from men.

After the inn-keeper was gone Homez and Winter spoke quietly beside the roadside, watching the quiet square before them. Far off a dog yelped and a goat bleated. The human traffic had dried up. Suddenly they heard a child cry, an anguished wail. Footsteps clattered towards them and then a young girl came running and stood before them.

Homez rose up and hailed her. "What's the matter, little one?" he cried. "Come sit a while and tell us your problem."

reed jemoakt, un dan em Grauf jelajcht. Daut Graufsteen wort verwoaz jerolt un dan veleete de Truarende. Homez un Cato wankte trigj nom Gausthus wua Emily un Winta sage daut see met ladja Henj trigj kjeeme.

De Karawan wudd dän gaunzen Dach en de Staut bliewe un Homez sad sikj jemietlich dol. Cato haud daut Zelt aul oppjestalt un Emily schleep ruich doabenne, wiel de dree Mana buta saute un een Plon uthakte. De Deef wudd sechalich noch enne Staut senne. Hee haud sikj woll een Vestääkjesocht. Homez un Winta schleepe een Poa Stund un Cato saut aus Wajchta. Aus see oppwuaque, troff daut Cato to schlope.

De Gaustwheet kaum nu vebie un Homez befruch sikj von de Staut un de Enwonasch. De Staut lach opp eenem wichtichen Haundelswajch, wia de Auntwuat, oba wia wiet von een Reemischet Loaga auf. Väle Baundiete kaume derch de Staut un uk wiere hia noch de hiesje. Dise Wääkj wia waut butajeweenlichet passieet. De Nazarena wia jekome met eene groote Menj un dee wiere fa Doage jebläwe. Hee haud de Kranke jeheelt, haud Busse un Jerajchtichkjeit jeprädicht, un haud Fräd un Wooljefaule vonne Mensche velangt.

Wan de Gaustwheet velote haud, råde Homez un Winta ruich biesied de Gaus, un kjjkjte nom stellen Plauz ver an. Wiet auf bald een Hunt un mekjad eene Kos. Von Mensche wia nu nuscht to seene. Opp eenst hieede see een Kjint hiele, een kwolvollet jejauma. See hieede Footstaube noda kome un dan kjeem eene Mejal aunjerant un stunt ver an.

Homez stunt opp un roopt äa han. "Wuarom hielst du, Kjjliene?" fruach hee. "Komm sat die dol un saj waut met die loos es."

The girl quieted down but eyed Homez suspiciously. Seeing trust and comfort in his face she followed his bidding. She looked to be ten, of slight build, but with a freckled face, and eyes which brimmed with intelligence. A bright blue headdress covered her hair and on her feet were embroidered sandals. Wiping tears from her red eyes she began her story.

“My name is Anna, I am desperately seeking help for Mary and Martha,” she whimpered. “They are in danger. So far I have found no one; you must come to save them.” She paused there, panting loudly, with tears coursing down her face.

“We will come to help you,” Homez promised, including Winter in his reassurance. “But tell us what happened. Who are Mary and Martha and what danger are they facing?”

“Mary and Martha have adopted me; I am an orphan,” Anna answered. “They have a brother Lazarus and they live two blocks from this inn. Earlier this week we had a group of travelers as houseguests. Lazarus left with them this morning, leaving us alone in the house. Later we heard a funeral procession pass through town, but we were too busy cleaning to come see it.

“Martha and I were sweeping in the rear and Mary was resting in the front room when we heard a sharp knock on the front door. Before Martha could come Mary went and opened. Three intruders rushed into the house and took us prisoner. They locked the door and asked where the money box was hidden. Martha told them that only the householder could know of the box, and that he would return later. The intruders were hungry and asked for food. Martha will cook for them but

De Mejal wort nu stell un kijkt Homez mestrusch aun. See erkjand Vetru un Metleet en sien Jesecht un dan jehorcht see am. See wia soo om teen, een beskje denn un met Sommamole em Jesecht, oba met sea kluake Uage. Een licht bleiwet Koppduak bedakjt äare Hoa un opp äare Feet druach see utjeneide Sandale. See wescht Trone vonne Uage un funk met äare Jeschicht aun.

“Ekj sie Ana, un ekj sieekj drinjent Help fa Maria un Marta,” kajinkjad see. “De twee sent en Jefoa. Ekj hab noch kjeenem jefunge; jie motte kome an to rade.” See hilt doa aun, jescht lud, un Trone folle wada äwa äare Bake.

“Wie woare kome un junt halpe,” vespruak Homez, un tald Winta doabie. “Oba du motst ons ieescht saje waut passieet es. Wäa sent Maria un Marta un von wäm sent see en Jefoa?”

“Maria un Marta habe mie hanjenome; ekj sie een Weis,” gauf Ana Auntwuat. “See habe een Brooda Lazarus un see wone twee Gause von hia. Aum Aunfanks Wäakj kaume väl Reisende un bleewe bie ons äwanacht. Lazarus es met de Jast jegone, un haft ons em Hus auleen jelote. Nohäa hieed wie een Bejrafnis enne Staut gone, oba wie wiere sea drock em opprieme un kjeeme nich.

“Marta un ekj fäajde hinje ut un Maria vepust sikj väare em Hus aus wie een schoapet Jeputta aune Däa hieede. Ea Marta kome kunn wia Maria aul jegone un haud opjemoakt. Dree Endrinjinjasch kaume em Hus enenn un naume ons jefange. Dee schloote de Däa too un fruage wua de Jeltkauss vestoake wia. Marta säd daut bloos de Huswieweet daut weete kunn, un daut hee lota trigjkome wudd. De Endrinjinjasch hungad un see wulle äte. Marta woat fa an koake oba see brukt Äte vom

needs produce from the market. The men sent me to fetch it. As I was leaving Martha whispered that I go find help.”

At this point Homez instructed Emily to go with Cato to the market and buy the produce requested by Martha. The order included lentils, vegetables, goat meat, and unleavened bread. Homez then turned back to his young client to continue the interview.

“You said that Lazarus had left with the houseguests,” Homez commented. “Can you describe the guests, and tell us why Lazarus left with them? Can you describe the intruders? Have you seen them before?”

Calm had by now returned to Anna and she was paying close attention to Homez’ questions. “The group came from Galilee and the Leader and His followers were well known to us. Lazarus left to guide them away from the bandits. One intruder, Seth, has a grey beard, and is very strong. The second intruder, Benjamin, is young and handsome. He is friendly with Mary, but I fear him because he killed our dog. The third intruder disappeared into a front room. Oh yes, Benjamin has a bad leg wound which is still bleeding. Martha tried to treat him, but he needs a doctor. Martha told me to bring a doctor, who is to come alone.”

Homez paused trying to picture the scene of the three intruders holding two frightened women hostage. His concern showed that he had agreed to help free the women from their captors. He murmured a quick question to Winter, and he quickly agreed, saying that he had brought all that was needed. As Emily had not yet returned from the market Homez continued his interview with Anna.

Moakjt. De Mana schekjte mie daut to hole. Aus ekj rutjinkj fuscheld Marta to mie daut ekj Help finje sull.”

Homez befool Emily met Cato nom Moakjt to gone un daut Äte fa Marta to kjeepe. See haud ne Rieej Sache oppjeschräwe; Linse, Jreens, Kosefleesch, un onjesuadet Brot. Homez dreid sikj dan trigj no siene junge Kund un befruach äa wieda.

“Du hast jesajcht daut Lazarus met de Jast veleet,” säd Homez. “Kaust du mie de Jast beschriewe, un mie saje wuarom Lazarus met dee jinkj? Kaust du de Endrinjlinjasch beschriewe? Hast du dee aul ea jeseene?”

Ana wia nu wada ruich un see hieed jeneiw too no Homez siene Froage. “De Grupp kaum von Galiläa un wie kjande äa Leida un Siene Jinja goot,” säd Ana. “Lazarus jinkj an dän Wajch to wiese, wiels doa Jefoa von Baundiete es. Een Endrinjlinja, Seth, haft een greiwen Boat, un es sea stoakj. De tweeda Endrinjlinja, Benjamin, es jung un sea straum. Hee es frintlich met Maria, oba ekj hab am Angst wiels hee ons Hunt dootjemoakt haft. De dredda Endrinjlinja veschwunk väare em Hus. Benjamin haft ne Wund oppem Been daut noch bleede deit. Marta wull am halpe, oba hee brukt een Dokta. Marta säd ekj sull een Dokta brinje, dee auleen kome sull.”

Homez hilt nu en om sikj daut Bilt von de dree Endrinjlinjasch un äare Jefangne, de twee verschrokne Frues, ennalich to mole. Siene Sorj wees daut hee sikj entschlote haud de Frues to rade. Hee fuscheld schwind waut met Winta, un dee stemd fuaz too, un säd daut hee aules jebrocht haud daut needich wia. Emily wia noch nich trigj vom Moakjt un soo fua Homez met siene Befroagunk von Ana wieda.

“Can you describe your home to us, and tell us how Mary and Martha are coping?” he asked Anna. “What else can you tell us about those three men? How are they armed and what exactly do they want?”

“The house is a new one built with stone walls,” Anna answered. “It has a single story and a flat roof. There are four large rooms and a courtyard which is surrounded by high walls. There are two narrow windows in front. Mary is her usual self, while Martha is very worried. Seth and Benjamin were not part of the group that was with us this week.

“The two carry short daggers. Benjamin said that a friend had told them that a strongbox was kept in the house. After he killed our dog he said he'd kill us if we did not show where it was hidden. Martha distracted him, and said he needed a doctor for his wound.”

Emily and Cato were now back from the market carrying produce. Winter had his medical bag ready and was prepared to accompany Anna. At Homez' insistence Winter carried no weapon, going merely to treat the man's wound. Winter told Homez about the vial that he would pass to Martha to insert in the food. Homez meanwhile intended to locate the builder to ask about the best point of entry in a rescue attempt.

Winter and Anna climbed the low hill that lay to the east. Anna walked calmly and chatted brightly. “We had a wonderful time with our visitors this week,” she said. “Martha prepared wonderful meals, and we enjoyed the conversation and singing. Martha worked hard while Mary entertained the guests. Everybody spoke kindly to me and gave me little presents.”

“Kaust du jun Hus beschriewe, un saje woo daut met Maria un Marta steit?” fruach hee Ana. “Kaust du ons noch waut von de drie Mana saje? Habe dee Jewääre, un waut welle de ieejentlich?”

“Daut Hus es nie un haft steenane Wenj,” gauf Ana Auntwuat. “Daut es een Stock huach un haft een plautet Dak. Doa sent vea groote Stowe un hinje een Hoff daut von huage Wenj omrinjt es. Väare sent twee schmaule Fenstre. Maria es soo aus jeweenlich, oba Marta es besorcht. De Endrinjlinjasch jehieede nich to de Grupp dee ons dise Wääkj besocht.

“Twee von an habe korte Doljche. Benjamin säd daut een Frint an jesajcht haud, daut eene Jeltkauss em Hus wia. Aus hee ons Hunt omjebrocht haud säd hee, daut hee ons uk ombrinje wudd wan wie am nich halpe wudde. Marta lenkjt am auf, un säd hee brukt drinjent een Dokta fa siene Wund.”

Emily un Cato wiere nu trigj vom Moakjt un brochte daut Äte fa Marta. Winta haud siene Medizien Tausch un wia reed met Ana to gone. Hee wudd kjeen Jewää metnäme; hee wudd däm Maun bloos siene Wund behandle. Winta vetald Homez von de Ampule dee hee Marta jäwe wudd, dee see em Äte stekje sull. Homez entweschen wull dän Bumeista finje, un am froage woo, aum basten, Maun em Hus nen kome kunn.

Winta un Ana jinje dän läajen Boajch enopp, dee toom Ooste lach. Ana jinkj ruich un pludad pienich. “Wie habe ons met onse Jast dise Wääkj sea jefreit,” säd see. “Marta haft wundaboaret Äte jekoakt, un wie freide ons to de Unjahoolunk un daut Jesank. Marta haft schwoa Jeschauff, wiel Maria sikj met de Jast unjahilt. Een jieda räd frintlich met mie, un gauf mie kliene Jeschenkje.”

“When we arrive at the house I must know who Martha is without introductions,” Winter interrupted Anna. “Can you describe her?”

“Today Martha is wearing a brown headdress matching her long brown robe and her brown eyes,” Anna said. “There are no servants in the house. Martha gave them a day’s rest for the hard work of the last few days.”

They now arrived at the house, and Winter noted narrow windows on either side of the sturdy front entrance. The rock walls had been plastered with mud and whitewashed, providing a pleasant contrast to the dark hue of the door. Similar structures pressed on the house on either side. Anna presented herself at the left window, and called out saying she was accompanied by a doctor. Winter heard a gruff reply.

They then went to the door. The thudding of heavy furniture was heard inside and then the door opened. Anna stepped in first and Winter followed. Immediately the aroma of sweet incense hit Winter, an extravagant fragrance that was very soothing.

From the side Winter now felt a rude push forward and then heard the door slam and the bolt drawn. Turning around he was accosted by a huge man, clearly Seth, who took his satchel and rudely frisked him. The man then went forward in the darkness. Winter followed and in a few steps was at the entrance to the rear room at the right.

Winter had been memorizing the floor plan from first entry, noting the wide dimly-lit passageway which lead to the courtyard, and the four doors giving access to four rooms. Leaving the passageway he now entered a

“Wan wie biem Hus aukome mott ekj Marta erkjane kjenne one Enleidunk,” unjabruak Winta. “Kaust du mie äa beschriewe?”

“Vondoag es Marta met een brunet Koppduak aunjetrocke daut äa brunet Kjelet un äare brune Uage tooppaust,” säd Ana. “Doa sent kjeene Deenasch em Hus. Marta gauf an een Dach friee Tiet, om äare schwoare Oabeit de latste poa Doag to beloone.”

See kaume nu aum Hus aun, un Winta bekjikt sikj de schmaule Fenstre en jieda Sied von de stoakje Dää. De steenane Wenj wiere met Jips beschmät un witt jeforwe. De witte Wenj un de dunkla Dää gauwe een gooden Endruck. Änliche Jebieda wiere aun beid Siede vom Hus. Ana stald sikj nu ver daut linkje Fensta, un roopt daut see met een Dokta bejleitet wia. Winta hieed ne boasche Auntwuat.

See jinje dan no de Dää. See hieede daut schwoaret Meebel rom jeschowe wort un dan dreid de Dää op. Ana jinkj enenn un Winta kjeem korz hinjaraun. Winta wort fuaz von een stoakjen Jeroch no Mirreneel en; daut wia een kjestlicha Jeroch daut am sea aunjenäm rikjt.

Von eene Sied feeld Winta nu een onheeflicha Druck no väare un dan hieed hee daut de Dää toojeschlote un veräjelt wort. Hee dreid sikj om un wort wada jeschowe, von een riesjen Maun, dee secha Seth wia. Seth naum siene Tausch un filzt am boasch. De Maun jinkj dan em Diestren verwoaz. Winta jinkj hinjaraun un wia boolt biem Engank to de hinjaschte Stow aune rajchte Sied.

Winta haud sikj daut Flua Plon em Jedajchnis jemolt, besondasch dän breeden dunklen Gank dee nom Hoff leid, un de vea Dääre dee no vea Stowe leide. Aus hee vom Gank rutjinkj kjeem hee en eene aunjenäme Stow enenn,

pleasant room flooded with light from a wide window barred with sturdy rods. A beautiful woman approached him wearing a bright blue headdress that matched her bright blue eyes. She had a carefree look and began to give him an elaborate welcome. She recoiled in annoyance when Seth rudely pushed her back and forced his way through.

With a brief nod Winter passed Mary and continued to a pile of cushions on which rested a young man grimacing in pain. Wiping his forehead was an attractive woman who dazzled Winter with her friendly brown eyes. Martha looked older than Mary, appeared exhausted, but Winter sensed a source of comfort and reassurance. There was a questioning look on her face, a demanding appeal for understanding.

"I will need a dish of boiling water," Winter ordered loudly. "I have just left an important patient who is gravelly ill, and can spare only a few moments." Understanding immediately leapt into the brown eyes. Swiftly Martha bustled out and Winter heard the pouring of water, the clatter of utensils, and the smell of smoke. Seth had taken a seat, a dagger within reach. Winter turned to his patient who glared at him with angry eyes.

"I must know the cause of the injury," Winter said importantly. "When did it happen, and what treatment have you received?" Disregarding the answer Winter opened his satchel and withdrew his instruments. Suspicious eyes followed his every move. Mary now sat down beside the patient, who was clearly Benjamin, and gently stroked his hand.

Shouting for hot water Winter stalked into the courtyard in pretended anger. A tall oak tree stood at the center of the courtyard, providing

dee dach von een breedet Fensta wia, daut met stoakje Stange vespoat wia. Eene sea schmocke Fru kaum am entjääjen, dee een licht bleiwet Koppduak druach daut ääre licht bleiwe Uage änlich wiere. See gauf een sorjloosen Endruck un funk aun am heeflich to bejreesse. See prald oajalich trigj aus Seth äa schoof un sikj boasch enne Stow dwunk.

Met een kjlienet Nekje jinkj Winta de Maria vebie, no een Klompe Kjesses wua een junga Maun saut, dän sien Jesecht von Schmoate vetrocke wia. Eene straume Fru wescht sien Stiern. See veblend dän Winta met ääre frintliche brune Uage. Marta sach et ella aus Maria. To Winta schiend see uk eene Kwol von Troost un Berujunk to senne. Eene Froag un een Opproop fa Vestentnis wiere en äa Jesecht jestalt.

"Ekj bruck een Kjätel voll koakendjet Wota," säd Winta boasch. "Ekj hab jrod een wichtichen Pazient velote de iernst krank es, un ekj kaun bloos een poa Minnute bliewe." Hee sach fuaz Vestentnis en de brune Uage. Schwind jinkj Marta erut, un dan hieed Winta Wota rane, un ludet Jeklauta von Jescherr, un rikjt Ruak. Seth haud sikj hanjesat, een Doljch dicht bie siene Sied. Winta dreid sikj nu toom Pazient dee am met fientliche Uage aunkjikt.

"Waut es die ieejentlich passieet?" fruach Winta boasch. "Wan passieed die daut, un waut habe see fa die aul jedone?" One ne Auntwuat to hiere muak Winta nu siene Tausch op un naum siene Instrumente rut. Vedajchtiche Uage foljde aulawääjes. Maria sad sikj biem Pazient dol, dee je Benjamin wia, un leiselkjes haujd siene Haunt.

Winta roopt fa Wota un jinkj Stoltz em Hoff enenn en vemutlichen Oaja. Een huaga leekjeboom stunt em medden Hoff, un breede

abundant shade. In a quick glance he noted the high bare walls of the courtyard that provided no prospect for entry.

In the few moments he was alone with Martha he handed her the vial and passed on exact instructions. He then returned with the water and treated the festering wound. Benjamin held up bravely for some moments before he blacked out. Having washed and bound the wound Winter now prepared to leave.

“You are settled for the present,” he said to Benjamin who was awake again. “Don't let the bandage move. I will return when I have a free moment.” Seth replied that his further services were no longer needed. Behind him Winter heard a noisy bolting of the door and the reinstalling of the barrier. On entering the street it struck Winter that he had seen only two intruders. Where was the third one, and what was he doing?

“There was no sight or sound of the third intruder mentioned by Anna,” Winter reported later to Homez. “Could she have been mistaken? Mary and Martha and the two intruders gave no hint of another man in the house. The third man is critical to a rescue plan. Could he have been Barnabas, our quarry at the funeral?”

“A process is going on which could endanger the rescue. A strong bond is forming between Mary and Benjamin. Mary is drawn to the injured man, for whom she naturally feels pity. Added to this, Benjamin is charismatic and wishes to win her support. In a rescue attempt, will Mary side with her captors, or those attempting a rescue?”

Homez was very interested in the absence of

Asta gauwe kjeela Schaute. Winta sach fuaz daut de huage kole Wenj em Hoff daut nich leicht moake wudde nentokome.

Fa een poa Minnute wia hee auleen met Marta un hee gauf äa schwind de Aumpel un säd äa krakjt waut see doone sull. Hee jinkj dan met daut Wota trigj un behandeld Benjamin siene Wund. Sien Paziënt hilt fa een Stootje ut, un dan beschwiemd hee. Aus Winta de Wund rein jewauscht un oppjebunge haud, wia hee reed to velote.

“Du best fa nu foadich,” säd Winta to Benjamin, dee aul wada waka wia. “Hool daut Vebunt faust. Wan ekj Tiet hab, woa ekj wada kome.” Seth säd Winta daut sien Deenst nich mea needich wia. Hinja am hieed Winta daut de Däa lud veräajelt wort, un daut Meebel trigjjeschowe. Enne Gaus foll Winta daut plazlich bie daut hee bloos twee Endrinjlinjasch jeseene haud. Wua wia de dredda, un waut muak dee?

“Ekj hieed un sach nuscht von Ana äa dredda Endrinjlinja,” säd Winta lota to Homez. “Es daut mäajlich daut see een Fäla jemoakt haft? Maria un Marta un de twee Endrinjlinjasch weese un säde nuscht von een dredden Maun em Hus. De dredda Maun es entscheident fa een Radunks Plon. Kunn hee Barnabas, ons Ziel biem Bejrafnis, senne?”

“Em Hus passieet waut daut de Radunk en Jefoa brinje kaun. Een stoakja Bunt woat tweschen Maria un Benjamin oppjebilt. Maria es nom Maun dee jestat es hanjetrocke, fa wäm see Metleet felt. Un dan es Benjamin uk leefolich un well äare Help jewenne. En eene Radunk, woat Maria sikj aune Sied von äa Jefangennäma stale, ooda aune Sied von däm dee äa rade kjemt?”

Homez intressieed daut sea daut de dredda

the third intruder in Winter's story and in the bonding between Benjamin and Mary. He called Emily and asked her to comment on Mary and Martha's reaction to a home invasion.

"Of course, a woman in a home attacked by intruders will be very frightened," she said. "If an intruder shows kindness, he will kindle a hope of survival, a hope that she will desperately cling to. She will try to prolong this hope by returning the kindness, mistaking the process as one between equals.

"If a man unknown to the woman is sent to rescue her, I believe the woman will side with her captor, forgetting that his intention was to harm her. A contrary process can also take place. The man can yield to the woman's charm and refuse to harm her, double-crossing his fellow intruders."

Homez now returned to the question of the third intruder. Winter's failure to observe him and his location, or even to settle the issue of his existence troubled him. With Cato's help he mentally retraced the route of their pursuit in the morning.

Could their quarry have slipped away, joined comrades, and invaded Martha's home? Considering the nearness of the Martha's house, the street layout, and the path of the funeral procession Homez concluded that this was possible. If this had happened, then the third intruder was the leader of the group, and his location was vital for the rescue.

Homez suddenly exclaimed loudly, saying that he had been distracted from attending to a precaution that he should have taken already. He urgently sent Cato to watch Martha's

Endrinjlinja nich aunwäsent wia, un de Bunt daut tweschen Maria un Benjamin woss. Hee roopt nu Emily un fruach äa äwa Maria un Marta äa benäme en een Äwafaulen.

"Natieedlich, wan eene Fru en äarem Tus von een Endrinjlinja äwafolle es haft see Angst," säd Emily. "Wan de Endrinjlinja leefolich es, enzint hee de Hopninj fa daut Äwaläwe, eene Hopninj dee see drinjent faust hoole well. See woat welle dise Hopninj velenjre, un stalt sikj uk leefolich ut, oba ert sikj wiels de Sach nich tweschen twee Äwareene es.

"Wan een Maun däm see nich kjant äa to rade kjemt, jleew ekj de Fru woat sikj met äa Jefangna toop feele, endäm see vejäte deit daut hee jekome es äa to schode. Een Maun kaun uk velokt woare von eene leefoliche Fru, un siene Kollege verode."

Homez kjeem nu to de Froag vom dredden Endrinjlinja trigj. Daut baudat am daut Winta dän nich jeseene haud, un siene Städ nich wist, un soogoä nich wist opp hee werkjlich doa wia. Met Cato siene Help, jinkj hee en sien Jedajchnis trigj no äare Vefoljunk von Benjamin zemorjes.

Kunn äa Raup wajchjekome senne, sikj met siene Kommarode toop jeschlikjt, un dan en Marta äa Hus nenjedrunge? Marta äa Hus, de Gause, un de Stich von daut Bejrafnis Jetrakj wiere soo daut dit mäajlich wia. Wan dit passieet wia, dan wia de dredda Endrinjlinja de Leida von de Grupp, un sien Uat wia entscheident wichtich fa de Radunk.

Homez belkjt nu lud opp, un säd daut hee waut vejäte haud, daut hee aul ea haud doone sult. Hee schekjt Cato drinjent no Marta äa Hus. Hee sull doa bute opp äa Brooda wachte,

house and intercept her brother when he returned in the afternoon. Homez then asked Winter when the tranquilizer would take effect. This was a tricky question and Winter asked Emily what produce had been purchased. Emily paused to remember and then estimated that the preparation and cooking would take over an hour. She then curiously added that Anna had brought no money and that she had paid for the purchases herself.

Disregarding this comment Winter made the calculation which Homez had requested. If the meal were eaten when ready, he told Homez, then it would be another hour before they were asleep. Little time remained for Homez to plan the rescue.

The options available for the rescue were few as the safety of the captives was their first concern. While the intruders hopefully would be asleep, a loud disturbance would awake them. Entry into the house from the street was not possible as the door was barricaded and the windows were too narrow. Cato had suggested hiring an ox to pull the door off its hinges, but this would create a racket.

The tree Winter had noted in the rear could be used to climb to the ground. A barricaded rear door and barred windows though would defeat an attempt at entry. Starving the men out would take time and be equally punishing to the captives. All the while Homez' face lengthened and his sense of urgency became greater.

The inn-keeper now arrived with the builder. Homez welcomed the man, who said that he had constructed Martha's house ten years

dee Nomeddach trigj kome sull. Homez fruach Winta dan wan daut Beteibungsmeddel wirksom woare wudd. Dit wia eene kunjliche Froag un Winta fruach Emily waut fa Äte see jekoft haud. Emily besonn sikj un dan hilt see en om to de Tiet to berääkjne. Entlich säd see daut daut reedmoake un koake soo eene Stund diere sull. See säd dan noch drollich too, daut Ana kjeen Jelt jebrocht haud, un daut see daut Äte von äa ieejnet Jelt betolt haud.

Winta gauf dit Bescheet kjeene Achtunk un muak dan de Rääkjnunk dee Homez jefoddad haud. Wan de Endrinjlinjasch de Moltiet äte wudde wan daut reed wia, säd hee to Homez, dieed et noch eene Stund bat dee enschlope wudde. Doa bleef weinich Tiet dän Radunks Plon reed to moake.

En däm Radunks Plon wull Homez sea jeneiw senne wiels de Sechaheit von de Jefangne am sea wichtich wia. Hee hopt daut de Endrinjlinjasch enjeschlope wiere, un wist daut eene lude Stierunk an oppwakje wudd. Von de Gaus em Hus enenn to kome wia nich mäajlich, wiels de Dää vestopt wia un de Fenstre too schmaul wiere. Cato haud väajeschlone een Oss aunnäme un doamet de Dää von de Jelenkja aufottrakje, oba dit wudd een ludet Jereisch moake.

De leekjeboom em Hoff, dee Winta jeseene haud, wia Nutzboa naum Grunt to klautre. Oba de hinja Dää wudd uk vestopt senne un de Fenstre haude Stange ver an. Soo kunn Maun vom Hoff uk nich nenkome. De Endrinjlinjasch uthungre wudd ne lange Tiet diere un uk de Jefangne schode. Met dise schwoare Jedanke wort Homez sien Jesecht lenja, un sien Senn fa lel noch stoakja.

De Gaustwieet brocht nu dän Bumeista. De Maun säd Homez daut hee Marta äa Hus ver tien Joa jebut haud. Hee bestädicht daut de

ago. He confirmed that the walls were of stone, with narrow street windows and a sturdy front door. The roof consisted of wooden joists covered with reeds on which rested a layer of clay. The roof was sturdy to carry human occupants, as villagers slept there in summer. Homez bluntly asked him for the easiest means of entry into the house.

“I must say through the roof,” the builder replied. “The walls can be broken only with siege weapons, and you have said the front and rear doors are or will be barricaded. Openings can be made between the joists on the roof with a shovel and a hammer. A ladder will provide access to the roof and can be used again, to reach the floor. Someone entering in this way will not receive a welcome from the owner.”

The builder’s description provided Homez with the core of a rescue plan based on entry through the roof. Winter now had doubts which he resolved in the first instance to keep private. There was the question of the dosage he had given. Would Martha insert the full contents of the vial as he had instructed? It would not do for the rescuers to be ambushed by alert intruders.

Then Winter recalled Emily’s comment that she had paid for the produce purchase. Doubts arose about their client, the little girl Anna. She had appeared hysterical in telling her tale, but had that tale come from an overactive imagination? There were curious problems with her story. Why would Martha send her out to make purchases without any money? Winter was now in serious doubt, and where was the third intruder?

Winter now interrupted Homez’ conversation with the builder, and posed a question of his

Wenj von Steen wiere, daut de Fenstre schmaul wiere, un de Dää stoakj wia. De Dak wia von heltane Baulkjes, dee met Schelprua bedakjt wiere, opp woone eene Schicht Leem lach. Daut Dak wia soo kjaftich jebut daut Mensche doaropp gone kunne, wiels see doa em Somma schleepe. Homez fruach am boasch fa däm leichsten Wajch em Hus enenn.

“Ekj mott saje derchem Dak,” säd de Bumeista. “De Wenj kjenne bloos met Beloagrunks Wauf opjebroake, un du hast jesajcht daut de Dääre sent aul ooda woare vestopt senne. Daut jeit Lajcha em Dak to growe met een Spodem un een Homa. Met eene Lada kaun Maun oppen Dak enopp un met dee selwje kaun Maun wada nom Grunt kome. Wan doa wää Tus es un du soo enenn kjemst, woat dee oba die kjeen Welkom jäwe.”

Daut Bescheet vom Bumeista gauf Homez de Gruntjedanke fa een Radunks Plon derchem Dak. Winta haud nu Twiewel, wuavon hee too ieescht stell bleef. Doa wia de Froag von woo stoak daut Beteibungsmeddel jewast wia. Haud Marta de gaunze Aumpel enenn jegote soo aus hee äa jesajcht haud? Daut wudd de Radunks Grupp nich goot gone wan de Endrinjlinjasch waka wiere.

Dan kaum Winta Emily äaren Bescheet em Denkj, daut see fa daut Äte selfst betolt haud. Hee twieweld opp eemol äwa de kjliene Ana un äare Jeschicht. See wia sea oppjeräacht jewast aus see dee vetald. Daut gauf een sondaboaret Problem met de Jeschicht. Wuarom wudd Marta äa enkjeepe schekje, one Jelt? Winta wia nu gaunz utenaunda un sorjd noch wada, wua de dredda Endrinjlinja wia?

Winta räd nu mank en Homez siene Unjahoolunk met dän Bumeista, un stald selfst

own. "What do you know about the owners of the house and their adopted daughter?" he asked. Homez' face instantly jerked up in wonder.

The builder turned and paused, contemplating the question that had been thrust at him from another direction. He turned to Homez who nodded. "The house was contracted by the father of the current owners," he replied. "He passed on some years ago. He had three grown children, a man and two women. I know nothing about an adopted daughter."

They were interrupted then by Cato who was leading a tall, thin man who seemed winded. Homez asked for his name and when he replied Lazarus, Homez asked him to account for the events of his day. Winter paid close attention, keen on checking his story with that of Anna.

"We were hosts to beloved houseguests for several days, and today they took their leave," he began. "After we finished the breakfast which Martha had cooked the leave-taking began. We sensed that our guests would face great danger in Jerusalem. It was an unbearably sad moment. Desperate tension filled the air, a feeling that this parting would be final.

"Martha and I are the older, and although numbed with grief, we kept our equilibrium. It was Mary, the youngest, who bore the brunt of the emotions. She seized up completely, could not find words or tears for the parting.

"I led the group to the next village. When they were clear on the way to Jerusalem I returned, hurrying as I had left my sisters unattended. On nearing my home I was stopped by this

eene Froag. "Waut weetst du von däm leejendeema vom Hus un siene aunjenomne Dochta?" fruach hee. Homez sien Jesecht tocht nu opp en Wunda.

De Bumeista dreid sikj om vetwiewelt, wäarent hee de Froag, dee von eene aundre Rechtunk kaum, nodocht. Hee dreid sikj no Homez, dee nekjkopt. "De Oppdrach daut Hus to bue kaum vom Voda von de vondoagsche leejendeema," säd hee. "De Voda es ver eenje Joare jestorwe. Hee haud dree oppjewosne Kjinja, een Maun un twee Frues. Ekj hab nuscht von eene aunjenomne Dochta jehieet."

De Grupp wort nu von Cato unjabroake, dee een huach jewosna denna Maun met sikj jebrocht haud. Homez fruach am sien Nome, un wan hee Lazarus säd, wull Homez daut hee siene Jeschicht vom Dach vetald. Winta horcht too, om de Jeschicht met Ana äare notoseene.

"Wie wiere een poa Doag Gaust Jäwasch fa beleewde Jast, un zemorjes muake dee Aufscheet," funk hee aun. "Wan wie Freestikj jejäte haude, daut Marta reed jemoakt haud, funk daut Aufscheetsaje aun. Wie wiste daut de Jast en Jerusalem groote Jefoa bejäajne wudde. Soo wia daut Aufscheet morschich truarich, nich uttohoole. Wie feelde eene vetwiewelde Stiewheit; wie wiere ons secha daut dise Scheedunk de latste senne wudd.

"Marta un ekj sent de elre, un wan uk vekjlämt met Trua, hilt wie onse Jlikjewicht. Daut wia Maria, de jinjste, dee daut stoakjste jetroffe wia. Maria wia nich to treeste, see kunn nich Wieeda uk nich Trone fa dän Aufscheet finje.

"Ekj leid de Grupp no daut näakjste Darp. Wan de Grupp oppem wajch no Jerusalem wia kaum ekj haustich trigj, wiels ekj miene Sestre auleen jelote haud. Aus ekj Tus aukjeem hilt

man Cato, who insisted that I report to his master.”

So far the story of Lazarus matched that of Anna, but it did not cover the period after Lazarus’ departure from home. Lazarus now asked Homez the reason for his detention.

“Our caravan was halted here in the morning when a young girl named Anna came to request our help,” Homez said. “She said that three intruders had entered the home, seeking a strong box containing a large sum of money.”

Rather than registering disbelief Lazarus’ face showed surprise and then grave concern. He immediately shouted, “Why are we waiting? We should go rescue the three for they are in great danger. There is no strongbox; someone gave the intruders false information. Our means are ordinary; we have no treasure in our house.”

Homez explained about the tranquilizer and the plan to enter the house through the roof when the intruders were sedated. He mentioned Winter’s visit to the house and the disposition of the two intruders. Three problems remained to be solved before attempting the rescue, he cautioned.

The first one was how to adjust for the bonding between Mary and Benjamin. The second was how to account for the third intruder. The third, and most crucial, was how to select the position on the roof at which to make entry. It would not do to excavate the roof above an intruder, even though he was sedated.

Lazarus was a practical man. He immediately stooped down and in the sand drew a plan of

mie dis Maun Cato opp, dee mie säd daut ekj sien Wieet seene sull.”

Bat nu stemd Lazarus siene Jeschicht met dee von Ana, docht Winta, oba dee bedakjt nich de Tiet nodäm Lazarus sien Tus velote haud. Lazarus fruach nu Homez fa de Uasoak fa sien Opphoole.

“Zemorjes stunt onse Karawan hia enne Staut wan eene Mejal Nomes Ana ons roopt äa Help to leewre,” säd Homez. “See säd daut dree Endrinjlinjasch en äa Hus nenn jekome wiere, un eene Jeltkauss sochte.”

Enne Städ Onjleewe to wiese wees Lazarus sien Jesecht Äwarauschunk un dan iernsta Kjemma. Hee roopt fuaz, “Wuarom wacht wie hia? Wie sulle fuaz nom Hus, wiels see en groote Jefoa sent. Doa es kjeene Jeltkauss; irjentwää haft de Endrinjlinjasch faulschen Bescheet jejäft. Onse Meddel sent jeweenlich; wie habe kjeenen Schauz em Hus.”

Homez erkjläad von daut Beteibungs Meddel un dän Plon derch däm Dak em Hus nenn to gone aus de Endrinjlinjasch schleepe. Hee vetald von Winta sien besieekje em Hus un wua twee von de Endrinjlinjasch wiere. Dree Probleeme muste see noch opprieme ea see met de Radunk loosgone kunne, mond hee.

Daut ieeschta wia woo met dän Bunt tweschen Maria un Benjamin to haundle. De tweeda wia waut met däm dredden Endrinjlinja to doone. De dredda, un wichtichsta, wia de Städ em Dak, wua see enenn gone sulle. Daut wudd nich pause dän Dak utgrowe krakjt bowa een Endrinjlinja, wan hee uk schlope deed.

Lazarus wia een praktischa Maun. Hee bieejd sikj fuaz han un em Saunt mold een Plon vom

the house. On either side of the corridor he drew two rooms. The large courtyard with the oak tree was in the rear. Homez stared down at the four boxes in the drawing representing the four rooms. The two facing the street he labeled IA and IB, and the ones in the rear IIA and IIB. Homez said that there were four rooms and three bandits. They must select the correct room to ensure success of the mission.

Lazarus said that furniture had likely been removed from IA to provide barricades for the doors. Such furniture was too heavy for the women to remove. Benjamin had been lying on cushions in IIB. Anna had signified her return by appearing before the window of IB. Where was the third intruder? Homez struggled to make a selection based on careful deduction. Since Winter's attack of doubts he had no confidence in his intuition and did not venture an opinion. They had reached an impasse.

It was finally Emily who found a way out of the dilemma. "Our plan will work only if the intruders are asleep," she suggested. "Well then, let us assume they are asleep. I am certain that Martha did not take the tranquilizer and will be awake. She is likely sitting in a front room waiting for rescue. We will go to the house, approach a window and simply ask which room is safe for entry. Martha will tell us and in moments we will be inside the house."

Homez stared at his niece in disbelief. Then recognizing the wisdom of the simple plan he immediately proceeded with its execution.

As they approached the house, Winter volunteered to ask the question. In short order the plan was implemented. Martha's reply sent

Hus. Opp jieda Sied vom Engank mold hee twee Stowe. De Hoff met däm grooten leekjeboom mold hee hinje. Homez bekjikt sikj de vea Veakaunte em Bilt dee de vea Stowe veträde. De twee Stowe dicht bie de Gaus betieekjend hee aus IA un IB, un de twee hinje aus IIA un IIB. Homez säd daut doa vea Stowe wiere un dree Endrinjlinjasch. See muste de rechtje Stow utläse, om gooden Erfolg en äare Mission to habe.

Lazarus säd daut de Endrinjlinjasch woarschienlich Meebel fa de Dääre von Stow IA jenome haude. Daut Meebel wia too schwoa fa de Frues wieda to schlape. Benjamin wia opp Kjesses en IIB jewast. Ana haud äare Aunkunft em Fensta von IB jewäse. Wua wia de dredda Endrinjlinja? Homez strenjd sikj aun eene Auntwuat uttloläse dee von väasechtjet Denkje kaum. Seitdäm daut Winta grooten Twiewel äwa Ana haud wia hee onentschlote un soo kunn hee nuscht biedroage. See wiere opp een Stellstaunt jekome.

Daut wia Emily dee entlich een Wajch verwoaz funk. "Ons Plon woat bloos schaufe wan de Endrinjlinjasch enjeschlope sent," säd see. "Na, well wie dan aunnäme daut see schlope. Ekj sie mie secha daut Marta daut Beteibungsmeddel nich jenome haft, un noch waka es. See sett woll krakjt nu en eene Stow väare em Hus un wacht fa onse Radunk. Wie sulle nom Hus gone, dan bie een Fensta bloos froage woone Stow secha es toom nenkome. Marta woat ons daut saje, un boolt sent wie em Hus."

Homez kijkt sikj siene Nicht gaunz erstaunt aun. Dan sach hee de Weisheit von äaren eenfachen Plon un wees fuaz verwoaz.

Aus see biem Hus aunkaume gauf Winta sikj aun aus Friewelja de Froag to stale. Soo wort de Plon dan schwind utjefieet. Marta äare

them to the room IIA. The builder, Homez and Winter climbed the ladder, made an opening, and descended to the floor of the house.

Auntwuat schekjt an no de Stow IIA om daut Loch to growe. De Bumeista, Homez un Winta klautade de Lada enopp, growde daut Loch, un jinja rauf em Hus nen.

Anna and Mary were awakened and led up the ladder. Martha calmly climbed up the ladder herself. As the party came down the ladder to the street a patrol that Homez had called arrived. They promptly entered the house and took the intruders captive.

See wakjte Ana un Maria opp un brochte dee no de Lada. Marta kaum gaunz von selfst enopp. Aus de Grupp de Lada rauf no de Gaus klautade kaume Truppe aun, dee Homez jeroopt haud. De Mana jinje fuaz em Hus enenn un naume de Endrinjlinjasch jefange.

Homez lingered to verify that three intruders had been taken prisoner and that the leader was indeed Barnabas. As they departed, they could hear Martha gently scolding, "Mary, Mary."

Homez bleef trigj om to bestädje daut dree Endrinjlinjasch jefange jenome wiere, un daut de Leida werkjlich Barnabas wia. Aus see veleete, kunne see Marta hier saunft schelle, "Maria, Maria."

Trial

The sky was heavy with dark clouds, and rain threatened to turn their return trip to Jerusalem to misery. Alexander, Emily and Winter were traveling from Winter's villa in Bethlehem to Homez' compound in the Holy City. They had set out on foot an hour earlier and rued their decision to forgo animal transport. Quickening their pace, they raced to beat an impending downpour.

Homez had come from Tiberias to his Jerusalem office to consider a commission offered by Augusta, a close friend of years ago. When Homez was still a bachelor she had been the loveliest in their circle. His name had been linked with her, but then he had met Corva. That meeting had lead to an unfortunate, heart-breaking tragedy. He had married Corva only to lose her a few years later.

Last month the husband of Augusta had passed away. A problem for Augusta had arisen soon after the funeral. She came from a family of means and had brought major funds into the marriage. Her husband had invested his wife's money into the salt trade. Now the husband's family wanted the business. Their claim was a matter to be handled by the civil court of the Romans. Augusta wanted Homez to collect evidence and serve as a witness. Homez had agreed reluctantly, wondering where this new contact would take him.

The trio reached the city at last. It was the time of the Passover and the streets were crowded with pilgrims from Judea, Galilee, and beyond. Around the Temple they saw frantic trading, pilgrims eager to buy flawless animals to offer

Jerecht

De Himmel wia schwoat met dunkle Wolkje, un Rääjen drood äare Trigreis no Jerusalem een Älent to moake. Alexander, Emily un Winta wiere oppen Wajch von Winta sien Kuta en Betlehem no Homez sien Hushault en de Heilje Staut. See wiere eene Stunde ea to Foot loos jesat un nu wia an daut leet daut see nich metem Woage jekome wiere. See sage een Rääjen Storm ver an, un holde aun, schwind no Hus to kome.

Homez wia nu en siene Jerusalem Offiz, om een Oppdrach to vollfelle. Augusta, eene Bekaunde von Joare trigj, haud am jefroacht dän opptonäme. Aus Homez noch eentletzich wia, wia see de schmokste en äarem Kjreis jewast. Sien Nome wia met äa vebunge, oba dan haud hee Corva jetroffe. Dit Trafe haud to een, hoatverietendet Onjlejk jefieet. Hee haud sikj met Corva befriet, un dan äa bloos een poa Joa lota veloare.

Em vegonen Moonat wia de Ehemau von Augusta jestorwe. Een Probleem fa Augusta wia boolt no daut Bejrafnis jekome. See staumd von eene Famielje dee goot auf wia un haud een Schoof Jelt en de Ehe jebrocht. Äa Maun haud daut Jelt von siene Fru jebrukt om een Jeschaft em Solt Haundel optobue. Nu wull de Famielje von äa Maun daut Jeschaft. Äa Aunspruch wia eene Sache daut em Zivil Jerecht vonne Reema beuadeelt woare wudd. Augusta wull daut Homez Dokumente saumle sull un aus Zeij deene. Homez haud wadawellich toojestemt un fruach sikj, wua am dit mau hanbrinje wudd.

De dree kaume entlich to de Staut. Daut wia de Tiet vom Passafast un de Gause wiere voll met Piljasch von Judäa, Galiläa un wieda auf. Biem Tempel sage see drocket Haundel. Piljasch, sochte iewrich volkomne Tiere to

in sacrifice. Alexander and Winter guided Emily through the noisy throngs

At their destination Homez stood at the door to welcome them. "You have come in the nick of time," he said. "The heavens are about to open." Emily, Homez' lovely niece who lived in the Homez household, slipped into the role of hostess, and took them to the atrium where they soon were all seated.

"This will be a grueling week," Homez commented. "We have in this city all the ingredients for a major confrontation. Pontius Pilate, our tactless Roman Prefect has come from Caesarea Maritima and installed himself in the Antonia Fortress. Herod Antipas, our combative Tetrarch, has come from Tiberias to make his sacrifice at the Temple. Their arrival is not welcomed by the locals. The local Sadducees will safeguard their control of the Temple and Sanhedrin, while maintaining their tight collaboration with the Romans."

"You have mentioned the main groups in power," Winter replied. "During the Passover vast crowds will converge on the city, and show their displeasure with these ruling powers. The Pharisees will challenge the Sadducees on theology and administration. The Essenes, holier than all others, will lament the spiritual degeneration. These will give the least worry to the Legionaires. That honor will go to the Zealots who hope to expel the Romans. Lastly we must mention the newest rebels, the followers of the Nazarene, who have a major dispute with the Temple. One little spark could lead to a raging inferno."

"In my practice I have heard many patients speak of the Nazarene," Alexander added.

kjeepe, om Opfa to fiere. Alexander un Winta jinje met Emily derch de lude Menj.

Aus see bie Homez aunkaume stunt hee bie de Däa, om an to bejreesse. "Jie sent krakjt to Tiet jekome," säd hee. "Daut woat fuaz poasche." Emily, Homez siene schmocke Nicht, dee en sien Hushault wond, schloof nu en de Roll von Gaustjåwarin un brocht an toom Atrium, wua see sikj aula hansade.

"Dit woat eene aunstrenjende Wäakj senne," säd Homez. "Wie habe en dise Staut aulet Toobehia fa eenen grooten Zank. Pontius Pilatus, ons groffa reemischa Präfekt es von Caesarea Maritima jekome un haft sikj en de Fastinj von Antonia faustjestalt. Herodes Antipas, ons vewoachta Tetrarch, es von Tiberias jekome, om sien Opfa em Tempel to moake. Äare Aunkunft woat von de Einheima nich bejreest. De hiesje Saduzäa woare äare Kontroll äwa däm Tempel un Sanhedrin schitze, wäarent see äare enje Toopoarbeit met de Reema biebehoole."

"Du hast de Haupt Gruppe aun de Majcht erwänt," auntwuad Winta. "Wäarent daut Passafast woare riesje Menje en de Staut toopkome un äarem Mesmoot met dise harschende Majchtje wiese. De Farisäa woare de Saduzäa opp Theologie un Vewaultunk erutfodre. De Essener, heilicha aus aule aundre, woare de aunhoolende jeistliche Vedoawunk bekloage. Dise woare de Legionäre de jerinjste Sorj jäwe. Dise lea woat to de Zelote gone, dee de Reemasch utdriewe welle. Schlieslich mott wie de nieste Wadastona, de Aunhenja vom Nazarena, erwäne, dee waut jäajen dän Tempel to kloage habe. Eene kjliene Funk kunn to eenem wuttichen Braunt fiere."

"En miene Praxis hab ekj väle Paziente jehieet, von däm Nazarena råde," säd

“He made a triumphant entry into the city just days ago. Reports in the market today say that the Nazarene has thrown out the money changers from the Temple. He preaches a religious revival, and is backed by thousands. The group has retired to the suburbs for reflection but will return tomorrow. Herod Antipas fears them greatly; he dreads the arrival of another John the Baptist, whom he beheaded years ago.”

“The Nazarene brings a peaceful message and seeks peaceful changes,” Emily summarized. “He faces forces that seek radical transformation, and others that desperately resist any change. We must brace ourselves for turmoil this week.” By now the group was famished and was grateful when Cato signaled for dinner.

The following morning Homez and Winter were seated in the courtyard discussing the case of Augusta. Cato entered to brief Homez of events at the market. Homez paused to consider the implications, and then they returned to the story of Augusta. Homez outlined the case for Winter, and laid out a plan for its solution.

“Augusta is the most formidable woman that I met in my life,” Homez confided. “Last week she invited me to tour her holdings. The salt mine lies on the western shore of the Dead Sea. She showed me the mines and staff village. With a monopoly for this province and the cities in Egypt and Syria her earnings are enormous. The operation is driven by penal labor, so her expenses are administration and their crude existence. A loss of this property would end her lavish life style.”

Homez indicated that he had found a clever

Alexander nu. “Ver een poa Doag es hee aus een Kjennich enne Staut jebrocht. Berechte saje, daut hee vondoag de Jeltwakjlasch utem Tempel jedräwe haft. Hee prädicht eene relijeese Erwakjunk un woat von Dusende unjastett. De Grupp haft sikj Butastauts toom Nodenkje trigjjetrocke, woat oba Morje trigjkome. Herodes Antipas fercht an sea; hee fercht de Aunkunft von een aundren Johannes de Deepa, dän hee Joare trigj aufjekopt haft.”

“De Nazarena brinjt eene frädliche Bootschoft un sieekjt frädliche Veendrunge,” foot Emily toop. “Hee steit jäajen eenje, dee groote Veendrunge sieekje, un uk jäajen aundre, dee eene Veendrunk wadastone. Wie motte dise Wäakj reed stone fa een grooten Opprua.” De Grupp wia nu aul vehungat un wia dankboa, aus Cato an toom Owentkost roopt.

Aum näakjsten Morje saute Homez un Winta em Hoff un berode Augusta äa Faul. Cato kaum enenn om Homez de Erieejnise oppem Moakjt to berechte. Homez hilt en, om sien Berecht to bedenkje, un dan kjieed hee to de Jeschicht von Augusta trigj. Homez vetald dän Faul to Winta, un läd eenen Plon fa de Leesunk vää.

“Augusta es de stoakjste Fru, dee ekj en mien Läwe jetroffe hab,” säd Homez. “Latste Wäakj loot see mie en, äa Vemieeeje to besieekje. De Solt Mien licht aum wastlichen Eewa vom Dooden Mäa. See wees mie de Mien un daut Darp vonne Aunjestalde. Met eenem Jeschaftsawahenj fa dise Prowins, Ägipten un Syrien es äa Ennom riesenoatich. De Mien woat von Strofoabeida jedräwe. Fa Augusta sent de Vewaultunk un daut groffet Unjahault von de Sklowe äare eensje Utgowe. Een Veluss von disem Vemieeeje wudd äa kostboaret Låwesstiel beendje.”

Homez säd, daut hee eenen kluaken Ofkot fa

lawyer for Augusta, of which there were many in this city. The opposition to Augusta was driven by the husband of Augusta's deceased husband's elder sister. She was a miserable woman who had become assertive. Augusta and her sister-in-law had developed their feud into an art form. It was an embarrassment for Romans to dispute so bitterly in public view of the Palestinians.

"Despite the bitterness, this case is one with few complications," Winter commented when Homez hesitated. "Each contestant will be measured against strict articles of law rather than moral considerations. The Roman legal system has borrowed well from our Greeks heritage. Logic dictates that a civil act be considered illegal if it contravenes a documented law, rather than a commandment pronounced by a religious leader."

"Fortunately in her case there is no dispute in the jurisdiction," Homez agreed. "I have not always been so lucky. In this city we have two competing powers, the Roman and the Palestinian. Despite Roman control of the army and their ability to settle matters by force, the Palestinians hold a balancing factor; their vast majority. Because the Romans are a minority they must moderate their actions to maintain the equilibrium.

"The Palestinians can use two strategies to check the Roman. Firstly, they can mobilize crowds to oppose stated Roman demands, or particular Roman leaders. Secondly, they can use their wealth to vault over the head of local Romans and deal with Rome directly. While Romans hold the physical power, in the end it is a contest of wills. The one with the strongest

Augusta jefunge haud, von dän et väl en dise Staut gauf. De Jäajenstaunt jäajen Augusta wort von däm Maun von Augusta äarem vestorwnen Ehemau siene Sesta jedräwe. Dise wia eene miserable Fru, dee sea ruchullich jeworde wia. Augusta un äare Schwääajasche haude äa Jejacht to eene Kunstform entwekjelt. Daut wia ommaklich fa de Reema, soo betta en de Secht vonne Palestinensa to striede.

"Trotz de Bettanis es dis Faul eent met weinje Schwierichkjeite," docht Winta, aus Homez zoagd. "Jieda Kandidot woat aun strenje Rajschordnunge un nich aun moralische Äwalajunge jemäte. Daut reemische Rajsch Sisteem haft goot von onse griechische Oaw jeliheet. Daut es veninflich, daut eene Haundlunk aus onjesazlich betracht woat, wan see een jeschräwnet Jesaz velatst, aunstaut een Jebot, daut von eenem Relijeesen Fiera vekjindicht es."

"Jlekjlichawies en äa Faul jeft et kjeenen Striet en de Jerechtsboakjeit," stemd Homez to. "Ekj wia nich emma soo jlekjlich. En dise Staut hab wie twee konkurrierende Majchte, dee reemische un de palästinensche. Trotz de reemische Kontroll vom Häa un äare Fäichkjeit, de Aunjeläajenheite met Jewault to räajle, hoole de Palestinensa eenen Utjikjsgrunt; äare groote Meazol. Wiels de Reema eene Mindaheit sent, motte see äare Haundlunge mäsjen, om daut Äwareen Jewicht to behoole.

"De Palestinensa kjenne twee Plons brucke, om de Reemasch to kontrolliere. leeschtens kjenne see de Mauss opphetze, om reemische Fodrunge, ooda bestemde reemische Fierasch, entjäajen to gone. Tweedens kjenne see äa grootet Jelt benutze, om äwarem Kopp von de hiesje Reemasch to gone un direkjt met Room to schaufe. Wäarent de Reemasch

will emerges triumphant.”

Cato then lead in two clients, a man and a woman. He introduced the couple as Japheth, a Pharisee priest and his wife Naomi. They marched in with a show of great dignity and Homez replied with unaccustomed courtesy, guiding them to seats before him. With further shows of dignity the couple settled down, and studied their green surroundings. Japheth had a thin long face with a sharp nose, curly hair, and a long white beard. He was decked with an elegant purple mantel. Naomi showed signs of earlier beauty, and carried herself with great self-estimation. She was covered with a fine red mantel which shouted of expense and privilege.

Following the courtesies Homez asked Japheth to state his business, starting from the beginning. “Our coming here represents a great indignity,” Japheth began. “We would not have come if the matter were not of vital importance. What we are facing is a family crisis which strikes to the root of our existence. Our options are limited by Jewish moral and Roman legal laws. We have heard of your success even in hopeless cases. After deep soul-searching we come to you as a last resort for our family's salvation.”

Japheth paused after parading this litany of self-justification. Homez was taking the insult with an impassive face, waiting patiently for the story of the family's burden. “My wife and I were blessed with a child whom we named Jerah, a son of outstanding promise, “Japheth now resumed. “This son grew up fulfilling our wildest expectations, and when he was of age we found for him a brilliant match; her name was Leah. After many years of marriage Jerah

de kjarpaliche Majcht hoole, es daut entlich een Kauf vom Welle. Dee met däm stoakjsten Welle woat triumfiere.”

Cato brocht dan twee Kunde en, een Maun un eene Fru. Hee stald dee aus Japheth, een Farisäa Priesta un siene Fru Naomi, vää. See marschieede sea stolt enenn. Homez bejreest an met onjeweentliche Heeflichkjeit un fieed an to de Benkj ver am. Met huage lea sad sikj daut Poa dol. Japheth haud een dennet, langet Jesecht met eene schoape Näs, kruse Hoa un een langen witten Boat. Hee wia met eene elegaunte lila Kjeledunk utjepuzt. Naomi wia verhää eene groote Scheenheit jewast un behilt sikj met groote selfst Schazunk. See wia met eenem feinen Roden Mauntel bedakjt, dee sechalich butajeweenlich kostboa wia.

No de Heeflichkjeite foddad Homez Japheth siene Jeschicht to vetale. “Toom hia han kome mott wie ons deemootjen,” säd Japheth. “Wie wiere nich jekome, wan de Sach nich von entscheidende Bediedunk wia. Waut ver ons steit, es een Famielje Probleem, daut ons batet Äwaläwe traft. Onse Määjlichkjeiten sent derch hebräische moralische un reemische Rajsch Jesaze bejrenst. Wie habe jehieet daut du en hopnungsloose Fal gooden Erfolch jehaut hast. No deepet Nodenkje kaum wie to die aus de latsta Utwajch fa de Radunk von onse Famielje.”

Japheth hilt en, nodäm hee disen Väadrach von selfst Rajchtoadjunk väajesajcht haud. Homez naum de Beleidjunk met eenem onemfintlichet Jesecht un wacht jeduldich opp de Jeschicht von de Famielje. “Miene Fru un ekj wiere met eenem Kjint jesääjant, daut wie Jerah nande, een Sän von butajeweenlichen Vespräakje,” fua Japheth nu wieda. “Dis Sän woss opp, un erfeld onse jratste Hopninj, un aus hee oolt jenuach wia, fung wie fa am een

considered Leah unworthy as a partner. She was barren, and her character and company left much to be desired. Two months ago Jerah divorced Leah and shortly after found a new love, a woman named Diana. His interest turned into a passion, and this passion is at the root of our problem.

“One week ago Jerah was arrested. He was falsely accused of murder. The details of the crime are well known, having been exposed to the public. Diana’s former husband was returning to his home, walking alone late at night. Suddenly he was attacked by a man who burst out from a doorway and stabbed him with a knife in the chest. A watchman awake in another doorway witnessed the attack, and caught a glimpse of the assailant as he fled down the street. The watchman hurried to the victim, but could do nothing for him. To the authorities, the watchman stated only that the assailant was a man and gave no other information. Lacking a good description, the killer seemed destined to escape justice.

“The story dominated the news in the market the next morning. Diana was identified as the former wife of the victim, and the assailant was declared an unknown person. It came as a great shock to us when, later that day, Jerah was arrested for the crime. We cannot forget the trauma of that day. Officials arrived at our home and showing no consideration for our status arrested our son. Jerah, in his innocence, was caught by surprise. He offered no resistance, yet he was beaten and dragged off to prison. The outrage caught us off guard, and for hours we were without counsel. Slowly we gathered strength, brought together the pieces of the puzzle, and realized what had happened. We could do precious little though

utjetieekjende Fru; äa Nome wia Lea. No väl Joare von Ehe wull Jerah Lea nich mea aus sien Poatna. See wia onfruchtboa, un äa Karakta un äare Jemeenschoft wiere onajnenäm. Ver twee Moonate scheid Jerah sikj von Lea un korz doano funk hee eene niee Fru Nomes Diana. Sien Interesse vewakjseld sikj en eene Liedenschoft, un dit deepet Jefeel steit aun de Wartel von ons Problem.

“Ver eene Wäakj wort Jerah Faustjenome. Hee wort faulsch wäajen Mort aunjekloacht. De Eenzelheite vom Vebräakje sent bekaunt; see sent effentlich utjeleewat worde. Diana äa jewäsna Ehemauun kjeed lot nachts auleen no Hus. Oppeenst wort hee von eenem Maun aunjejräpe, dee von eene Däa rutkaum un am met een Massa en de Brost stuak. Een Wajchta, dee en eene Däa nich wiet auf Wacht hilt, beläwd dän Aunfaul un sach dän Aunjriepa, aus hee opp de Gaus utretst. De Wajchta ield toom Opfa, kunn oba nuscht fa am doone. To de Oobrichkjeit säd de Wajchta bloos, daut de Aunjriepa een Maun wia un gauf kjeene aundre Eenzelheite. Wiels eene goode Beschriewunk fäld, schiend et daut de Merda de Jerajchtichkjeit entgone wudd.

“De Jeschicht wort dän näakjsten Morje äwa däm gaunzen Moakjt vetald. Diana wort aus de jewäsne Fru vom Opfa betieekjend, un de Aunjriepa wort aus een Onbekaunda aunjemalt. Daut wia een groota Schock fa ons, aus lota aun disem Dach Jerah fa daut Vebräakje faustjenome wort. Wie kjenne dän schlijchten Droom von disem Dach nich vejäte. Beaumte kaume no ons Hus un beweese kjeene lea fa onse Stalunk aus see onsem Sän faustnaume. Jerah, en siene Oschult, wia äwarauscht. Hee sikj nich, oba hee wort jeschloage un em Jefenkjinis jeschlapt. Daut Opphäwsel kaum aus eene Äwarauschk fa ons, un stundelank wia wie one Rot. Langsom vesaumeld wie Krauft un

for our son.”

Japheth paused at this point, and Naomi took his hand to help him pass the difficult moment. Homez nodded with compassion giving Japheth the incentive to continue. “The full extent of the outrage against Jerah was shown to us at the trial which followed two days after his arrest,” Japheth continued. “The author of his misfortune we have found was Leah, the woman he divorced. For years she had been reviled as barren, and then she was divorced by her husband. That her odious character was the reason for Jerah’s loathing and for his final decision to divorce her, she could not understand. A high strung woman, spoiled as a child, selfish and uncaring, she should have expected no other outcome.

“But she would not to be cast aside so lightly. She returned to her parents but could not come to grips with her situation. Although he was no longer her husband she hounded Jerah and would not let him go. When she realized that he would not come back, she plotted revenge. There followed attempts to poison Diana and to abduct her. We considered these attempts at the time as hysterics by Diana, but now are convinced that they were the works of Leah. She dared not have Jerah killed directly, for he is a strong man who travels heavily armed. Hiring a killer would bring suspicion on herself. So she struck at Jerah indirectly. Regretfully, her plan proved completely effective.

“We are certain Leah employed spies to watch Jerah. Using their information she mapped out his schedule. She hired an assassin to murder

brochte de Stekja vonne Jeschicht toop. Wie kunne oba fa ons Sän goanuscht doone.”

Japheth hilt nu en, un Naomi naum siene Haunt, om am to halpe, dän schwierichen Moment to äwakome. Homez nekjkopt met Metjefeel un gauf Japheth dän Drief, wiedatomoake. “De Volwicht vonne Schentlichkheit jääjen Jerah wort ons bie de Vehandlunk jewäse, dee twee Doag no siene Jefangenschoft foljd,” fua Japheth wieda. “De Schuldje fa sien Onjlekj, hab wie utjefunge, wia Lea, de Fru, dee hee jescheet haud. Joarelank wort see aus onfruchtboa jespott worde, un dan scheet sikj äa Maun von äa. Daut äa schrakjlicha Karakta de Grunt fa Jerah sien Jegrusel wia un fa siene Entscheidunk, äa to scheede, kunn see nich vestone. Eene huachjespaunde Fru, dee aus Kjint vewant wort un selfstsechtich un onauffellich wia, haud kjeen aundren Utkome vewacht habe sult.

“Oba see wudd nich soo leicht biesied jeschowe woare. See kjeed to äare Elre trigj, kunn oba nich met äare niee Loag foadich woare. Oppwool hee nich mea äa Maun wia, hilt see to Jerah un wull am nich gone lote. Aus see enwort, daut hee nich trigjkome wull, wull see Rach habe. Doa foljde dan Proowe, Diana to vejefte un äa to veschlape. Wie haude dise Dote aus schnoopich von Diana betracht, oba nu sent wie äwazeicht, daut de Woakje von Lea wiere. Lea woagd et nich, Jerah direkjt omtobrinje, wiels hee een stoakja Maun es, dee schwoa bewaufnet jeit. Eenen Merda aunnäme wudd Mestruie opp äa selfst brinje. Soo schluach see Jerah omme Akj aun. Daut wia Schod, oba äa Plon wees sikj aus fellich wirksom.

“Wie sent secha, daut Lea Spione benutz haft, om Jerah to bewachte. Met äare Informazion haft see sienen Tietplon vellich enjeworde.

Diana's husband. A night was chosen when Jerah and Diana were quarreling. On such a night Jerah would have no alibi for his whereabouts. The killer struck late at night when Jerah walked the streets alone. We have discovered that the day after the murder Leah denounced Jerah, using an informant. At the trial a man suddenly appeared to give false witness against Jerah. This man claimed to have seen the night watchman approach the victim after the crime. He claimed to have clearly seen the face of the assailant. At the trial he pointed out Jerah as that assailant. And the watchman now said that he could also give a description. Jerah meanwhile had no defense, having no alibi for that night.

“The charge leveled against Jerah was pre-meditated murder, based on the testimony of the watchman and the false witness. Under Jewish law pre-meditated murder is a non-redeemable crime. The courts disallow a sum of money or a substitute to redeem the life of the accused. Premeditated murder is also a capital offense in Roman law. Jerah was found guilty of capital murder. He faces death or sale into life-long Bondage.

“This then is the situation at the moment. Jerah, an innocent man, is in prison awaiting execution. The guilty party, Leah, who planned the killing and planted the false witnesses, is at home enjoying her revenge. Besides being an intolerable injustice, this event is a disaster for our family. Jerah is our only son and we need his care for our old age. I have exhausted all official means to save Jerah. We have come here with the demand that you

See naum eenen Merda aun, om Diana äa Ehemaun omtobrinje. Eene Nacht aus Jerah un Diana sikj streede, wort fa de Dot jewält. En soone Nacht wudd Jerah kjeene Uträd fa sien Veblief habe. De Merda schluach lot en de Nacht, aus Jerah auleen en de Gause jinkj. Wie habe utjefunge, daut dän Dach no de Mort Lea, met eenen Informant, no de Oobrickkheit jinkj, Jerah to veuadeele. Biem Jerecht gauf een Maun oppeenst faulschet Zeichnis jaaen Jerah. Dis Maun säd, daut nom Vebräakje hee däm Nacht Wajchta jeseene haud nom Opfa gone. Hee gauf aun, daut hee daut Jesecht vom Aunjriepa dietlich jeseene haud. Biem Jerecht wees hee no Jerah aus de Aunjriepa. Un de Wajchta säd nu uk, daut et Jerah jewäse wia. Jerah haud entweschen kjeene Veteidjunk un haud kjeene Uträd fa dise Nacht.

“De Aunkloag, dee jaaen Jerah jebrocht wort, wia een aufsechticha Mort, dee opp däm Zeichnis vom Wajchta un vom faulschen Zeij jestalt wia. Em hebräischen Jesaz es aufsechticha Mort een Vebräakje daut nich trigjtolboa es. Daut Jerecht sajcht eene Jelt Somm ooda eenen Ersaz auf, om daut Läwe vom Aunjekloachten to erleese. De aufsechticha Mort woat uk soo bie de Reema betracht. Jerah wort waaen Kapitalmort Schuldich jefunge. Hee woat entwäda omjebrocht worde, ooda en läweslange Sklowarie vekoft woare.

“Daut es nu dan de Loag. Jerah, een oschuldja Maun, es em Jefenkjniss un wacht opp Hanrechtunk. De Schuldiche, Lea, dee daut Mort jeplont un de faulsche Zeije jebrocht haft, es to Hus un jeneet äare Rach. Aufjeseene doavon, daut et eene ommakelje Onjerajchtichkheit es, es dise Bejäwenheit een groota Schode fa onse Famielje. Jerah es ons eensja Sän un wie brucke siene Help wan wie oolt sent. Ekj hab aule aumtliche Meddel

help extract us from this situation.”

Homez had listened carefully to this sad account by Japheth and now said that he had a few questions. “The fate of Jerah must be addressed at once,” Homez commented. “Our actions must be timely and decisive. Where is he at this moment and what is his condition?”

“Jerah was convicted by the Sanhedrin two days ago,” Japheth replied in a subdued voice. “He was taken to prison where he was beaten by the guards. His sentence will need confirmation by a Roman court. Capital prisoners who are sent into Bondage from Jerusalem go to the salt mines, or to a naval galley. If the prisoner is physically unfit he is executed. The prison is near the Damascus gate, and his cell is underground. We have made arrangements with the warden. Jerah is kept in a separate cell, and allowed a daily visit. A slave from my household takes food to him, and cleans his cell. Jerah’s wounds have been treated and though weak and ill, he is recovering.”

“You have mentioned arrangements made with the warden of the prison,” Homez now continued. “What are the obstacles in bargaining for Jerah’s freedom?”

“As the conviction is for capital murder we cannot redeem him with money or by offering a substitute,” Japheth replied. “His freedom can not be obtained by legal means. An appeal for a pardon has already been denied. The prospects of freedom rest solely on the use of stealth. A plan to spring him from prison

utjespält, om Jerah to rade. Wie sent hiahan jekome met de Fodrunck, daut du ons von dise Loag leese woascht.”

Homez haud disen truarichen Berecht von Japheth jeneiw toojehieet, un säd nu, daut hee een poa Froage haud. “Fa Jerah mott fuaz waut jedone woare,” säd Homez. “Onse Haundlung motte rajchta Tiet un entscheident senne. Wua es hee krakjt nu un woo es sien Toostaunt?”

“Jerah wort ver twee Doag vom Sanhedrin veuadeelt,” gauf Japheth Auntwuat. “Hee wort em Jefenkjnis jebrocht, wua hee von de Wajchtasch jeschlone wort. Sien Uadeel woat von eenem reemischen Jerecht bestädicht woare. Kapital Jefangne, dee en de Kjnajchtschoft von Jerusalem jeschekjt woare, gone to de Solt Mien ooda too een Kjriej Schepp. Wan de Jefangna kjarpalich daugeniksich es, woat hee hanjerecht. Daut Jefenkjnis es dicht biem Damaskus-Puat, un siene Zell es unjre leed. Wie habe met däm Wajchta jehaundelt. Jerah woat en siene ieejne Zell jehoole un kaun eenen däajlichen Besuach emfange. Een Sklow von mien Hushault brinjt am Noarunk, un riemt siene Zell opp. Jerah siene Wunde worde behaundelt un oppwool hee schwach un krank es, veholt hee sikj.”

“See habe Vehandlung mit däm Wajchta vom Jefenkjnis erwänt,” fua Homez wieda. “Waut sent de Hindanise fa eene Vehandlung fa siene Frieheit?”

“Wiels de Uadeel fa Kapitalmort es, kjenn wie am nich met Jelt erleese ooda eenen Ersaz aunbeede,” auntwuat Japheth. “Siene Frieheit kaun nich met rajchtliche Meddle errieekjt woare. Eene Aunfroag fa siene Entschuldjunk wort aul aufjesajcht. De Utsechte fa siene Frieheit henjt bloos opp Schuftarie. Een Plon

must be put together. This is no simple matter, and my age and my priestly duties prevent me from making the attempt myself. I need your help for this plan.”

“It is necessary to exhaust all possibilities before taking irreversible steps,” Homez said. “I wish you to confirm that two possible remedies have been shown impossible. The weakest links in the chain denying your son freedom are the guards. But the offer of bribes to them cannot be undertaken as the loss of a prisoner will make them guilty of a capital offense. You have stated that Leah is behind Jerah’s conviction. But a retraction is no longer possible, as custody of Jerah has been passed to another jurisdiction.”

When Japheth nodded to both these points Homez posed his final questions, “What then are your instructions? What immediate action do you wish me to take?” Japheth paused some moments and then began to give urgent counsel. But they were interrupted by a commotion at the gate. A woman came bustling towards them, followed by a furious Cato. “You cannot go in there,” Cato shouted angrily. “My master cannot be disturbed.” At the appearance of the woman Naomi leapt up and shouted, “Leah, what in the name of all black angels are you doing here?”

Homez stared with burning interest at this woman, the instigator of the deadly crisis that confronted them. She was in her thirties, of plain face and abrupt manner. A well-cut green mantel covered her round figure, a prominent necklace hung around her neck, and an embroidered head-dress covered her brown hair. She made a defiant gesture at Cato, ignored Homez and Winter, and turned to Japheth and Naomi. “I have a serious

am utem Jefenkjnis ruttobrinje, mott toopjestalt woare. Daut es kjeene eenfache Sach, un mien Ella un miene Priestliche Flichte hindre mie doaraun. Ekj bruck diene Help fa soon Plon.”

“Daut es needich, aule Määjlichkjeite to utspäle, ea wie Schräde näme dee nich to endre sent,” säd Homez. “Ekj well daut jie bestädje, daut twee Meddles nu ommääjlich sent. Daut schwakste Jliet en de Kjäd, daut dien Sän vonne Frieheit helt, es de Wajchta. Oba wie kjenne am nich Schmääjelt beede, wiels de Veluss von een Jefangna am fa een Kapital Vebräakjen schuldich moakt. Du hast jesajcht, daut Lea hinja Jerah sien Uadeel steit. Oba een trigjnäme es nich mea määjlich, wiels de Väamindaschoft fa Jerah no eene aundre Jerechtsboakjeit jejäft es.”

Aus Japheth to dise beid Punkta nekjkopt, stald Homez siene latste Froag: “Waut sent dan diene Aunwiesunge? Waut fa ne Haundlunk saul ekj nu fuaz moake?” Japheth hilt een Stootje en un gauf dan drinjent Rot. Oba see worde derch eene Oppräajunk aum Puat unjabroake. Eene Fru kaum an opptoo, met eenem wuttichen Cato hinjaraun. “Du kaust nich enenn gone,” schrieech Cato lud. “Mien Har kaum nich jestieet woare.” Bie daut äwadäl kome von de Fru sprunk Naomi opp un schrieech: “Lea, em Nome von aule schwoate Enjels, waut west du hia?”

Homez kikjt dise Frau Lea met grooten Nieschia aun. See haud de doodliche Sach aunjesteft, daut see nu sochte to räajle. Lea wia soo enne dartiche Joare, von eenfachen Jesecht un haustiche Manea. Een jeneiw jeschnädna jreena Mauntel bedakjt äa rundet Jeschekj, eene kjestliche Haulskjäd honk om äarem Jenekj, un een utjeneidet Koppkjeet bedakjt äare brune Hoa. See muak een trotzichen Tieekjen to Cato, kikjt nich mol no

matter to discuss with you in private,” she pleaded. “It is in your interest to listen.”

Japheth sized up his former daughter-in-law and then gestured to Homez. Homez rose and with Winter and Cato withdrew from the room. Leah now sat down and conferred with Japheth and Naomi.

Homez and Winter took seats in the antechamber, Homez hunching down and drawing within himself. With elbows on knees he drifted off into deep contemplation. Could some means be found to halt Jerah's march to damnation? The two remained in meditation until Leah emerged, stating that Japheth wished again to speak to Homez.

When they returned, Japheth said that Leah had brought news which had entirely changed the problem. He motioned to Leah and she rose up to address them. “My former father-in-law has told you the story of my negative behavior,” she began. “His tales of wickedness are true, and I have much to regret. But we cannot dwell on that. I will make my confession, and then you must plot a new course of action.

“Following the divorce Jerah and I continued with the feud that had poisoned our marriage. We could not let go, instead intensified the fighting. When Jerah found a new love, Diana, I attempted to end that relationship by having her abducted. After Jerah arranged to have my beloved servant poisoned, I resolved to put a final end to the relationship. To have Jerah killed directly was too difficult so I adopted a subtler plan. I arranged to have Diana's former husband killed and having Jerah framed for

Homez un Winta un dreid sikj to Japheth un Naomi. “Ekj hab eene iernste Sach, met junt en Priewaut to råde,” prachad see. “Mie tootohorche woat junt väl Wieet senne.”

Japheth bekkijkt sikj siene jewäsne Schwiadochta un tieekjend to Homez. Homez stunt opp un met Winta un Cato veleet de Stow. Lea sad sikj nu dol un räd iernstlich met Japheth un Naomi.

Homez un Winta saute sikj en de Väaleew dol. Met Alboage oppe Kjneee socht Homez nu deep notodenkje. Kunn hee een Meddel finje, Jerah sien Marsch to de Vedaumnis entohoole? Hee bleef em Nodenkje, bat Lea oppdukt un säd, daut Japheth noch eenmol met Homez råde wull.

Aus Homez un Winta trigkjeeme, säd Japheth, daut Lea am Norecht jebrocht haud, daut äa Probleem fellich veendat haud. Hee tieekjend to Lea un see stunt opp, om an aunterräde. “Mien jewäsna Schwiavoda haft die de Jeschicht von mien negatiwen Vehoole vetalt,” säd see. “Siene Jeschicht von de Boosheit es woa, un ekj hab väl auftoprachre. Oba wie kjenne nu ons nich dootoo kjenre. Ekj woa mien Bekjantnis moake, un dan motst du een nieen Plon oppstale.

“No de Scheedunk fuare Jerah un ekj met daut Jejacht, daut onse Ehe vejeft haud, wieda. Wie kunne nich looslote, aunstaut vestoakjte dän Kaumf. Aus Jerah eene niee Fru Diana funk, vesocht ekj disem Kontakt to beendje met äare Entfierunk. Nodäm Jerah aunjestalt haud, mienen leewen Deena to bejefte, beschloot ekj, een latstet Enj toom Kontakt moake. Jerah omtobrinje wia too schwierig; doarom naum ekj eenen schoapsennichen Plon aun. Ekj plond, Diana

the murder. I hired two false witnesses for the trial to ensure Jerah's conviction.

“Following Jerah's sentencing and arrest my spies watched the prison. Should he be let go or escape they should follow him. The spies saw all comings and goings and noted that a slave tended to Jerah. To my great regret I committed all these transgressions. I had evil in my heart but now I am changed. I must tell you why. Last Sunday a disciple of the Nazarene entered the city. This disciple taught in the market, giving readings of the Law, and providing new explanations. With new insight I saw the error of my ways, and resolved to correct them. I now wish to help save Jerah.

“I have come now to the news which I hope will enable you to save Jerah. Today my spy returned from prison and advised me of new developments. Jerah has recovered from his wounds and has been sold into Bondage. The spy learned of Jerah's destination. He has been sent to the salt mines on the Dead Sea east of Jerusalem.”

At this news Homez sat up with a startled look on his face. Leah paused for a moment and then resumed her story. “I have further vital information,” she continued. “On this information all plans must be formed. As I had earlier expected and feared, Jerah has escaped from his captors. He eluded the guards when his transport halted at a road junction. A huge crowd in a religious demonstration caused a distraction which Jerah seized in an instant. He is now a free man, in desperate flight for his life.”

ää jewäsna Ehemauñ omtobrinje, un daut Jerah doafäa beschulcht wort. Ekj hab twee faulsche Zeije fa dän Jerecht enjestalt, om Jerah sien Uadeel to vesechre.

“No Jerah siene Veuadeelunk un Jefangenschoft beluade miene Spione daut Jefenkjnīs. Sull hee loosgone ooda entkome, dan sulle see am folje. De Spione sage aulet Kome un Gone un stalde faust, daut een Sklow fa Jerah besorjd. To mien grooten Jauma hab ekj aul dit lebel aunjegone. Ekj haud Beeset en mien Hoat, oba nu hab ekj mie omjewakjselt. Ekj mott junt saje, wuarom. Aum vegonen Sindach kaum eene Scheelarin vom Nazarena en de Staut enenn. Dise Scheelarin lieed opp däm Moakjt, gauf Vääläsunge vom Jesaz un gauf niee Erkjläarunge. Met niee Ensecht sach ekj dän Fäla en mien Läwe un beschloot, daut rajcht to moake. Ekj mucht nu halpe, Jerah to rade.

“Ekj sie nu to de Norecht jekome, dee Jerah siene Radunk mäajlich moake kaun. Vondoag kjieed mien Spion vom Jefenkjnīs trigj un vetald mie von de niee Entwekjlungē. Jerah haft sikj veholt un es enne Kjñajchtschoft vekoft worde. De Spion haft von Jerah sien Ziel jeliieet. Hee es to de Solt Mien opp däm Dooden Mäa oostlich von Jerusalem jeschekjt worde.”

Aus Homez dit hieed wia hee vebleft un sad sikj steil opp. Lea hilt en, un dan vetald äare Jeschicht wieda. “Ekj hab mea wichtiche Norecht,” säd see. “Opp dise Norecht motte aule onse Plons jebut woare. Soo aus ekj ea jefercht haud, es Jerah von siene Wajchtasch entkome. Dit passieed, aus sien Transport bie een Kjriezwejch aunjilt. Eene riesje Menj en een relijeeset Jetrakj veuasoakte een Auflenkje, dee Jerah fuaz erjreep. En een nu wia hee een fria Maun, en vetwiewelde Flucht fa sien Läwe.”

Homez had been listening attentively to Leah, hiding his revulsion of a cold-blooded killer. When her story finally came to an end he remained silent absorbing the impact of the latest twist in the story. He then turned to Japheth and asked for exact instructions in this new situation.

Japheth himself sat in stunned silence although he had by now heard Leah's story for a second time. "I am an old man who needs time to absorb new information, especially matters of life and death," he answered. "We came here with the belief that Jerah was in a snug prison, and now we are informed that he is a desperate fugitive seeking to avoid recapture. We must support his escape with whatever means possible. We must determine his intentions, and find out where he is headed."

Homez now turned to Leah for further details of Jerah's escape. "We must have the exact location of his escape," he said. "Is he familiar with that area, and what are the escape routes? Also, we must know if the family of Diana's husband has sent an assassin to kill him. You are most familiar with Jerah's thoughts and instincts. What will Jerah do, and where will he go?"

"The family of Diana's former husband is wealthy and very sensitive about its reputation," Leah replied unhappily. "In selecting a victim I was anxious that the victim's family would seek vengeance, to ensure that an assassin would seek out Jerah. The escape occurred near the salt mines, and I believe Jerah will seek refuge in that rough terrain. He may be difficult to locate, but I do not think the problem is impossible."

Homez haud Lea oppmoakjsom toojehorcht un sien Jegrusel von eene koltblootje Merdarin vestoake. Aus äare Jeschicht to Enj kaum, bleef hee stell, om de Bediedunk von Enj en de Jeschicht to oppnäme. Dan dreid hee sikj no Japheth un bat om Aunwiesunge en dise gaunz niee Loag.

Japheth wia vebleft, oppwool hee aul Lea äare Jeschicht twee Mol jehieet haud. "Ekj sie een ellerachtja Maun, dee Tiet brukt niee Informazion to vedeiwe, besondasch met Lāwes un Doodes Sache," auntuwad hee. "Wie sent hiahan jekome met dām Gloowe, daut Jerah en eenem makeljen Jefenkjnis wia, un nu woat ons jesajcht, daut hee een vetwiewelda Flichtlinkj es, dee vesieekje mott sikj to rade. Wie motte siene Flucht met aule määjliche Meddle unjastette. Wie motte siene Aufsechte bestemme un rode, wua hee hanjeit."

Homez dreid nu to Lea fa mea Eenzelheite von Jerah siene Flucht. "Wie motte dān Plauz von siene Flucht habe," säd hee. "Es hee met dise Jääjant bekaunt, un waut sent de Fluchtwääj? Wie motte uk weete, aus de Famielje von Diana äa Ehemauun eenen Merda jeschekjt haft, am ombrinje. Du kjanst die met Jerah siene Jedanke un enjebuarne Natua. Waut woat Jerah doone un wuahan woat hee flichte?"

"De Famielje von Diana äa verhääja Ehemauun es woolhabent un sea emfintlich äwa äarem Roop," auntuwad Lea onjlekjlich. "Bie de Utwol vom Opfa wia ekj besorcht, daut de Famielje vom Opfa Rach eewe wudd, soo daut see Jerah wām hinjaraun schekje wudde. De Flucht passieed oppem Wajch no de Solt Mien, un Jerah woat en disen groffen Jebiet Tooflucht sieekje. Am to finje woat schwoa senne, oba nich ommääjlich."

Homez now seamlessly switched to another matter. "Finding Jerah is only the first of two major problems," he said. "Once he is found what are we to do with him? He will face pursuit by the camp guards as well as a possible assassin. Can guiding him to the city of refuge be our objective? Does Jerah know of that city and would he follow us if we find him?"

Homez stopped and said that it was urgent to leave at once. He told his clients that he would take a chariot and that Cato and Winter would accompany him. Leah insisted on accompanying them saying that her knowledge of the ways of Jerah were indispensable. With Homez showing reluctance Leah turned to Japheth, and he nodded his agreement.

Japheth and Naomi then took their leave. Cato soon arranged for transport and Homez, Winter and Cato headed for the Jericho gate with Leah. It was slow going as huge crowds slowed them at all quarters.

They had traveled a mile from the city when Leah called for a halt. "I actually have a clear idea to where Jerah is fleeing," she stated. "I did not mention this earlier for fear of pursuit. Also I did not want Japheth and Naomi to know. Years ago Jerah and I secretly bought a small estate south of Jerusalem. It contains a small cottage and a large garden. We both used it as a hideaway, a place where we could avoid public gaze and could conduct business under cover. The estate is at the edge of the desert, at no great distance from the salt mines. When our marriage broke up ownership was not settled, and a custodial staff is still in residence. If Jerah remains at large I believe he will seek refuge there. Our

Homez dreid nu direkjt to eene aundre Sach. "Jerah to finje es bloos daut ieeschte von twee groote Schwierichkjeite," säd hee. "Sooboolt hee jefunge es, waut kjenn wie met am doone? Hee mott sikj met de Vefoljunk von de Loaga Wajchtasch un met eenen mäajlichen Aunslach von een Jewaulteewa foadich woare. Sull ons Ziel senne, am to de Staut von Tooflucht fiere? Weet Jerah von dise Staut un wudd hee ons folje, wan wie am finje?"

Homez hieed nu opp un säd, daut wia drinjent, fuaz to velote. Hee säd to siene Kunde, daut hee een Woage näme wudd un daut Cato un Winta am bejleite wudde. Lea bestunt doaropp, uk mettokome, wiels äare Kjantris von Jerah see halplich senne wudd. Aus Homez sikj wadawellich wees, dreid Lea sikj to Japheth, un hee nekjkopt siene Toostemmunk.

Japheth un Naomi veaufscheede sikj dan. Aus Cato dän Transport brocht fuare Homez, Winta un Cato no daut Jericho Puat met Lea. Daut jinkj langsam, aus riesje Menje an en aule Gause vesiemde.

See wiere een Miel von de Staut jereist, aus Lea roopt stell to stone. "Ekj hab ieejentlich eene kloare Väastalunk, wua Jerah han flicht," säd see. "Ekj hab daut, opp Angst von Vefoljunk, nich ea erwänt. Uk wull ekj nich, daut Japheth un Naomi daut weete sulle. Joare trigj haude Jerah un ekj heemlich een kjlienet Vemieeje siedlich von Jerusalem jekoft. Daut enthelt een kjlienet Huskje un eenen grooten Goade. Wie beid habe daut aus Vestäakj benuzt. Daut leejendom licht aum Raunt vonne Wieste, nich wiet auf von de Solt Mien. Aus onse Ehe dolbruak, wond eene Deenaschoft noch doa. Wan Jerah noch frie es, jleew ekj, daut hee doa Tooflucht sieekje woat. Onse baste Utwol es, no dit Goot to

best option is to head for this estate.”

Homez ordered Cato to continue on the route towards Jericho. Numerous pilgrims were headed into the city for the festival. Homez had been peering behind him and at last seemed satisfied and gave Cato new directions. Cato now turned back. He bypassed the Holy City, and then took the Bethlehem road. Homez check for pursuit but could see nothing. Cato continued south and then veered east. As they approached the estate Leah gave further directions. On arrival, they found the gate locked. A muted conversation filtered out from the cottage. Leah whispered that Jerah must have arrived and was sheltered inside.

They dismounted and cautiously approached the cottage on foot. For some time they sat under cover, watching and waiting. Leah proposed to approach the cottage alone and offer Jerah their assistance. Homez opposed this plan but suddenly Leah leapt up and raced to the cottage.

The three men watched in suspense as the door opened and Leah entered. A while later they heard terrifying screams from within. Drawing their weapons the three leapt up and charged forward. The door was broken and they forced their way in. Here they came upon a bloody nightmare. Leah lay on the floor, unseeing eyes directed upwards. Cato rounded up the custodian and from him Homez extracted a quick explanation.

Jerah had arrived earlier, unarmed, wounded, but still mobile. Water and food had revived him and at their arrival he was about to flee to the City of Refuge. The two had observed the approach of Homez' group, and had been surprised when Leah suddenly ran forward. Leah had been remorseful and in compassion

reise.”

Homez befool Cato oppem Wajch no Jericho wieda to foare. Zolrikje Piljasch kaume no de Staut han fa daut Fast. Homez kijkt wada no hinje, schiend tofräd to senne, un gauf Cato nu niee Rechtunge. Cato dreid dan om. Hee fua rom de Heilje Staut un naum dan de Betlehem Gaus. Homez kijkt no hinje oba sach kjeenem hinjaraun kome. Cato fua eene Strakj nom Siede un dreid dan nom Ooste. Aus see sikj daut Vemieeje nodade, gauf Lea wada Rechtunge. Bie de Aunkunft funge see daut Puat toojeschlote. Eene jedemfte Unjahoolunk kaum leise von daut Huskje. Lea fuscheld, daut Jerah must aul aunjekome senne, un wia doa benne.

See stieeje auf un jinje väasechtich daut Huskje opptoo. Fa een Stootje saute see unja Dakjunk, beluade un wachte. Lea schluach väa, toom Huskje gone un Jerah äare Help aunbeede. Homez stiepad sikj von disem Plon, oba oppeenst sprunk Lea opp un prold nom Huskje.

De dree Mana sage, aus de Dää opjinkj un Lea enenn jinkj. No een Stootje hieede see schrakjlichet Schriee von benne. De dree naume äare Jewäare rut un sprunge verwoaz. De Dää wort zwei jebroake un see drenjde sikj enenn. Hia kaume see opp eenen gruseljen Droom. Lea lach aun Boddem, met Uage dee no bowe kijkte oba nuscht sage. Cato funk dän Deena, un von am hieed Homez, waut passieet wia.

Jerah wia ea jekome, onbewaufnet, vekjielt, oba noch aum gone. Wota un Äte haude am oppjeläft un bie äare Aunkunft wia hee doobie to the Staut von Tooflucht flichte. De beid haude daut biekome von Homez siene Gruppe beobacht un wiere äwarauscht jewast, aus Lea oppeenst verwoaz rand. Lea wia aules

Jerah had embraced her. Then an armed man had dashed in and Jerah had fled through the rear gate, certain that he was the target. But the man had attacked Leah and dispatched her in minutes. The man had then disappeared as mysteriously as he had appeared.

In moments Homez, Winter and Cato were on Jerah's trail. He was far ahead in a long field, but a loud shout from Homez brought him to a halt. The three hurried toward him, and they sat down to parley. Quickly Homez explained about his parent's commission, and gave directions about reaching the City of Refuge. Jerah insisted his best chance was to flee alone, and in moments was on his way.

As Homez and Winter returned to the city they could only speculate about the identity of Lea's killer, his motive and paymaster. Had his clients directed the man to seek vengeance for the disaster she had visited on their son? When they arrived in the city, it was enveloped in silence, only the occasional passersby furtively rushed by. The following day Homez reported to Japheth and Naomi. Later in the week Augusta, with the assistance of Homez, won her case. That same day Homez bade farewell to Augusta and her fortune.

leet jewast, un en Vezeiunk haud Jerah äa omoarmt. Dan wia een bewaufneta Maun enenn jekome un Jerah haud derch daut hinjre Puat jeflicht, secha daut hee de Raup wia. Oba dee Maun haud Lea aunje räpe, un äa fuaz omjebrocht. Dan wia de Maun veschwunge aus jeheemnisvoll aus hee jekome wia.

En een Stootje wiere see opp Jerah siene Spua. Hee wia wiet veropp en een langet Felt, oba Homez roopt lud un hee hilt stell. See ielde to am, un dan saute sikj han om de Sach to beräde. Schwind erkjläad Homez dän Oppdrach von siene Elre, un gauf am Rechtunge fa de Staut von Tooflucht. Jerah bestunt doaropp daut sien basta Schans wia auleen to flichte, un fuaz wia hee wajch.

Aus Homez un Winta no the Staut trigj kjieede kunne see bloos spekuliere wäa Lea äa Merda wia, waut siene Uasoak wia, un wäa am betolt haud. Haude siene Kunde dän Maun jeschekjt om Rach to eewe fa daut Onjlekj daut see to äarem Sän jebrocht haud? Aus see bie de Staut aunkaume wia doa eene groote Stell; bloos weinje Footjenja stusde vebie. Aum näakjsten Dach berecht Homez to Japheth un Naomi. Lota en de Wäakj jewonn Augusta äa Faul, met de Help von Homez. Aum selwjen Dach säd Homez Audee to Augusta un äarem Vemieeje.

High Priest

The turmoil in the streets of Jerusalem had been ongoing for days and finally spilt into violence. After tending to Augusta's case Homez and Emily had clung to their compound for safety. Winter had been in Bethlehem visiting his son but was back in the Holy City. The three were now hunkered down in Homez' garden trying to make sense of a week of upheaval.

Outside they heard troops sweep out the stragglers from the neighborhood. "We have escaped the worst of it," Emily commented. "The word in the street is that there has been a rebellion, which the Romans have forcefully put down. A false prophet sought to install himself as King of the Jews, but Caiaphas the high priest alerted the Romans to the plot. The false prophet has been executed, his followers scattered, and his movement destroyed. The troops you hear are bringing an end to the turmoil, and tomorrow the city will be at peace again."

Homez looked doubtful on hearing these soothing words. A sharp tap was now heard at the garden gate. A man wrapped with a dark garment stepped in. Homez approached him and listened as the man gave a whispered report. The success of Homez in this city of intrigue relied on a network of informers. His web extended to all quarters, from the Jewish Temple to the Antonia Fortress, from the Herodian Palace to the Damascus Gate. The appearance of this secretive man was followed shortly by another one, who gave his report in a similar anonymous fashion. Soon Homez had an accurate knowledge of events, which differed sharply from the word in the street.

Huagapriesta

Daut Opprua oppe Gause von Jerusalem haud aul Doagelank jedieet, un brocht schlieslich Jewault. Aus de Augusta Faul toom Schluss jebrocht wia, bleewe Homez un Emily Tus om Sechaheits Welle. Winta wia en Betlehem jewast, haud sien Sän besocht, oba kaum wada to de Heilje Staut. De drie wiere nu en Homez sien Goade vekloostat, un sochte eene Wääkj von Jewault to vestone.

Bute hieede see daut Truppe de Hinjaraunranasch ut de Nobaschoft rutdreewe. "Wie sent daut Schlemste vebie," säd Emily. "Daut Wuat oppe Gaus es, daut et een Oppstaunt jejäwt haft, woont vonne Reemasch met Krauft dol jeschlone wort. Een faulscha Profeet socht sikj aus Kjennich vonne Jude to stale, oba Kaifas, de Huagapriesta, haud de Reemasch verhää jewoart. De faulscha Profeet wort hanjerecht, siene Aunhenja vestreit un siene Ordnunk vestieet. De Truppe, brinje daut Opprua nu to Enj, un Morje woat de Staut wada frädlich senne."

Homez hieed dise beruijden Wieed met Twiewel aun. Aum Goades Puat wia nu een schoapet Kloppa to hiere. Een Maun, dee met een dunklen Schaul bedakjt wia, kaum enenn. Homez jinkj un hieed too, aus de Maun eenen jefuschelden Berecht gauf. De Erfolg von Homez en dise Staut von Heemlichjeite honk opp sien Natwoakj von Spione. Dit Nat strakjt opp aule Kwatiare, vom hebräischen Tempel bat de Antonia Stalunk, vom Herodischen Paulaut bat toom Damaskus-Puat. De Besuach von disem Jeheemnisvollen Maun wort korz von eenem aundren jefolcht. Een änliche Berecht wort jejäwt. Boolt haud Homez eene jeneiwe Kjanntnis von de Erieejnise vonne latste Doag, daut nich met däm Wuat oppe Gaus stemd.

To clear away the false rumors Homez shared the news with Emily and Winter. The entry of a large religious movement from the north had triggered a violent reaction. The bloodshed had been limited as the movement was peaceful. The threat posed by the movement had been ended by the ruthless crucifixion of the leader, the Nazarene, who had been convicted on trumped up charges. This man, who was proclaimed the Messiah by his followers, had been humbled and then executed at Golgotha.

The deadly response to the movement had been arranged by the high priest of the Temple who had reacted in panic to preserve his position. His panic had begun when the Nazarene entered Jerusalem riding a donkey. He had been escorted by a huge crowd whose allegiance had dismayed the Temple. The Nazarene had evicted the merchants and money lenders from the Temple some days later, threatening the livelihood of the Temple authorities. Seeing his position under attack the high priest had hatched a plot that had been carried out with great vigor. The Nazarene had been captured, falsely accused to the Romans, and then turned over for execution.

“The main tools of the high priest in the killing of the Nazarene were money, stealth, and lies,” Homez summarized. “The high priest paid blood money to a traitor to betray his master. Claiming to be saving the nation he bribed witnesses to bear false testimony against the prisoner. The high priest incited the mob against Him with lies, and manipulated a foreign government to carry out the execution. Then he covered up his work with claims of victimhood, that the nation was being imperiled by an imposter. The traitor returned the blood money to the high priest. A

Om de Sach kloa to moake, gauf Homez de Norecht to Emily un Winta. De Entrett von eene groote relijeese Jemeenschoft vom Nuade haud eene dolle Reakzion jebrocht. Daut Blootvejeete wia beschrenkjt, wiels de Jemeenschoft frädlich wia. De Jefoa von de Jemeenschoft wia derch de rikjsichtloose Kjriezunk vom Fiera, de Nazarena, beendjet worde. Hee wia wäajen eene faulsche Aunkloag veuadeelt worde. De Maun, dee von siene Aunhenjasch aus Messias vekjindicht wort, wia jedeemooticht worde un dan en Golgata hanjerecht.

De doodliche Auntwuat to de Jemeenschoft wia vom Huagapriesta vom Tempels aunjestalt worde, dee groote Angst jehaut haud, sien Aumt to veliere. Siene groote Angst haud aunjefunge, aus de Nazarena en Jerusalem opp eenen Äsel nen reet. Hee wia von eene riesje Menj bejleitet worde, dee äare Bejeistrunk dän Tempel veschrocke haud. De Nazarena haud de Kooplied un Jelt Utlajasch eenje Doag lota ut däm Tempel rut jedräwe un dän Läwesunjahault vonne Tempel Harschoft jedroot. Aus hee siene Stalunk unja Aunjreff sach, haud de Huagapriesta eene Haundlunk jeschlowe, dee met Krauft derchjefieet wort. De Nazarena wia Jefange jenome worde, faulsch aunjekloacht, un dan hanjerecht.

“De Haupt Meddel vom Huagapriesta bie de Mort vom Nazarena wiere Jelt, Schuftarie un Lieceje,” foot Homez toop. “De Huagapriesta betold Blootjelt to eenem Veroda, om sienen Harn to verode. Hee gauf vää, de Nazion to rade, un brocht Zeije vää, dee faulschet Zeichnis jäajen dän Jefangnen gauwe. De Huagapriesta hetst de Menj jäajen dän Nazarena opp, met Lieceje un lenkjt de utlendsche Rejierunk de Hanrechtunk derchtofiere. Dan vedakjt hee siene Oabeit metem Aunspruch von Opfareedschoft, daut de Nazion von eenem Schwindla en Jefoa

diabolical scheme such as this has worked before, worked here, and will be attempted again in the future.”

Emily and Winter spent long moments absorbing this analysis, recognizing its great significance to all Palestinians. Before they could express their outrage another knock sounded at the gate and Cato entered to announce the arrival of a client. When Homez nodded Cato brought in a man in who clearly came in disguise. A thin brown mantel shrouded his body from head to toe. The trio watched as he removed the cover, and in surprise they saw a priest from the Temple stand before them. His black beard was full and well-barbered, a dignified shawl covered his head, and a white and grey ceremonial robe flowed till the ground.

Homez peered in amazement as the man’s profession was revealed, but swiftly regained his composure. He asked the man to be seated and to state his business. The priest now ceremoniously removed his headgear, and with great dignity placed it on the bench beside him. This action could only be interpreted as an abdicating from his office.

“My name is Amram,” the man began. “Until today I was an attendant to the high priest in the Temple. I have been a devout, loyal servant of Caiaphas, and earlier of his father-in-law Annas. Even though the two had surrendered their loyalty to the foreign occupier I served them to the best of my abilities. For many years I witnessed their plots, believing that their actions were necessary for the survival of the nation. This week I struck a prisoner who did not grovel as Caiaphas conducted a cynical interrogation.

jebrocht wort. De Veroda brocht daut Blootjelt nom Huagapriesta trigj. Een diewlische Plon soo aus disa, haft verhää jeschaufft, schaufft hia, un woat wada vesieekjt woare.”

Emily un Winta vebrochte een Stoot disen Berecht to vedeiwe wiels daut von groote Bediedunk fa aule Palestinensa wia. Ea see äa Äakjel utdrekje kunne, kaum een Kloppa aum Puat un Cato kaum enenn, om de Aunkunft von eene Kund to malde. Aus Homez nekjkopt, brocht Cato eenen Maun enenn, de eendietich vekjleedet wia. Een dennet, brunet Mauntel honk rom sien Kjarpa vonnem Kopp bate Feet. De drie beoobachte, aus hee däm Mauntel aufnaum, un wiere äwarauscht aus see sage daut een Priesta utem Tempel ver an stunt. Sien schwoata Boat wia voll un goot jeschnäde, een wirdicha Schal bedakjt sien Kopp, un hee druach een wittet un greiwet relijeeset Kjleet daut bate Flua honk.

Homez zield erstaunt, aus de Beroop vom Maun bekaunt wort, oba funk siene Doastalunk schwind wada. Hee bat dän Maun, sikj hantosate un siene Jeschicht to vetale. De Priesta naum nu met groote Zeremonie siene Koppbedakjunk auf, un läd dee oppe Benkj biesied am. Dise Haundlunk kunn bloos aus een Aufdanke von sien Roop vestone woare.

“Mien Nome es Amram,” säd de Maun. “Bat vondoag zemorjes wia ekj een Deena vom Huagapriesta em Tempel. Ekj wia een fromma, trua Deena von Kaifas un ea von sienen Schwiavoda Annas. Oppwool de beid äare Truhoatichkjeit to de utlendsche Rejjerunk äwajäft haude, deend ekj an met miene baste Fäichkjeit. Fa väle Joare beläwd ekj äare Haundlung un jleewd, daut dise fa daut Äwaläwe von de Nazion needich wiere. Dise Wäakj schluach ekj eenen Jefangnen, dee sikj nich ver Kaifas to vekjremd en eene

But the events of the last days have changed my convictions. I have withdrawn my loyalty from my former master. The high priest, I will serve no more.”

Homez, Winter and Emily were struck by the honesty of the man. Homez nodded encouragingly at Amram, who then continued. “I have brought documents to give credibility to what I am about to reveal,” he said. “I will disclose to you the terrible events of the past week. I will tell you about the grave injustice that was perpetrated on the Nazarene. I advice you that I am already being hunted and those offering me protection come in great danger.”

Convinced of Amram’s sincerity Homez assured him of his protection, with the condition that he had not been followed on his flight here. Amram, pointing to his brown coverall, assured Homez that this was the case. “My defection from the high priest’s service stems from the injustice carried out on the Nazarene, the man whom the crowd proclaimed the Messiah. For several years in the Temple we had followed His movements. He showed miraculous powers and fulfilled the prophecies of the Scriptures.

“The high priest and his allies though saw him as a menace to their position. If the Nazarene had not been stopped, their comfortable collaboration with the Romans would have been brought to an end. So at the instigation of the high priest the nation rejected the Emissary of God, the long awaited Messiah. It was for this reason that I could no longer support their system.”

Homez and Winter looked with great respect at Amram. He was forfeiting all benefits of his position, his prestige, livelihood, and safety.

spietiche Befroagunk. Oba de Erieejnise von de latste Doag habe miene Äwazeijunge veendat. Ekj hab miene Truhoatichkkeit von mienen jewäsna Meista trigj jetrocke. Dän Huagapriesta woa ekj nie wada deene.”

Homez, Winta un Emily worde von de lerlichkkeit vom Maun deep beendrukt. Homez nekjkopt ermootjent no Amram, dee dan wieda fua. “Ekj hab Schrefte jebrocht, dee Bewies jäwe, to waut ekj openboare woa,” säd hee. “Ekj woa an de schrakjliche Erieejnise von de vegone Wääkj metdeele. Ekj woa an von de iernste Onjerajchtichkkeit vetale, dee to däm Nazarena jedone wort. Jie motte weete, daut ekj aul vefolcht woa, un deejansje, dee mie Schutz aunbeede, en groote Jefoa kome.”

Äwazeicht von de Opprechtichkkeit von Amram, vespruak Homez am siene Vesechrunk, emma wan, kjeena am hiahan jefolcht haud. Amram, wees opp sien brunen Mauntel, vesechad Homez, daut daut de Faul wia. “Mien Auffaul vom Deenst staumt ut de Onjerajchtichkkeit, dee opp däm Nazarena utjefieet wort, dee Maun, däm de Menj aus Messias vekjindet haud. Aul seit miere Joare worde aul siene Bewääjunge vom Tempel jefolcht. Hee wees wundaboare Krauft un erfelte de Profezeiunge vonne Schreft.

“De Huagapriesta un siene Aunhenja sage am oba aus eene Jefoa fa äare Stalunk. Wan see däm Nazarena nich opphilde, wudd äare makliche Toopoabeit met de Reema veloare gone. Opp daut Aunstefte vom Huagapriesta, länd de Nazion dän Jeschekjten von Gott, dän lang velangden Messias, auf. Ut disem Grunt kunn ekj äa Sisteem nich mea unjastette.”

Homez un Winta kijkte met grootet Respakjt däm Amram aun. Hee wudd aul de Väadeele von sien Amt, sien Aunseene, sien

Escaping with evidence implicating the high priest would result in ruthless persecution from the religious authorities. The two listened reverentially as Amram gave details of the high priest's plot, details which matched closely with facts recently obtained by Homez. Amram's information was supported by documents that he provided, scrolls that outlined offenses committed on orders of the high priest. Amram completed his report with an account of his escape, and his expectations for the future.

"During the interrogation of the Nazarene I became certain of His innocence," Amram said. "When the high priest posed his sly questions He refused to answer, or rebounded the question. As the high priest's assistant I struck Him, sensing the high priest's frustration. The look I received convinced me of the injustice of my actions. At that moment, my rebellion became certain. A year earlier, I had heard of your unique service. In my perilous situation, I now decided to seek you out. I gathered all records that I could find, put on my disguise, and escaped into the night. All night I hid in a stairwell and in the morning, I fled to your office.

"I have documents that will be of great interest to the members of the movement, the disciples of the Nazarene. The movement is not over, I am convinced. I need your assistance in bringing the documents to them. My absence has certainly already been brought to the high priest's attention. Caiaphas will try to stop me, and will make use of his cooperation with the Romans. What I seek

Läwesunjahault, un siene Sechaheit veliere. De Flucht met schreflichen Bewies, daut dän Huagapriesta vewekjelt, wudd to eene rikjsichtloose Vefoljunk von de relijeese Autoritäte fiere. De beid hieede ieferchtich too, aus Amram Eenzelheite äwa de Haundlunk vom Huagapriesta gauf. Dise Eenzelheite stemde krakjt met dee von Homez siene Kjwale äwareen. Amram siene Aungowe worde von Dokumente unjastett, dee hee ver an stald. De Aungowe wiere opp Rolle jeschräwe, un haundelde sikj met Vebräakje, dee opp Befäl vom Huagapriesta aunjegone worde. Amram brocht sienen Berecht toom Schluss met Eenzelheite äwa siene Flucht un siene Hopninj fa de Tookunft.

"Wäarent däm Vehia vom Nazarena wort ekj mie secha von siene Oschult," säd Amram. "Aus de Huagapriesta siene schlaue Froage stald, stiepad hee sikj Auntwuat to jäwe, ooda schluach de Froage trigj. En mien Aumt aus Helpa vom Huagapriesta schluach ekj am, wiels ekj dän Vedruss vom Huagapriesta feeld. De Blekj, dän ekj kjrieech, äwazeijd mie daut ekj orrajchtich jehaundelt haud. En disem Uagenblekj funk mien Oppstaunt aun. Een Joa verhää haud ekj von sienem ieejenoatischen Deenst jehieet. En miene jefäadliche Loag entschloot ekj mie nu, die uttosieekje. Ekj saumeld aul daut Utwies daut ekj finje kunn, läd miene Vekjleedunk opp, un stuak ut en de Nacht. Ekj vestuak mie de Nacht en eene Bäntrap un zemorjes kaum ekj to diene Offiz.

"Ekj hab Dokumente, dee fa de Metjlieda von de Jemeenschoft, de Jinja vom Nazarena, sea wichtich senne woare. De Jemeenschoft es noch nich vebie, von daut sie ekj äwazeicht. Ekj bruck diene Help de Dokumente no an to brinje. Mien Utretze es sechalich biem Huagapriesta aul bemoakjt worde. Kaifas woat vesieekje, mie opptochoole, un woat siene Toopoabeit met de Reema benutze mie to

from you is safety for the moment, and then safe transport to Galilee, where the disciples now are gathering.”

Homez asked first to see the documents that had been brought. Homez, Winter, and Emily examined these and were convinced of their validity and importance. Homez then asked if Amram had a plan for safe transport to Galilee. Here, Amram was at a loss. Although as a spy on the movement he had been sent to Galilee his transport had always been planned by others.

“We will find a safe route for you to Galilee,” Homez promised. “The threat from the Temple and the Romans is grave, but we will find a way nevertheless. For today, you must stay in my compound. By tomorrow my planning will be complete, and you will be on the road. In a week you can expect to be safely in Capernaum.”

Having made this promise Homez called Cato and instructed him to provide Amram with a room in the compound for the night. When the two had gone Homez, Winter and Emily discussed how to proceed with the matter. “One of my informers has connections with the movement,” Homez confided. “The movement has coped for years with threats from religious and military authorities and should have safe ways to travel back and forth. We must convince them of the sincerity of Amram, and so obtain their cooperation.”

The next morning Homez called in Amram, Cato, Winter, and Emily and described a plan for the transport to Galilee. He had contacted the movement the night before, and had made arrangements. For security reasons Homez

finje. Waut ekj von die habe well, es toieescht Sechaheit hia enne Staut, un dan eenen sechren Transport no Galilää, wua sikj de Jinja nu vesaumle.”

Homez wull toieescht de Dokumente seene, dee de Maun metjebrocht haud. Homez, Winta un Emily unjasochte dise un wiere von äare Jeltichkjeit un Wichtichkjeit äwazeicht. Homez fruach dan, aus Amram eenen Plon fa eenen sechren Transport no Galilää haud. Hia wia Amram vetwiewelt. Oppwool hee aus Spion opp de Jemeenschoft no Galilää jeschekjt worde wia, wort sien Transport emma von aundre jeplont.

“Wie woare eenen sechren Wajch fa die no Galilää finje,” vespruak Homez. “De Jefoa vom Tempel un de Reema es iernst, oba wie woare troztdäm eenen Wajch finje. Vondoag motst du en mien Hushault bliewe. Morje woa ekj een Plon reedich habe, un du woascht oppem Wajch senne. En eene Wääkj sust du secha en Kapernaum senne.”

Nodäm hee dit Vespräakje jemoakt haud, roopt Homez Cato un befool am, Amram fa de Nacht met eene Stow em Hushault to besorje. Aus de beid wajch jegone wiere, unjahilde Homez, Winta un Emily sikj, woo maun met de Sach wiedagone sull. “Eena von miene Spione haft Omgank met de Jemeenschoft,” säd Homez. “De Jemeenschoft haft sikj Joarelank met Jedreiwe von de relijeese un millitäärische Harschoft jeschekjt, un sull sechre Wääj habe, han un hää to reise. Wie motte dee von de Opprechtichkjeit von Amram äwazeije un äare Toopoabeit jewenne.”

Aum näakjsten Morje roopt Homez Amram, Cato, Winta un Emily toop un beschreef eenen Plon fa dän Transport no Galilää. Hee haud mete Jemeenschoft de Nacht verhää jehaundelt un haud Enrechtunge jetroffe. Ut

now gave only the broadest of outlines. A system of safe houses between the Holy City and Galilee would be used. The houses were situated in isolated locations, and were approached by obscure trails. Amram would be shuttled from one house to another, and in a week should be at his destination.

The plan proposed by Homez included a distraction to foil a possible pursuit. Homez and Cato would ride towards Samaria, Cato disguised as Amram. Outside the city Cato would remove his disguise and travel with Homez as per custom. After hearing the plan Amram gave his approval, dreading though the hardships of the journey.

The departure was set for mid-morning. Winter and Emily set out with a donkey for Jericho. Emily rode the donkey, while Amram accompanied them disguised as a servant. He carried a light pack with their provisions, and was assigned other light duties. His head and body were again shrouded by a huge mantel such as he had worn on his arrival at the Homez compound.

Before they had traveled half-way to the city gate an elegant vehicle barged into the street from a side alley. Walking beside Amram Winter saw him undergo a dreadful fright. Urgently Winter whispered for him to remain calm, and asked what had startled him. Amram pointed furtively to the vehicle. It was a luxurious palanquin escorted by a group of retainers. Four burly bondsmen bore the palanquin, while four guards in uniforms provided escort. A rich lady was being carried by bearers away from the city.

“It is Sarah, the wife of the high priest,” Amram

Sechaheitsjrinde gauf Homez nu bloos daut breetste Mosta. Een Sisteem von sechre Hiesa tweschen de Heilje Staut un Galiläa wudd jebrukt woare. De Hiesa befunge sikj opp aufjesondade Uate un worde von isolieete Wäaj aunjefoare. Amram wudd von eenem Hus nom aundren jeschowe woare, un sull en eene Wäakj bie sien Ziel senne.

Homez sien Plon enthilt een Veleiden, om eene mäajliche Vefoljunkt to veperre. Homez un Cato wudde en de Rechtunk von Samaria foare, Cato aus Amram vekjleedet. Buta de Staut wudd Cato siene Vekjleedunk aufnäme un met Homez soo aus jeweentlich reise. Aus Amram däm Plon jehieet haud, stemd hee too, oppwool hee de hoade Reis fercht.

De Aufreis wort fa medd Vermeddach jeplont. Winta un Emily jinje met eenem Äsel oppem Jericho Wajch. Emily ritt dän Äsel wäarent Amram, aus een Deena vekjleet, jinkj toop met Winta. Hee druach een leichta Sak met Väärot un wort aundre leichte Flichte aunjewäse. Sien Kopp un Kjarpa worde wada met eenem riesjen Mauntel bedakjt, soo aus hee bie siene Aunkunft en Homez siene Offiz omjehaut haud.

Ea see oppem haulwen Wajch too de Stautspuat jereist wiere, kaum een elegauntet Foatich enne Gaus von eene Sied Gaus. Winta sach daut Amram sikj schrakjlich vefieed. Drinjent fuscheld Winta to Amram, daut hee ruich sull bliewe un fruach, waut am soo veschrakjt haud. Amram wees heemlich opp daut Foatich. Daut wia een kostboaret Palanquin, daut von eene Grupp von Haultasch bejeitet wia. Vea jestukte Sklowe druage de Palanquin, un vea Wajchtasch jinje biesied. Eene rikje Daum wort von Droagasch Wajch von de Staut jebrocht.

“Daut es Sara, de Fru vom Huagapriesta,”

whispered urgently. "Am I being followed?" he asked, and then persisted, "What can I do now?" Winter said that his disguise should protect him, but Amram was not convinced.

On reaching the city gate they saw that the high priest's wife had also taken the route to Jericho. Through the open curtains of the palanquin Winter saw a striking woman, basking in her beauty. She was dressed in rich robes and flaunted a treasure of jewels. But she appeared edgy and Winter sensed an agitation equal to that of Amram's. As they continued behind her Amram shuddered in horror, for there was no turning back. They were expected in Jericho, and Homez had already left the Holy City.

Travel was slowed by a number of checkpoints, which further strained Amram. In the long waits at these points Winter and Emily shouted angrily at Amram to serve them. The three of them passed all inspections without serious trouble. They followed the steep twists and turns of the route, alert for ambush.

Evidence of the political turmoil in Jerusalem extended far beyond the city gates. Bands of pilgrims lounged in disarray on the roadside. Following the shameful trial criminal elements had flocked to Barabbas, the bandit released by the Proctor. Thuggery had become widespread leading to arrests and executions. On the hillsides crosses stood in dozens mournfully bearing their human cargo.

On reaching a small rise, Winter searched the road behind them for pursuit. To his surprise a party of two following behind them, closely

fuscheld Amram drinjent. "Habe see mie jefolcht?" fruach hee un bleef doaropp: "Waut saul ekj nu bloos doone?" Winta säd, daut siene Vekjleedunk am beschitze wudd, oba Amran wia nich äwazeicht.

Aus see bat daut Staut Puat kaume, sage see, daut de Fru vom Huagapriesta uk dän Wajch no Jericho folje wudd. Derch de opne Väähenje vom Palanquin sach Winta eene oppfaulende Fru, dee en äare Scheenheit sea tofräd schiend. See druach en rikjet Kjeet un prold met goldnen Schmuck. Oba see schiend narwees un Winta späad eene Oppräajunk soo groot aus dee von Amram. Aus see wieda jinje, schudad Amram schrakjlich, wiels see kunne goanich trig wanke. See worde en Jericho jeluat, un Homez haud de Heilje Staut aul velote.

See worde bie eene Aunzol von Haultstäde oppjehoole, waut Amram noch mea belaut. En de lange Tiede wua see wachte muste schrieech Winta un Emily wuttich opp Amram, om an to deene. Aule dree kunne aule Oppsechte one iernsthaupte Schwierichkjeit bestone. See foljde de Kjrinsel un Dreipunkta vom Wajch, waka fa Aunjreffs.

De Oppwies von de polietische Onru en Jerusalem strakjt sikj wiet äwa de Stautpuate rut. Gruppe von Piljasch saute onruich bie de Gausesied. No de schentliche Entwekjlung vonne fäaje Wääkj wiere ruchloose Elemente to Barabbas de Baundiet, dee vom Präfekt frie jelote wort, jeflucht. Vebrääkje worde wiet vebreet, waut to Jefangenschofte un Hanrechtunge fieed. Opp de Hempel stunde Kjrieze bie de Dutz, dee truarich äare menschliche Jewichta druage.

Aus hee bat eenem kjlienen Oppstieech kaum, socht Winta de Gaus hinja an fa Vefoljasch. Hee wia äwarauscht, daut twee Mensche

resembled Homez and Cato. To Winter's knowledge Homez had set off for Samaria and should be miles away on another trajectory. Was he in fact following them, watching after their safety?

As they arrived at the outskirts of Jericho a man wearing a saffron turban motioned to them from the roadside. He passed them a scrap of writing that gave their destination. The safe house was the home of Zacchaeus the tax collector. They took a back route to his home as instructed. Sarah meanwhile was headed for the center of town, and hopefully would not stumble into them again.

On reaching the home of Zacchaeus they saw a luxurious retreat which had been toned down. The house was enormous and behind stood a private garden and courtyard. They were received graciously and showed to comfortable apartments. Emily was given accommodations in the women's quarters. The entire compound was surrounded by a high wall, which was patrolled by a guard. Amram began to breathe easier.

In the evening, their group was hosted by Zacchaeus at a simple but emotional dinner. Leaders of the movement were present and showed that the tax collector was a member in high standing. The tale of the encounter of Zacchaeus with the movement was told. The group had been walking through town and the town people had crowded around them. Being short of stature Zacchaeus could not see them. He had run ahead to climb a mulberry tree to get a good view. The Nazarene had seen him, had been impressed by his spirit, and had announced He would come to visit.

Once Zacchaeus had finished Amram related

hinjaraun kaume, dee Homez un Cato sea likjend. Hee docht daut Homez no Samaria jefoare wia un sull opp eene aundre Gaus wiet auf senne. Kaum hee ieejentlich korz no an un sorjd fa äare Sechaheit?

Aus see dicht no Jericho kaume, tieekjend an vonne Gausesied een Maun dee eenen Saffron-Koppbinj druach. Hee gauf an eene Noot opp dee äa Ziel jeschräwe wia. Daut Sechahus wia daut Heim von Zacchaeus de Zoll Beamte. See muake eenen langen Wajch to sien Hus. Sara wort toom Meddelpunkt von de Staut jeleit un see wudde hopentlich nich wada met äa toopstolpre.

Aus see bie Zachäus sien Hus aunkaume, sage see eenen kostboaren Kuta, dee nu dol jeschlone sach. Daut Hus wia riesich un hinje stunt een priewauta Goade un Hoff. See worde jnädich oppjenome un no jemietliche Stowe jebrocht. Emily wort en de Frues Kwatia unjajebrocht. Daut gaunze Vemieeeje wia von eene huage Mua omjäft, daut stoakj bewacht wia. Amram funk aun leichta to odme.

Aum Owent wort äare Grupp von Zacchaeus to een eenfacht, oba jefeelsvollet Owentkost enjelot. Fierasch von de Jemeenschoft wiere aunwäsent un beweese, daut de Zoll Beamte een huach aunjeseena Metjliet wia. De Jeschicht von de Bejäajunk von Zachäus met de Jemeenschoft wort vetalt. De Nazarena Grupp wia derch de Staut jekome un de Staut Lied haude sikj om an erom jedrenjt. Wiels hee läach von Statua wia kunn Zacchaeus an nich seene. Hee wia opp eenem Boom jeklautat om bäta to seene. De Nazarena haud am jeseene, wia von sienem Jeist beendrukt un haud aunjekjindicht, daut hee to Besuach kome wudd.

Sooboolt aus Zacchaeus foadich wia, funk

another side of the story. "At the time of the incident I was working for the high priest," he said. "I had been sent to spy on the movement, to note errors in their teachings. In the Temple great consideration is given to personal purity. Consorting with outsiders leads to personal impurity. It amazed us that the Nazarene would eat with a tax collector, who was considered a traitor and a sinner. It was pointed out later that a prophet came to save sinners not the converted."

The conversation then turned to the present and Zacchaeus asked about events at the Passover in Jerusalem. Many followers had fled when the arrest had been made and had not received news since. Amram told them what he had witnessed in the Temple. There was surprise at his story, for it varied greatly from the official one. Amram told of the injustice of the proceedings, the complicity of the Temple, and the cruel judgment.

Later when the story of the Resurrection, as witnessed by Mary Magdalene and the other women, was told it was Amram's turn to be surprised. Amram noted that others shared his optimism for the movement. He saw that written notes were being consulted. Much importance had been placed on the fact that some disciples were illiterate, but the movement included scribes who kept permanent records.

The conversation now turned to the traitor, Judas Iscariot, who originated from Jericho. The eleven other disciples were from Galilee; he alone was from Judea. Amram said that Judas had voluntarily come to the Temple and

Amram met eene aundre Sied vonne Jeschicht aun. "To de Tiet oabeid ekj fa däm Huagapriesta," säd hee. "Ekj wia jeschekjt worde, om de Jemeenschoft uttospioniere, om Fäla en äare Lia to finje. Em Tempel woat de perseenliche Reinheit groote Achtunk jejäft. Daut Vesaumle met onjweewende Mensche fiet to perseenliche Onreinichkjeit. Daut haft ons erstaunt, daut de Nazarena met eenem Zoll Beamte äte jinkj, dee aus Veroda un Sinda aunjeseene wort. Daut wort lota doaropp hanjewäse, daut een Profeet kaum, om de Sinda to rade, nich de Bekjiede." "

Nu dreide see sikj to de Jäajenwuat un Zachäus fruach no Erieejnise vom Passafast en Jerusalem. Väle Aunhenja vonne Jemeenschoft wiere ute Staut jeflicht, aus de Nazarena Jefange jenome wort, un haude seitdäm kjeene Norecht jehieet. Amram vetald an, waut hee em Tempel beläft haud. Siene Jeschicht äwarauscht an, wiels dee soo aundasch aus de aumtliche wia. Amram vetald von de Onjerajchtichkjeit vom Jerecht, von de Jewault daut vom Tempel staumd, un vom grausomen Uadeel.

Lota, aus de Jeschicht von de Opparstonunk, soo aus dee von Maria Magdalena un de aundre Frues bezejt wort, vetald wort, wia et Amram, dee äwarauscht wia. Amram stald faust, daut aundre Mensche siene Hopninj fa de Jemeenschoft met muake. Hee sach, daut schreftliche Notize jeläst worde. Väl Bediedunk wort ea doaropp jelajcht, daut eenje Jinja onjebilt wiere. Hee kunn seene daut de Jemeenschoft uk Schriewasch haud, de Auftieekjnunge muake.

See räde dan vom Veroda, Judas Iscariot, dee aus Jericho staumd. De alf aundre Jinja wiere ut Galiläa; hee auleen wia von Judäa. Amram säd, daut Judas wia friewellich toom Tempel jekome un haud sikj aunjebode, sienen Harn

offered to betray his master. This offer had enabled the high priest to carry out his plan. Custody was needed to conduct a trial, and plucking a leader from loyal followers was not easy. An offer to reveal his location at night had been the spark needed to put the high priest's plan into motion.

There was sad debate about Judas' treachery. Was it greed, was it jealousy, or was it an effort to force an armed rebellion? This would never be known, as Judas was gone. Clearly it had been treason, for he had repented, and then taken his life. But once committed, his actions could not be retracted, and the course of events had been put into motion. At this point Winter observed Amram, and considered him decidedly shaky. The actions of Judas in some ways were a parallel of his own. Is he reconsidering his defection, Winter wondered, is he worried that he will regret it later?

After a day in Jericho they were ready to move to the next safe house. Amram remained concerned about the travels of Sarah. He wished to avoid traveling near her as the chance of discovery was too great. A local man noted that the family of Sarah was from Antioch far in the north. But the family had relatives in Phasaelis, on the west side of the Jordan, a day's journey north. The movement thus planned a detour to the east side of the Jordan, with Gadara as the destination.

The next day they again set out with Emily riding the donkey and Amram posing as a servant. After a short ride Winter glanced behind them and saw the same party of two he had seen along the Jericho road two days ago. Again he wondered if Homez and Cato

to verode. Dit Aunjebott haud et däm Huagapriesta mäajlich jemoakt, sienen Plon derchtofiere. Siene Bejäwenheit wia needich, om een Jerecht to fiere, oba daut wajchtekje von een Fiera von siene true Aunhenja wia nich eenfach. De Aunjebott von Judas, sien Plauz en de Nacht to openboare, muak daut mäajlich dän Plon vom Huagapriesta auntofange.

Daut gauf een truaricha Jespräakj äwa Judas sien Verot. Wia et Bejja, wia et Aufgonst, ooda wull hee een bewaufneta Oppstaunt aufange? Daut wudd nie bekaunt woare, wiels Judas wajch wia. Daut wia sechalich een Verot, wiels hee haud bekjand un naum dan sien Läwe. Oba eenmol aunjegone, kunn siene Haundlunk nich trigjjenome woare, un de Erieejnise worde en Gank jesat. Winta beobacht nu däm Amram un hilt am fa waglich. De Haundlunk von Judas wia soo een bät änlich aun de sienje. Denkjt hee von sien Aufsaje, fruach sikj Winta, es hee besorcht, daut hee daut lota aufprachre woat?

No eenem Dach en Jericho wiere see reed to daut näakjste Sechahus to trakje. Amram bleef äwa de Reis von Sara besorcht. Hee wull vemeide, dicht bie äa to reise, wiels de Mäajlichkjeit fa Entdakjunk too groot wia. Een hiesja Maun stald faust, daut de Famielje von Sara von Antiochia wiet em Nuaden wia. Oba de Famielje haud Vewaunte en Phasaelis, opp de waste Sied vom Jordan Riefa, eene Dach Reis nom Nuade. De Jemeenschoft plond doarom eenen Omwajch to de Oost Sied vom Jordan, met Gadara aus Ziel.

Aum näakjsten Dach jinje see wada soo ut, met Emily oppem Äsel un Amram aus Deena. No eene korte Foat, kjkjt Winta hinja sikj un sach de selwje Grupp von twee, dee hee twee Doag verhäa opp de Jericho-Gaus jeseene haud. Hee fruach sikj wada, aus Homez un

were shadowing them. He worried about Homez' plans and shared these with Emily. In the Holy city Homez had reasoned that a small group could thread its way through the countryside without fear of discovery. Many pilgrims were returning home from the Passover feast, traveling in small groups, so a humble unarmed party of three should escape notice. But Winter could now sense danger; without weapons they could offer no resistance. It was important to see if Homez was behind them. He decided to stop at the next cross-road to observe if it was Homez.

On reaching the next cross-road they heard a shrill whistle and then received another great fright. A palanquin again entered the road from a side alley. It was the same one that they had seen in Jerusalem. They had considered that the route of Sarah would be on the west side of the Jordan, far from their own. What was she doing on their route, and how had she caught up with them again, Winter wondered? He took a quick look at Amram and saw him overcome with fear. One of the guards is the high priest himself, Winter heard him mutter. Winter cast a quick look but felt sure that Amram was mistaken.

To their horror the palanquin abruptly came to a halt. They waited in suspense and then Sarah gracefully descended and in a few moments stood beside Amram. She drew him to the side of the road and the two began a discussion in whispers. Winter and Emily observed the two in consternation.

"Amram is being exposed to heavy pressure," Emily said as the whispers continued. "I would love to know the the topic of their conversation. It likely goes back to the days of the Passover. The execution of the Nazarene

Cato an beluade. Hee muak sikj Sorje om Homez sien Plon un räd von dit met Emily. En de Heilje Staut haud Homez jedocht, daut eene kjliene Grupp one Forcht fa Entdakjunk derch de Launtschoft flichte kunn. Väle Piljasch kjieede no Hus vom Passafast, reisde en kjliene Gruppe, soo daut eene bescheidne onbewaufnete Grupp von dree nich oppfaulent senne sull. Oba Winta kunn nu de Jefoa feele; one Jewääre kunne see kjeenen Wadastaunt moake. Daut wia wichtich to seene, aus Homez werkjlich hinja an wia. Hee beschloot, bie dän näakjsten Kjriez Wajch stell hoole, om to beobachte, opp et Homez wia.

Aus see to de näakjste Dwäagaus kaume, hieede see eene kjaschet Piepe un kjrääje dan noch een grooten Schrakj. Een Palanquin kaum wada von eene Sied Gaus enne Hauptgaus enenn. Daut wia de selwsje, daut see en Jerusalem jeseene haude. See haude jedocht, daut Sara opp de waste Sied vom Jordan Fluss reise wudd, wiet auf von äarem ieejnen Wajch. Waut wull see hia opp äarem Wajch, un woo haud see an wada enjeholt, fruach sikj Winta? Hee kijkt no Amram, un sach daut hee met Angst äwakome wia. Eene von de Wajchta es de Huagapriesta, hieed Winta am brumle. Winta kijkt schwind toom Palanquin, oba docht daut Amram sikj erd.

To äaren Grule kaum de Palanquin oppeenst toom Stellstaunt. See wachte en Spaununk un dan kroop Sara schaftich erauf un kaum direkjt to Amram. See trock am to de Sied Gaus un de beid funge dan aun to fuschle. Winta un Emily beobachte de beid en Veläajenheit.

"Aun Amram woat een schwoara Druck jebrocht," säd Emily, aus daut Fuschle wiedajinkj. "Ekj wudd jieren weete welle, äwa waut see nu råde. Woomääjlich jeit et trigj opp de Doag vom Passafast. De Hanrechtunk vom

was witnessed by several women. Could Sarah, the wife of Caiaphas, have been one of them? Amram had reported that during the trial the wife of the Proctor advised him to withhold judgment. Had the wife of the high priest also played a role, or was she merely playing one now?"

"My feeling is that Sarah is a messenger from the high priest," Winter replied. "After showing a heavy hand, Caiaphas now wants to use persuasion. He must be aware that Amram's records have been securely hidden. I believe Sarah is advising Amram of the penalty that he faces, and the consequences for the entire nation. Before the palanquin pulled into the road we heard a high whistle, no doubt a signal. The men following us dressed as Homez and Cato are spies, intended to neutralize the damage caused by Amram's defection. My fear is that Amram can not withstand the pressure. Sarah surely is a close friend who is telling of her tragic situation, to influence his decision."

Winter's prediction though was in error, for they now saw Amram shaking his head with determination. After a further interchange Sarah deliberately walked back to her palanquin. They saw her climb up and then the bearers set off to the north. Amram returned slowly to where Winter and Emily were waiting. He appeared of heavy heart, carrying the world on his shoulders. When Winter asked for an explanation he shook his head and insisted they resume their journey.

They headed west and crossed the Jordan. They were leaving Peräa, the dominion of Herod Antipas and thus had more to fear from the Romans. Soon they reached a small settlement, and at the first crossing turned

Nazarena wort von miere Frues beläft. Kunn Sara, de Fru von Kaifas, eene von an jewast senne? Amram haud jesajcht, daut wäarent daut Jerecht haud de Fru vom Präfekt, Claudia Procula, am berod, daut Uadeel trigjhoole. Haud de Fru vom Huagapriesta uk eene Roll jespält, ooda späld see nu eene?"

"Ekj jleew, daut Sara eene Norecht vom Huagapriesta haft," auntwud Winta. "Nodäm Kaifas eene schwoare Haunt jewäse haud, well hee nu met Äwazeijunk woakje. Hee mott sikj bewust senne, daut Amram siene Auftieekjnunge secha veborje sent. Ekj jleew, Sara berät Amram von de Strof, dee ver am steit, un de Folge fa de gaunze Nazion. Ea de Palanquin en de Gaus jetrocke wort, hieed wie een huaget Piepe, sechalich een Tieekjen. De Mana, dee aus Homez un Cato jekjleet jinje, sent Spione, dee daut Schode veusoakt von Amram sien Veroden, trajchtmoake welle. Miene Angst es, daut Amram däm Druck nich wiedastone kaun. Sara es sechalich eene Frindin, dee von äare truariche Loag vetalt, om am to beenflusse."

De Verhääsajunk vom Winta wia zwoa onbewust, wiels see sage, woo Amram dän Kopp met Entschlotenheit scheddad. No eenem wiedren Uttusch jinkj Sara bewust to äarem Palanquin trigj. See sage äa enopp klautre un dan jinje de Droagasch nom Nuade. Amram kjeed langsam trigj, wua Winta un Emily fa am wachte. Hee kjeem met schwoarem Hoat, aus hee de Welt oppe Schulre haud. Aus Winta no eene Erkläarunk fruach, scheddad hee dän Kopp un bestunt doaropp, daut see de Reise wada oppneeme.

See reisde nom Waste un jinje däm Jordan Fluss äwa. See veleete nu Peräa, de Harschoft von Herodes Antipas, un haude doahää mea von de Reemasch to beduare. Boolt kaume see to eene kjiene Siedlunk, un

north. They would follow an ancient path on the west bank of the Jordan. Gadara was a city in the Decapolis, and they now expected a free course ahead.

They followed the path upstream, threading their way through a narrow valley. Cliffs rose to the left with the occasional gap that provided access to the plateau. The Jordan flowed to their right, through the midst of a narrow green valley, high shrubs hiding the placid waters. In the distance over the far bank rose the east wall of the rift. It would be a two day journey, much through deserted landscape.

Late in the afternoon of the second day they were approaching their destination. They had seen no trace of Homez, or his impersonators since encountering Sarah. Gadara lay on a high narrow ridge which fell off gently to the east but steeply on the other three sides. Mount Hermon with its snow-capped peak was visible far to the north. The blue waters of the Sea of Tiberias shimmered to the west. At the outskirts of town they met a man with a saffron robe and received a message giving their destination. The safe house was the home of the family of Teman, a man cured years ago by the Nazarene. Although no longer worried about pursuit they again took a back route to the house.

The compound of Teman was modest compared to that of Zacchaeus, but the view on the ridge was breathtaking. In the evening the group was hosted by the family patriarch at a simple dinner. The tale of the encounter years ago of the host's son with the movement dominated the conversation. A group had

bie dän ieeschten Kjriez Wajch dreide see nom Nuade. See wudde eenem oolen Stich aum Wast Eewa vom Jordan folje. Gadara wia eene Staut en de Decapolis, de tieen Städa, un see räakjende opp eenen frieen Wajch verut.

See foljde däm Stich stromoppwoaz un jinje derch een schmaulet Dol. Steile Boaj wiere to linkjsch met weinje Pausse, dee dän Toogank toom Huachlaunt erlaubde. De Jordan floss to äare rajsch, derch een schmaulet jreenet Dol, met huage Bescha, dee daut ruje Wota vestoake. Aune aundre Sied Eewa stieech de Oost Waunt vom Rie. Dit wudd ne tweedoagje Reis senne, väl derch velotne Launtschoft.

Lot Nomeddach vom tweeden Dach nodade see sikj äarem Ziel. See haude kjeene Spua von Homez jeseene, ooda siene No-opasch seit de Bejäajunk met Sara. Gadara lach opp een huagen schmaulen Hempel, dee leicht nom Ooste foll, oba steil oppe aundre dree Siede wia. De Boajch Hermon met sienem Schnee bedakjten Boajespetz wia wiet em Nuade to seene. Daut bleiwe Wota vom Tiberias See spieejeld em Waste. Aum Raunt vonne Staut troffe see eenen Maun met een Saffron Mauntel un kjräaje een Notiz, dee äa Ziel gauf. Daut Sechahus wia de Heimat von de Famielje von Teman, een Maun, dee väl Joare trigj vom Nazarena jeheelt wort. Oppwool Winta sikj kjeene Sorj om de Vefoljunk muak, jinje see wada opp eenen kjrenjeljen Wajch toom Hus.

Daut Vemieeje von Teman wia bescheide em vejlikj met Zachäus sient, oba de Blekj nom nuadwaste wia wundascheen. De Grupp wort vom Oola Voda vonne Famielje to eene eenfache Owentkost jekroacht. De Jeschicht von de Bejäajunk vom Sän vom Wieet met däm Nazarena wort vetalt. Eene Grupp wia

come by boat across the Sea of Tiberias and landed on the shore near a graveyard. At that time Teman was badly afflicted, being possessed by many spirits. He lived in agony in a graveyard, a threat to others. The Nazarene had taken compassion on him, and expelled the evil spirits. Teman had wanted to join the movement, but had been told to return to his family. He had done that, telling the world the wonder that had been done for him.

After Teman had told his tale Amram said that this story along with that of Lazarus had been very unsettling to the high priest. The Scriptures spoke of an evil spirit afflicting King Saul which was pacified by the playing of a harp by David. Hearing that a descendant of David was casting out demons had brought fear into Caiaphas' heart.

Enquiries were now made about events in Jerusalem and Amram again gave a moving account of the trial at the Temple. Amram seemed deeply troubled, relating the story mechanically, his mind elsewhere. Teman in turn advised that the movement was large in the area and still growing.

They retired then, Amram and Winter going to the quarters assigned them. The long march and heavy meal made for a sound sleep and when Winter awoke it was already morning. He leapt up for Amram was gone and his goods had disappeared with him. Winter picked up an envelop Amram had left, inside of which was a single paper.

A quiet conversation could be heard from the courtyard and when Winter arrived he saw Homez in conference with their host. Emily

metem Boot äwa de Tiberias See jekome un haud biem Eewa dicht biem Kjoakjhoff jeankat. Dan wia Teman noch schwoa betroffe, von beese Jeista besäte. Hee wond en Kjwal opp däm Kjoakjhoff, un wia eene Jefoa fa aundre. De Nazarena haud am Metleet jenome, un dreef de beese Jeista rut. Teman wull met de Grupp gone, wort oba jesajcht, hee sull to siene Famielje trigjgone. Hee haud daut jedone un de Welt daut Wunda vetalt, daut am jeworde wia.

Nodäm Teman siene Jeschicht vetalt haud, säd Amram, daut dise Jeschicht un dee von Lazarus, däm Huagapriesta sea beonruicht haude. De Schrefte spruake von eenem beesen Jeist dee Kjennich Saul besäte haud, dee derch daut Spell von eene Hoap von David beruicht wort. Daut Hiere, daut een Nokom von David beese Jeista rutstad, haud Angst en daut Hoat von Kaifas jebrocht.

Aunfroage worde nu äwa de Erieejnise en Jerusalem jemoakt un Amram gauf wada een bewääjden Berecht äwa daut Jerecht em Tempel. Amram schiend sea onruich, un vetald de Jeschicht meckanisch, sien Vestaunt aundatswua. Teman säd wiedahan, daut de Jemeenschoft en de Jääjent groot wia, un noch emma woss.

Se jinje dan schlope, Amram un Winta to een Kwatia, dee an tojewiese wort. De langa Marsch un de schwoare Moltiet muake eenen jesunden Schlop un aus Winta oppwacht, wia et aul Morje. Hee sprunk opp, wiels Amram veschwunge wia, toop met sien Toobehia. Winta funk een Omschlach, daut Amram trigjelote haud, en woont een eensjet Papia to finje wia.

Een rujet Jespräakj wia vom Hoff to hiere un aus Winta aunkaum, sach hee Homez met äarem Gaustjäwa toop. Emily wia aul opp, un

was already up, and Homez now briefed them on his movements. He had been shadowing them since Jericho, aware that spies were following, but had remained in the background. Early this morning he had been waiting outside the compound when he had seen Amram furtively slide over the wall, and head downhill towards the port. No one had been there to meet or assist him.

“Evidently Amram considered that his cover was blown,” Homez observed. “Sarah must have told him that he had been followed to my compound in Jerusalem. In his flight this morning he was wearing a new outfit. Being familiar with this area he seeks to escape alone, and no doubt is headed to a relative or friend in the area. He entrusted his records to us, I wish him a safe journey.”

“He left an envelop this morning,” Winter replied. He now examined the page from the envelop. Mystified, he showed it to Homez and Emily. “A small figure of a fish,” Emily observed. “You will see many more of them in the future.”

Homez vetald äa nu von siene Bewääjunge. Hee haud an seit Jericho beluat, bewust, daut Spione foljde, oba wia em Hinjagrunt jebläwe. Tiedich zemorjes haud hee buta de Mua vom Vemieeje jewacht, aus hee Amram jeseene haud, dee heemlich äwa de Mua jeklautat haud, un boajauf toom Howe jinkj. Kjeena wia doa jewast, om sikj met am to Trafe ooda am to halpe.

“Woarschienlich docht Amram, daut hee vom Tempel utjefunge wia,” säd Homez. “Sara mott am jesajcht habe, daut hee to miene Offiz en Jerusalem jefolcht wort. En siene Flucht vondoag zemorjes druach hee eene Niee Kjleedinj. Hee es met dise Jääjent bekaunt, well auleen entkome, un sechalich jeit to eenem Vewaunta ooda Frint en de Jääjent. Hee haft ons siene Papiere aunvetrut; ekj wensch am eene sechre Reis.”

“Hee leet vondoag een Omschlach trigj,” auntwud Winta. Hee bekijkjt nu een Jeschekj oppe Sied Omschlach. Vebleft, wees hee daut to Homez un Emily. “Een kjlienet Bilt von een Fesch,” säd Emily. “Du woascht enne Tookunft noch vâl von dise seene.”

Persecution

The planet Jupiter completes its solar circuit in twelve years. Destiny had decreed that Winter record one of Homez' exploits for each of those years. The tales cover the past three decades, spanning the most momentous lifetime in history. The last story, which appears below, had been the most difficult to compose. Winter's strength was waning, the light was dimming, and he felt doubtful that he would complete it.

Homez had been the main investigator in the country for decades. He had accepted cases to find lost persons, to recover stolen property, and to provide personal protection. Homez had delivered on his cases, his work was trusted, and his expertise was unchallenged. The last case undertaken by Homez had its beginning at his compound in Tiberias. It was destined that Homez would not survive it.

Homez had purchased his compound in sagging conditions and had rebuilt it to high standards. The garden gave views of the sea, and behind towered high cliffs that bordered the deep rift valley. The case began one morning with Homez, Emily and Winter sitting comfortably in the garden.

The topic of their concern that morning was the set of turbulent events of recent months. They had returned from Jerusalem some weeks ago after the completion of the Passover feast. Winter's son Alexander had married, and had been handed control of the Bethlehem practice. Overshadowing the wedding had been the turmoil in the Holy City. At first they understood little of what was happening. The religious and secular leaders

Vefoljunkt

Daut Planeet Jupiter moakt sien Sonnen Kkreis en twalf Joa. Daut wia veordnet daut Winta fa jieda von dise Joare eene Jeschicht von Homez siene Heldendote berechte wudd. De Jeschichte passieede äwa dree Joatieende, un deelde sikj met de bediedenste Lăwestiet enne Welt Jeschicht. De latste Jeschicht, dee unje jeschrăwe steit, wia aum schwierichsten to schriewe. De Krauft von Winta, de Schriewa, naum auf, daut Licht wort dunkel, un hee Twieweld, opp hee dee foadich brinje wudd.

Homez wia seit Joatieende de Haupt Vemedla em Launt. Hee haud Fal aunjenome, om veloarne Mensche to finje, jestolnet leejendom trigjtobrinje, un Schutz fa Mensche to jăwe. Homez haud siene Fal jeleest, siene Oabeit wort bekaunt, un sien Weete von siene Konst wia nich to vestriede. De latste Faul, dăn Homez unjaneem, haud sienen Aunfank en sien Kuta en Tiberias. Daut wia veordnet, daut Homez disen Faul nich äwalăwe wudd.

Homez haud sien Kuta en schoslichen Toostaunt jekoft un haud daut to huagen Standard omjebut. De Goade gauf Blekje oppem See un hinje no de huage Klippe, dee aum deepen Riffdol jrenste. De Faul funk een Morje aun aus Homez, Emily un Winta maklich em Goade saute.

Daut Teema von äare Sorj aun disem Morje wia de văl truariche Erieejnise en de latste Moonate. See wiere eenje Wăakje trigj nom Aufschluss vom Passafast vonne Heilje Staut trigjjekome. Alexander, de Săn vom Winta, haud sikj befriet un Kontroll vonne Betlehem Praxis äwanome. De Opprua en de Heilje Staut haud an de Kjast nich jeneete lote. Toieescht vestunde see weinich doavon, waut rom an toojinkj. De relijeese un weltliche

sought to conceal its nature and importance. What they learned came from Homez' informers in high places. These informers included agents in the Temple, at the fortress Antonia, at the camps of the Legions, and in the hills where Zealots made their home.

"Many weeks have passed now since the execution of the Nazarene in the Holy City," Emily commented. "He made His legend here in Galilee with His radical new ministry. On several occasions we had secondary contact with Him, although we never met Him. He challenged authority and brought hope to the down-trodden. His life has brought immeasurable advances and hope to mankind."

"While I am a Roman, I mourn the injustice that was done at the Passover feast," Homez added. "The Prefect of Judea condemned him, even while admitting his innocence. But this travesty was instigated by the Palestinian leaders, who felt their position threatened. Their comfortable arrangements with the occupiers and their profits from the Temple clouded their sense of justice. The action was falsely described as putting down a revolt and execution of its leader. Are those your views also, Winter?"

"There can be no other conclusion," Winter replied. "But we must take account of the more recent events. The execution was intended to stop a new movement, but reports indicate the movement is still growing. The Nazarene is proclaimed by His followers as the Messiah who rose from the dead and ascended to heaven. His gospel is considered as the teachings of a man who became divine. A campaign of suppression is about to unfold.

Fierasch vesochte, de Natua un de Bediedunk vonne Erieejnise to vestääkje. Waut see jeliieet haude, kaum von Homez siene Spione aun huage Städe. To dise Spione jehieed de Ajent em Tempel, aun de Stalunk Antonia, en däm Loaga von de Legione, un en de Hempel, wua de Zelote äa Tus muake.

"Nu sent aul väl Wääkje vegone seit de Hanrechtunk vom Nazarena en de Heilje Staut," säd Emily. "Hee haud sien Roop hia en Galiläa met sienem radikalen nieen Deenst jemoakt. Bie miere Jeläajenheite kaum wie meist en Kontakt met am, oba wie habe am niemols kjanenjeliieet. Hee foddad de Autorität opp un brocht Hopninj to de dol jeschlone. Sien Läwe haft de Mensche onbejrieplichet Veraunkome un groote Hopninj jebrocht."

"Oppwool ekj een Reema sie, deit mie de Onjerajchtichkheit, daut bie daut Passafast passieed, leet," säd Homez. "De Präfekt von Judäa veuadeeld am, uk wan hee siene Oschult toojestone haud. Oba dise Onjerajchtichkheit wort von de Palestinensa Fierasch aunjestekjt, dee äare Aumte bedroot feelde. Äare makliche Enrechtunk met de Reemasch un äare Jewenste vom Tempel bewolkjt äa Senn fa Jerajchtichkheit. De Haundlunk wort von faulsche Manea hanjestalt aus een Oppstaunt un eene Hanrechtunk von äa Fiera. Sent daut uk diene Aunsechte, Winta?"

"Daut kaun kjeen aundren Bechluss jäwe," auntuwad Winta. "Oba wie motte de niee Erieejnise bedenkje. De Hanrechtunk sull de niee Jemeenschoft opphoole, oba de Berechte wiese, daut de Jemeenschoft noch emma waust. De Nazarena woat von siene Nofoljasch aus de Messias vekjindicht, dee vom Dooden oppjestone un nom Himmel oppjestieeje es. Sien Evangelium jelt aus de Lia von een Maun, de jettlich wort. Eene

When we hear more of the movement, it will be about its hardships.”

Their thoughts were interrupted by the arrival of Cato, Homez’ servant. He announced that a client urgently wished to see him. Homez nodded, and Cato called the man in. A tall dignitary, precise in dress and manner, then strode in and sat down where Homez pointed. He was in early middle age, a budding patriarch. Clearly considering himself of superior material, he gave them a critical look. After exchanging pleasantries Homez asked the man to tell his story.

“My name is Samuel; I stem from a well established family in Magdala just north of Tiberias,” the man began. “For generations, my family has played a dominant role in the fishing industry in town. We hold contracts for much of the fish harvest from the Sea of Tiberias, and operate large fish processing plants on shore. We have customers all over the region; you surely have heard of us.”

When Homez nodded slightly the man continued. “From men in my circle I have heard of your reputation in solving problems. I have come to see you today because I am facing two major crises. Both of my problems are very personal, and I seek a man who is discrete as well as effective. The first problem concerns my own marriage ten years ago. The second problem concerns my younger sister Mary, who is now known as Mary Magdalene.”

Samuel paused here to let these points sink in and then began a description of his first problem. “Ten years ago I met a beautiful woman whom I adored and wanted as my life soul mate,” he said. “She came from the

Kampanje von Unjadrekjunk woat boolt entwekjlē. Wan wie mea von de Jemeenschoft hiere, woat et von äare Hoatlichkheit senne.”

Äare Jedanke worde derch de Aunkunft von Cato, Homez sien Deena unjabroake. Hee gauf bekaunt, daut eene Kund am drinjent seene wull. Homez nekjkopt un Cato roopt dän Maun enenn. Een groota Beaumta, jeneiw en Kjleet un Manea, kaum dan un sad sikj dol, wua Homez hanweess. Hee wia em frieen Meddel Ella, een junga Elsta Voda. Hee bedocht sikj secha von väaschte Materiol, un gauf an eenen schwoaten Blekj. Homez kroagd däm Maun siene Jeschicht to vetale.

“Mien Nome es Samuel; ekj staum von eene aunerkjande Famielje en Magdala, nuadlich von Tiberias,” funk de Maun aun. “Seit Jennerazione haft miene Famielje eene wichtiche Roll en de Fesch Industrie en de Staut jespält. Wie hoole Vedroag fa eenen grooten Deel von de Fescherie utem Tiberias See un bedriewe groote Fesch Fabrikje oppem Eewa. Wie habe Kunde en de gaunze Jääjent; see habe secha aul von ons jehieet.”

Aus Homez nekjkopt, jinkj de Maun wieda. “Von Mana en mien Kjreis hab ekj von dienem Roop, Schwierichkjeite to leese, jehieet. Ekj sie vondoag to die jekome, wiels ekj twee schwoare Probleeme hab. Beid sent perseenlich, un ekj sieekj eenen Maun, de väasechtich un wirkjungsvoll es. Daut ieeschte Problem es betrafs miene ieejne Kjast von tien Joare trigj. Daut tweede Problem es betrafs miene jinjre Sesta Maria, dee nu aus Maria Magdalena bekaunt es.”

Samuel hilt hia en, om daut Homez dise Punkta vedeiwe kunn un funk dan aun sien ieeschtet Problem to beschriewe. “Ver tien Joa troff ekj eene schmocke Fru dee ekj sea rääkjend un aus mien Läwes Seel Poatna

coast, was of more humble background, but from a family with a sound reputation. Through my parents' efforts a proposal for marriage was made, which was accepted. Her name was Ravina. We were engaged late in winter, and married on a beautiful day in spring.

“In those days my role in the family business was just starting, and father, who was its head, appointed me manager of our Caesarea Philippi operation. I asked my bride to remain with my family, to whom I returned monthly. I must explain that the family residence is luxurious, with comfortable accommodations and trained servants. In the residence lived my parents and also my younger sister Mary. The comforts of this home were far greater than those enjoyed by Ravina in her home on the coast. In the wedding arrangements and in our marriage I observed all requirements of the Law.

“Ravina was reluctant to live in Magdala and asked to join me in the north. When I did not give her permission Ravina became unhappy. She was used to the company of a large family, with many children, who could provide sport at all hours. As well, she could not adjust to my sister Mary, who was not well. Mary's illness had started in childhood and was not physical, but of the mind. She could erupt into violence at a moment's notice. Later we heard that she was possessed by seven demons.

“Five months into the marriage I returned home from the north and found Ravina was gone. My mother told me that she had fled shortly after my visit the month before. Ravina's brother had arrived in Magdala and advised of a serious illness in the family. He asked that Ravina return home. My parents

habe wull,” säd hee. “See kaum vom Mäaeewa, wia von bescheiden Hinjagrunt, oba von eene Famielje met eenem gooden Roop. Derch de Bemieejunk von miene Elre wort een Väaschlach fa eene Ehe jemoakt, dee aunjenome wort. Äa Nome wia Ravina. Daut Velafnis wia em Winta un wie befriede ons aun eenem scheenen Dach em Farjoa.

“En jane Doag funk miene Roll em Famielje Jeschaft bloos ieescht aun, un Voda, dee de Haupt wia, ernand mie aus Fiera von onsem Caesarea Philippi Aufdeel. Ekj säd miene Brut, daut see bie miene Famielje bliewe sull, un ekj wudd Moonatlich trigjkome. Ekj mott erkjläare, daut de Famielje Kuta kostboa es, met jemietliche Unjakunft un jeschoolde Deenasch. Em Kuta wonde miene Elre un uk miene jinjre Sesta Maria. De Hendichkjeit von dit Hus wia väl jrata aus daut von Ravina äarem Hus aum Mäaeewa. En de Enrechtunge fa de Kjast un en onse Ehe beobacht ekj aule Aunordnunge vom Jesaz.

“Ravina zoagd, en Magdala to wone un wull met mie nom Nuade kome. Aus ekj doatoo nich toostemd, wort Ravina onjlekjlich. See wia aun de Jemeenschoft von eene groote Famielje jewant, met väle Kjinja, wua see jieda Dach lostich läwe kunn. Jrodsoo kunn see sikj nich aun miene Sesta Maria schekje, daut Probleeme brocht. Maria äare Krankheit haud en de Kjintheit aunjefonge un wia nich kjarpalich, sonda vom Jeist. See kunn met Jewault en een nu utbräakje. Lota hieed wie, daut see von säwen beese Jeista besäte wia.

“No fief Moonate Ehe kjieed ekj vom Nuade no Hus trigj un funk ut daut Ravina wajch wia. Miene Mutta säd mie dan, daut see korz no mien Besuach em Moonat verhää jeflicht wia. Ravina äa Brooda wia no Magdala jekome un haud von eene schwoare Krankheit en de Famielje jerät. Hee wull, daut Ravina met am

resisted, arguing that her husband was not there to give permission. But Ravina would not wait and the next morning was gone. She left a note stating that the marriage had become unbearable, and she would not return. She did not demand a return of the dowry, which remains in my family to this day.

“You can imagine my disappointment on reading her note. I had kept all the commandments of the Law in the marriage and then Ravina had shamelessly abandoned it. I thought immediately of Ruth, the Moabite woman. During a famine in Israel, Naomi, Ruth’s mother-in-law, brought her family to Moab. After some years she consented to the marriage of her son to Ruth. When her husband died Ruth remained loyal to her new family, staying with her mother-in-law and accompanying her back to Israel. Ruth married within the family again and her descendants included an Israeli king. So I felt great disenchantment at Ravina, especially since she was a woman of our faith.

“When I went to the coast to confront Ravina’s family they told me that she had left for parts unknown. As there were no children, and I had pressing business duties, I abandoned the marriage. This year I have found a new bride, and now wish to remarry. I have not seen Ravina for ten years but want to clear matters with her first. In short, I want you to find my former bride Ravina.

“I face a second problem of even greater importance. This problem concerns my sister, Mary. It is a matter of pride that at all times I have observed the Law with my sister. While young I tolerated her trying illness. After her cure I tolerated her travels with the Nazarene and her draining the family resources in

no Hus trigj kome sull. Miene Elre stiepade sikj, wiels äa Maun nich doa wia, om de Erlaubnis to jäwe. Oba Ravina wull nich wachte un dän näakjsten Morje wia see wajch. See leet mie eene Notiz, dee besäd, daut see de Ehe nich uthoole kunn, un nich trigjkome wudd. See velangd daut Metjeft nich trigj, daut noch en miene Famielje es.

“Du kaust die miene Enteschunk biem Läse von äare Notiz vestone. Ekj haud aule Jerehta vom Jesaz en de Ehe oppbewoat un dan haud Ravina dee onverschämt oppjäft. Ekj docht fuaz aun Rut, de moabitische Fru. Wäarent eene Hungaschnoot en Israel brocht Naomi, de Schwiamutta von Rut, äare Famielje no Moab. No eenje Joare stemd see to de Ehe von äa Sän to Rut to. Aus äa Maun storf, bleef Rut en äare niee Famielje tru, un bleef bie äare Schwiamutta un jinkj met äa trigj no Israel. Rut befried sikj wada en de Famielje un äare Nokomeschoft schloot eenen Hebräischen Kjennich en. Soo feeld ekj mie en Ravina sea enteischt, besondasch wiels see eene Fru von onsem Gloowe wia.

“Aus ekj to de Kust jinkj, om Ravina äare Famielje to trafe, wort mie jesajcht, daut see to eene onbekaunde Städ jegone wia. Wiels et nich Kjinja gauf, un ekj drinjende Jeschafts Oppgowe haud, veleet ekj de Ehe. Nu hab ekj eene niee Brut jefunge un well mie wada befriee. Ekj hab Ravina seit tieen Joa nich jeseene un well met äa aules rechtich aufschlute. Korz jesajcht, ekj well, daut du miene jewäsne Brut Ravina finje saust.

“Ekj hab een tweedet Probleem von noch jratre Bediedunk. Dit Probleem es betrafs miene Sesta, Maria. Daut es mien Stolt, daut ekj daut Jesaz emma met miene Sesta beobacht hab. Wäarent miene Jugent wort ekj met äare onjemietliche Krankheit foadich. No äare Heiljunk duld ekj äare Reise met däm

supporting His ministry. My worry concerns her need for protection.”

Homez now shifted uncomfortably in his chair, and looked directly at Samuel to indicate his increased attention. Emily and Winter had sat rigid through the first part of Samuel’s story, and now eagerly waited to hear about the security needs of his sister. “Mary is one year younger than I; we were the only children of our parents,” Samuel continued. “We had a closer relation in childhood than most other children. She was a pretty, playful girl who was extremely clever. In this regard she surpassed even me.

“At about nine Mary began to show signs of a mental problem. At seven she had been bitten by a poisonous snake which had entered her room, and at eight she had witnessed the bloody execution of a slave. The change in Mary began with complaints of headaches, and then there came a period of great mood swings.

“Our family business faced strong competition and to prepare us for our future roles our parents assigned us challenging duties. Mary had a talent for figures and was given tasks in accounting. Although extremely clever she began to fail in her assignments. At first father feared that she was shirking for she enjoyed seeing his disappointment, but later he saw that the problem was more serious. When Mary reached twelve her mood swings became extreme. She began to show unpleasant oddness in behavior. A period of great sweetness was followed suddenly by a period of diabolic malevolence. She began to show cruelty to animals and to servants. Throughout her illness, Mary had sane periods, during which she was normal if not

Nazarena un äare Fodrunge fa Famielje Jelt, om sienen Deenst to unjastette. Miene Sorj es betrafs äare Schutz Bederfnise.”

Homez wrunscht ommaklich en sien Stool un kijkt nu direkjt opp Samuel, om siene jratre Oppmoakjsomkjeit to wiese. Emily un Winta haude daut ieeschte Poat von Samuel siene Jeschicht onjeduldich toojehieet, oba nu saute see jespaut om de Sechaheits Bederfnise von siene Sesta to hiere. “Maria es een Joa jinja aus ekj; wie wiere de eensje Kjinja von onse Elre,” fua Samuel wieda. “Ons Kontakt wia enjra aus daut von de meiste aundre Kjinja. See wia eene schmocke, lostiche Mejal, dee uk sea kluak wia. En dise Hansecht haft see soogo mie äwatroffe.

“Bie näajen Joa funk Maria aun Tieekjen von jeistliche Probleme to wiese. See wort bie säwen Joa von eene jeftje Schlang jebäte, dee en äare Stow jekome wia, un bie acht Joa haud see de blootiche Hanrechtunk von een Sklow beläft. De Wakjse en Maria bejinkj met Kloage von Kopp Weedoag, un dan kaum eene Tiet met groote Stemmunk Endrunge.

“Ons Famielje Jeschaft must met stoakjen Konkurrenz deele, un om ons reed fa onse tookjintje Rolle to moake, gauwe onse Elre ons schwoare Oppgowe. Maria haud eene Gow fa Rääkjunge un kjrieech Oppgowe en de Jelträakjnk. Oppwool see sea kluak wia, funk see aun, en äare Oppgowe Fälasch to moake. Toieescht docht Voda, daut see daut opp fliet deed, wiels daut freid äa, siene Enteschunk to seene. Lota sach hee oba, daut daut Problem iernsta wia. Bie twalf Joa worde Maria äare Endrunge en Stemmunk besondasch. See funk aun, onajenäme Tiede en äa Benäme to wiese. Eene Tiet von sea natet Benäme wort oppeent met eene Tiet von diewlische Boosheit jefolcht. See funk aun, de Tieren un de Deenasch Grausomkjeit

brilliant.

“At age fourteen Mary’s training for the family business was suspended. She had memory gaps which frustrated father’s efforts to teach her. He had other worries to cope with, problems with competitors and labor, shifts in markets, and harassment from the administration. By the time of my marriage Mary had become unpredictable. Although past twenty she needed the care of a keeper. My marriage to Ravina lead to further difficulties. When I was away Mary would target Ravina during her mood swings, and several times Ravina feared for her life.

“Once Ravina was gone Mary added a new act to her collection. She would suddenly disappear. During one of her escapes she met the Nazarene. Her cure by the Nazarene was surely a miracle. On returning from her flight my parents noted a deep change. Mary was again normal. She now asked for permission to follow the Nazarene in his ministry around Galilee. Also she demanded funds to support his growing movement.”

“Mary was in the inner circle of the ministry and became an informal disciple. For several years Mary followed the Nazarene, and she went on the last trip to Jerusalem. When Mary returned some weeks ago she said that the Nazarene had been killed. She told me that she had witnessed the entire process, including the part she called the Resurrection. With the death of the Nazarene I believed that that phase of Mary’s life was over. Our parents had since passed on, and I believed that she would join me in the family business. But in

to wiese. Wäarent äare Krankheit, haud Maria uk jesunde Tiede, en woone see normal wia, wan nich utjetieekjent.

“Bie vieetieen wort Maria äare Bildunk fa daut Famielje Unjanäme enjestalt. See haud Jedajchnis Lajcha, dee de Bemieejunge von Voda, äa to liere, veperde. Hee haud aundre Sorje to äwakome, Schwierichkjeite met Konkurrente em Jeschaft un mete Oabeida, Endrunge em Moakjt, un Belaustunk von de Vewaultunk. To de Tiet von miene Kjast wia Maria onväastalboa jeworde. Oppwool see twintich Joare oolt wia, brukt see de Flääj von een Helpa. Miene Ehe met Ravina fieed to wiedre Schwierichkjeite. Aus ekj wajch wia, wudd Maria, wäarent äare Veendrunge en Stemmunk, Ravina aunjriepe un mieremol must Ravina fa äa Läwe ferchte.

“Sooboolt Ravina veschwunge wia, funk Maria met een nieet Spell aun. Oppeenst wudd see fuat senne. Wäarent eene von äare Fluchte troff see dän Nazarena. Äare Heiljunk derch dän Nazarena wia sechalich een Wunda. Aus see von äare Flucht trigjkaum, sage miene Elre daut see sea veendat wia. Maria wia wada normal. See fruach nu om Erlaubnis, däm Nazarena en sienem Deenst en Galiläa to folje. Uk foddad see Meddel, om siene waussende Jemeenschoft to unjastette.”

“Maria wia em ennaren Kjreis vonne Grupp un wort eene formloose Scheelarin. Fa miere Joare foljd Maria däm Nazarena, un see jinkj met opp siene latste Reise no de Heilje Staut. Aus Maria ver eenje Wäakje trigjkaum, säd see, daut de Nazarena omjebrocht worde wia. See vetald mie, daut see de gaunze Erfoarunk beläft haud, enslutent daut Erieejnis, daut see de Opparstonunk nant. Met däm Doot vom Nazarena jleewd ekj, daut dit Stekj von Maria äa Läwe vebie wia. Onse Elre wiere aul jestorwe, un ekj jleewd, daut see nu mie em

this I was mistaken.

“Some days ago Mary had a surprise waiting for me. She had just returned from an event with the former disciples which she called the Ascension. She stated that the resurrected Nazarene had recently returned to Galilee, met his disciples, and ascended to heaven. His disciples, greatly energized, planned to continue the movement. Mary is contending with the disciple Peter for leadership in the movement. A basic issue in the ministry is if it should be extended to the Gentiles or kept just for the Jews.

“There is a danger in all this for Mary. The religious authorities in Judea considered the Nazarene to be a threat to their position. They conspired to have the Romans to execute Him. Once a decision is made to continue with the movement the religious authorities will again mount an opposition. The authorities intended to end the movement by removing the leader. If Mary is at the forefront of the new leadership she will be in great danger. In short, I need your advice for the protection of my sister Mary.”

When Samuel had ended Homez sat in deep thought picturing in his mind the two threads of Samuels story. When Homez said that he had a few questions Samuel nodded. “You want us to find Ravina,” he said. “When was your last contact with her, and where do you believe we can find her? When found, how will she react? She acted normally when a threat was posed by Mary long ago.”

Samuel pondered the gist of Homez’

Famielje Jeschaft halpe wudd. Oba doarenn hab ekj mie jeert.

“Ver een poa Doag brocht Maria mie eene groote Äwarauschunk. See wia jrod von eenem Erieejnis met de jewäsne Jinja trigjekome, dee see de Himmelfoat nant. See stald faust, daut de oppjestona Nazarena fa kortem no Galiläa trigjekome wia, sikj met siene Jinja jetroffe haud, un wia toom Himmel nopp jestieeje. Siene Jinja, dee sea oppjeräacht wiere, welle nu de Jemeenschoft fuatsate. Maria un de Jinja Peeta sträwe fa de Fierunk vonne Jemeenschoft. Eene Grunt Froag en äare Lia es, opp dee uk fa de Heide vetrocke woare sull, ooda bloos fa de Jude.

“Doa es eene Jefoa en all dit fa Maria. De relijeese Harschoft en Judäa betracht dän Nazarena aus eene Jefoa fa äare Stalunk. See veschwuare, de Reema doatoo to brinje, an to vedriewe. Sooboolt eene Entscheidunk jetroffe woat, om met de Jemeenschoft wiedagone, woare de relijeese Autoritäte wada een Jäajenstaunt brinje. De Harschoft welle de Jemeenschoft venichte, un woare dän Fiera wajchrieme welle. Wan Maria aun de Spetz vonne niee Fierunk steit, woat see en groote Jefoa senne. Korz jesajcht, ekj bruck äarem Rot om miene Sesta Maria to beschitze.”

Aus Samuel met siene Jeschicht foadich wia, saut Homez en deepe Jedanke, endäm hee de beid Fäde von Samuel siene Jeschicht foljd. Aus Homez säd, daut hee Froage haud, nekjkopt Samuel. “Du west, daut wie Ravina finje,” säd hee. “Wan wia dien latsta Kontakt met äa, un wua jleefst du, daut see sikj nu opphelt? Wan see jefunge es, woo woat see sikj benäme? See wia normal, aus see enne Jefoa met Maria fa lange Tiet wond.”

Samuel äwaläd sikj dise Froage un auntwuad

questions and then answered, "My last contact with the family of Ravina was ten years ago. I will give you their address. Ravina may have acted rationally, but she did not show loyalty to her new family. As to my new bride, we have known each other for years, but are not yet engaged."

"You also want advice for Mary's protection," Homez commented. "Where is she staying? Against which enemies does she need protection? Will she respond to advice kindly given?"

"Mary is in meditation on my compound, as is fitting for a potential leader of a new movement," Samuel answered. "She is going over the events of the Passover, and those that followed. She must extract the right message from those events and pass it on to new believers. Her main enemies are those that attacked the movement during the Passover feast. Good advice must be given to her, and she will decide how to use it."

When Samuel was gone the three breathed easier, now that his repressive piety was cleared from the room. They carefully considered his two-fold story. Homez noted that Ravina's treatment had been insensitive, and that Samuel's failure to settle the marriage had hurt everyone. There were two tasks to the commission and of these Homez chose searching for the runaway bride. Emily and Winter would attend to the security of Mary.

A day later Homez was in Caesarea Maritima in search of Samuel's bride Ravina. He and Cato were now standing outside the residence of Ravina's family. After Homez had been invited to enter he was led to Ravina's brother

dan: "Mien latsta Kontakt met de Famielje von Ravina wia tieen Joa trigj. Ekj woa die äare Adrass jäwe. Ravina kaun normal jehaundelt habe, oba see wees kjeene Truhoatichkjeit jäajenäwa äare niee Famielje."

"Du west Rot habe om Maria to beschitze," säd Homez nu. "Wua wont see? Jäajen woone Fiend brukt see Schutz? Woat see to gooden Rot horche?"

"Maria es metem Studieere un Nodenkje en mien Kuta beschäfticht, soo aus daut een mäajilicha Fiera fa de niee Jemeenschoft paust," auntwad Samuel. "See jeit äwa de Erieejnise vom Passafast, un dee, daut foljde. See mott de rajchte Bootschoft von dise Erieejnise erut hole un dise dan de Metjlieda wiedajäwe. Äare Haupt Fiend sent deejansje, dee de Jemeenschoft wäarent daut Passafast aunjreepe. Goode Rotschlääj motte äa jejäft woare, un see woat entscheide, woo see dee benutze woat."

Aus Samuel wajch wia, odme de dree leichta, wiels siene bedrejkende Fromheit nu von de Stow rut jeriemt wia. See betrachte sorjfeltich siene tweefache Jeschicht. Homez stald faust, daut de Behaundlunk von Ravina onfeelent jewast wia, un daut Samuel sien Utfaul, de Ehe to beendje, aule velatst haud. Daut gauf twee Oppgowe fa äare Kommission un von dise läsd Homez sikj de Sieekj fa de verschungne Brut ut. Emily un Winta wudde sikj om de Sechaheit von Maria bedenken.

Een Dach Iota wia Homez en Caesarea Maritima opp de Sieekj no Samuel siene Brut Ravina. Hee un Cato stunde nu buta daut Hus von Ravina siene Famielje. Homez wort enjelode nenn to kome un to Ravina äa

Jacob in the garden. Jacob was introduced as the patriarch of the family. He looked a patient humble man, unlike Homez' client. The rough furnishings of the house and the tiny garden contrasted greatly from those of his Tiberias in-laws. Homez advised Jacob of his commission and asked where he could find his sister.

"The tycoon has finally found time for his bride," was Jacob's bitter reply. "He took his time to remember his responsibilities. Much water has passed under the bridge since he last took interest. Does he expect that she is still waiting? But enough, it is time to settle this matter. You will find her at a cottage which we keep in the country."

Cato received directions from Jacob's servant and lead Homez to a tiny cottage at the edge of town. Homez looked questioningly at Cato. They sensed gloom and decay as they approached the gate. "What goes on behind these walls?" Homez asked softly.

The insistent knocking of Cato was finally answered by a ragged woman who regarded them with fear. She was covered head to toe with a dark robe, that gave no hint of figure. The trace of face that was visible was soiled and wrinkled. Homez told her that he sought Ravina, Jacob's sister. The woman invited them to pass into a rundown courtyard. The sun was setting behind her, birds in the bushes prepared noisily for the night, and rattling was heard in an animal cage behind them. When the woman identified herself as Ravina Homez paused for a closer look. "We have been asked by your former husband Samuel to find you," Homez said in some embarrassment.

Brooda Jakob to råde. Jakob wort aus de Elsta Voda von de Famielje vääjestalt. Hee sach aus een jeduldja Maun ut, em Jääjensauz to Homez siene Kund. De groffe Enrechtunge vom Hus un vom kjlienen Goade wiere gaunz aundasch aus dee von siene Tiberias-Frintschoft. Homez vetald Jakob von sienem Oppdrach un fruach, wua hee siene Sesta finje kunn.

"De Grootjeschaftsmaun haft entlich Tiet fa siene Brut jefunge," wia Jakob siene betre Auntwuat. "Hee haft lang jewacht, aun siene Oppgowe to denkje. Vål Wota haft seit daut latste Mol derchem Dol jerant. Velangt hee, daut see noch opp am wacht? Oba jenuach, daut es Tiet, dise Aunjelääajenheit to leese. Du woascht äa en de Kot finje, dee wie oppem Launt habe."

Cato kjrieech Rechtunge von Jakob sien Deena un fieed Homez to een kjlienet Huskje aum Raunt vonne Staut. Homez kijkt Cato froagent aun. See späade Dunkelheit un Vefaul, aus see sikj daut Puat nodade. "Waut passieet hinja dise Mua?" fruach Homez leise.

Daut aunhoolende Kloppa von Cato wort entlich von eene velumpte Fru beantwuat, dee an met Angst bejäajend. See wia von Kopp bat Feet met eenem dunklen Kjeet bedakjt, daut kjeen Frodem von Jeschekj gauf. Daut sechtboare Poat von äa Jesecht wia enjeschwient un runzlich. Homez säd äa, daut hee Ravina, Jakob siene Sesta, socht. De Fru loot an enenn, en eenen groffen Hoff. De Sonn sad sikj hinja an, de Vääjel en de Bescha muake sikj reed fa de Nacht, un Rausle wia en eenem Tia Klotje hinja an to hier. De Fru stald sikj nu aus Ravina vää, un Homez kijkt äa noch mol jeneiw aun. "Wie sent von dienem jewäsnen Ehemau Samuel jeschekjt, die to finje," säd Homez en Velääajenheit.

“Former husband?” Ravina muttered in reply. “Yes, it was I who left the marriage, but only because conditions had become unbearable. I did not abandon my husband; I fled for safety. And then other conditions prevented my return.”

Homez gave her a puzzled look. Suddenly a piercing scream was heard from the cage behind them. There followed a violent thud and then over loud screaming they heard a rapid approach of footsteps. Cato tore out his sword, and turned to face whatever menace threatened. But Ravina leapt up, and shouted a command. When quiet was restored, Homez saw a young boy lying at their feet, frothing at the mouth.

* * *

The next day Homez was back in Tiberias and advised Emily and Winter of his meeting with Ravina. After calming the boy down, Ravina had told them her story. She had escaped from Tiberias because of the danger posed by Mary. At home she had found out, she was pregnant. Her family had found her an isolated cottage to raise the boy. At a young age, he had first shown the illness. Ravina had despaired of finding a cure for him.

Emily now reported on her part of the commission. She had met Mary in a detached villa on Samuel's compound. Mary was safe there as the entire estate was well guarded. Emily had attempted to talk security with Mary but she had controlled the conversation. She had spoken in fragments, her teachings still in formation.

“Everything of significance stems from the events in Jerusalem,” Mary had said. “The Nazarene was the Messiah, but He was not accepted by the Jews. His message was not

“Jewäsna Ehemau?” brummeld Ravina. “Jo, ekj wia dee, dee de Ehe veleet, oba bloos, wiel de Bedinjunge nich uttohoole wiere. Ekj hab mienen Maun nich oppjejäft; ekj sie ut Sechaheitsjrinde jeflicht. Un dan habe aundre Bedinjunge miene Trigfoat vehindat.”

Homez gauf äa eenen veduzten Blekj. Oppeenst wia vom Klotje een kjaschendet Jeschrech to hier. Doa foljd een dolla Stuks un dan äwa ludet Jeschrech hieede see daut Schräde schwind an opptoo kaume. Cato vereet sien Schwieet un dreid sikj to de Jefoa han. Oba Ravina sprunk opp un schrieech eenen Befäl. Aus Ru trigjgestalt wia, sach Homez eenen kjlienen Jung, dee ver äare Feet lach, un vom Mul schumd.

* * *

Aum näakjsten Dach wia Homez wada en Tiberias un vetald Winta un Emily von sienem Trafe met Ravina. Nodäm hee dän Jung beruicht haud, haud Ravina an äare Jeschicht vetalt. See wia von Tiberias jeflicht, wäajen de Jefoa von Maria. To Hus haud see utjefunge, daut see schwanga wia. Äare Famielje haud äa een aufjesondatet Huskje jefunge, om dän Jung optottrakje. En junge Joare haud hee aul de Krankheit jehaut. Ravina haud jesocht, oba haud kjeene Heelunk fa am jefunge.

Emily berecht nu äwa äarem Poat vom Oppdrach. See haud Maria jetroffe en een Huskje daut oppoat opp Samuel sien Kuta stunt. Maria wia doa secha, wiels daut gaunze Vemieeje goot bewacht wia. Emily haud vesocht met Maria to räde, oba dee haud daut Jespräakj kontrollieet. See haud en Stekja jerät, äare Lia wia noch en Väabereedunk.

“Aules von Bediedunk staumt von de Erieejnise en Jerusalem,” haud Maria jesajcht. “De Nazarena wia de Messias, oba de Jude wulle am nich aunnäme. Siene Bootschoft wia

only for the Jews but also for the Gentiles. This view unleashed great opposition from the religious authorities.

“The high priest and religious leaders rejected the ministry and the cleansing of the Temple. They agitated for a trial, used stealth to make an arrest, produced false witnesses at the trial, blackmailed the Proctor to bring in a conviction, and were ultimately responsible for the crucifixion. Their interest was in aggressively defending their privileged position. They will be even more aggressive in defending the perceived privilege of the nation. But the ministry must go on, first in Galilee and Judea, then in the Diaspora, and finally in the whole world.”

Mary had advised that the last few years she had played a key role in the ministry, with funds and with counsel. She had been with the group on all journeys. As a disciple, she had learned the Nazarene’s teachings, experienced His power, and used the power that He had given her. The disciples had learned to heal all kinds of illnesses, even cast out demons. And this power was with them even following the Ascension.

The significance of the last few weeks was that the movement was still alive. Only the physical body of the leader had been removed. The ideas, the followers, and their passion lived on. A great effort was needed to settle the main points of theology, and to determine the direction of the movement. A contention for leadership would follow, and a struggle against the opposition. But then the disciples had been elected to struggle, not to savor a peaceful existence.

nich bloos fa de Jude, sonda uk fa de Heide. Dise Aunsecht wort von de relijeese Autoritäre stoakj wadastone.

“De Huagapriesta un de relijeese Fierasch lände sien Deenst un de Reinjunk vom Tempel auf. See hezte fa een Jerecht, benuzte Schuftarie om eene Jefangenschoft to moake. Wäarent daut Jerecht brochte see faulsche Zeije vää, bemotte däm Präfekt een Uadeel to brinje. See wiere tolatst veauntwuatlich fa sien Kjriezen. See bekjemmade sea, äarem jemietlichen Aumt boasch to veteidje. See woare noch striedricha senne, wan see äa aunjenommen Väärajcht von de Nazion veteidje welle. Oba de Deenst mott verwoaz gone, toieescht en Galiläa un Judäa, dan en an em Utlaut, un schlieslich en de gaunze Welt.”

Maria haud jesajcht, daut see en de latste Joare eene wichtiche Roll enne Grupp jespält haud, met Jelt un met Rotschlääj. See wia met de Grupp opp aule Reise jegone. Aus Jinja haud see de Liere vom Nazarena jeliieet, siene Macht beläft un de Macht benuzt, dee äa jejäft wort. De Jinja haude jeliieet, aule Oate von Krankheite to heele, soogoä Beese Jeista uttodriewe. Un dise Majcht wia met an no däm Oppstieech jebläwe.

De Bediedunk von de latste Wäakje wia, daut de Jemeenschoft noch wieda läwd. Bloos de fiesischa Lief vom Fiera wia wajchjenome worde. De ledee, de Aunhenja, un äare deepe Jefeete läwde wieda. Eene groote Aunstrenjunk wia needich, om de Hauptpunkta von de Teologie to besorje un de Rechtunk vonne Jemeenschoft to bestemme. Een sträwe fa de Fierunk wudd folje, un een Kaumf jääjen de Fiend. Oba de Jinja wiere jewält worde, om to kjamfe, nich om een frädlichet Unjahault to jeneete.

Mary had agreed to the need for constant vigilance. The religious authorities would seek her destruction. The High Priest, the Sadducees, and the Sanhedrin wished to obliterate the movement. But the movement had been promised success. Victory could be achieved only with maximum effort. She would welcome assistance, and was open for further consultation. When Emily had completed her report Homez asked her to mention Ravina and the possession of her son when she next met Mary.

The following day Emily advised Homez that she had told Mary about Ravina and her son. Mary had replied that she strongly advised Samuel not to marry again. It was his duty to restore Ravina's status. Also Mary promised that when the boy arrived in Tiberias he would be healed. Emily felt that she had been followed on her return from Mary. The stories about the Resurrection and Ascension had received notice and were causing panic among the religious authorities. Agents had been dispatched to spy out the new leaders. Schemes would be hatched, and violence would follow.

When Homez met Samuel a week later Samuel reported that he had accepted his sister's advice on Ravina and their son. He had arranged for their transport to Tiberias. He also said that Mary had left for Jerusalem for a meeting. Samuel had a package for Homez to deliver to her. He warned it should not fall into the wrong hands. Mary had traveled on the west side of the Jordan and could be caught up at Qumran or Jericho.

Early next morning Homez, Emily, Winter, and

Maria haud de Needichkheit fa stendje Oppmoakjsomkheit toojestemt. De relijeese Harschoft wudd äare Vestieerunk sieekje. De Huagapriesta, de Saduzäa un de Sanhedrin wulle de Jemeenschoft venichte. Oba de Jemeenschoft wia gooden Erfolg vesproake worde. De Siej kunn bloos met groote Koste erriekjt woare. See wudd sikj om Help kjemre, un wia fa wiedre Berodunge gaunz op. Aus Emily äa Berecht veschlote haud, säd Homez äa, daut see Ravina un de Krankheit von äa Sän erwäne sull, wan see sikj met Maria daut näakjste Mol trafe jinkj.

Aum näakjsten Dach säd Emily däm Homez, daut see Maria von Ravina un äa Sän vetalt haud. Maria haud jeauntwuat, daut see Samuel drinjent rod, sikj nich wada to befreie. Daut wia siene Flicht, Ravina äaren Staunt wada häatostale. Uk vespruak Maria, daut, wan de Jung en Tiberias aunkaum, wudd hee jeheelt woare. Emily säd daut see haud bie äare Trigjfoat von Maria jedocht, daut see jefolcht wort. De Jeschichte äwa de Opparstonunk un de Himmelfoat wiere von de relijeese Autoritäte bemoakjt worde un haude an schrakjlich jeenjst. Ajente worde utjeschekjt, om de niee Fierasch uttosponiere. Aunschläaj wudde sechalich jeplont woare, un Jewault wudd folje.

Aus Homez Samuel eene Wäakj lota troff, berecht Samuel, daut hee dän Rot von siene Sesta betrafs Ravina un äarem Sän aunjenome haud. Hee haud fa äa Transport no Tiberias aunjeordnet. Hee säd uk, daut Maria no Jerusalem fa een Trafe jegone wia. Samuel wull nu daut Homez äa een wichtichet Pakeet leewre sull. Hee woarnd strenj, daut et nich en faulsche Henj faule sull. Maria wia opp de Wastsied vom Jordan jereist un kunn bie Qumran ooda Jericho enjeholt woare.

Tiedich zemorjes fuare Homez, Emily, Winta

Cato set out to deliver the package. By mid-day the four of them had ridden for hours. By now visible signs of life had vanished; they were in the midst of a barren desert. Suspicious riders had followed them when they had departed, and they had sought to escape them. Homez now rode up a small rise and scanned behind them. When he rejoined them he looked deeply worried. Winter gathered that they were being closely pursued by armed men bent on their destruction. Their mounts by now were tiring, bordering on exhaustion. Homez called for a halt.

“The pursuit is getting closer,” he said. “There are a dozen riders hard behind us. I recognized several of the horses; somehow they have found our trail. We will need to split up. Cato, you take Emily, stay on this rock outcrop, and head for that ravine. Be sure the mounts leave no footprints. When the riders have passed, double back and return to Tiberias. Hopefully the ruse will allow you to escape. Winter and I will ride on. We are their targets, and if they should catch us they will trouble you no further.”

Homez and Winter rode on. An hour later Homez pointed to low caves on the hillside and told Winter to head for the nearest. Instinctively Winter obeyed, and on arrival leapt off his horse and gathered his baggage. He spooked the horse to resume its flight. But then he realized Homez was no longer with him. He turned and saw him far ahead riding hard to evade the pursuers.

Winter saw the riders approach, all mounted on powerful horses. Winter realized he must seek refuge to escape discovery. He then turned towards the cave, dragging his

un Cato loos, om daut Pakeet to leewre. Bie Meddach haude de vea aul stundelank jeräde. Entweschen enne Launtschoft wiere sechtboare Tieekjen vom Läwe veschwunge; see wiere enne Medd von eene groote Wieste. Vedajchtiche Rittasch wiere hinja an jekome, aus see aufjereist wiere, un see wulle an entkome. Homez reet nu to eenen läajen Hempel un socht de Launtschoft wiet hinja an. Aus hee trigj kaum, sach hee sea besorcht ut. Winta docht, daut see von bewaufnete Mana, dee opp äare Vestieerunk beschlote wiere, enj jefolcht worde. Äare Pieed wiere entweschen aul meed un kunne meist nich wieda. Homez foddad eenen Hault.

“De Vefoljunkt kjemt noda,” säd hee. “Doa sent eene Dutz Rittasch hinja ons. Ekj erkjand miere von de Pieed; irjentwoo habe see onse Spua jefunge. Wie motte uteneengone. Cato, du nemm Emily, bliew opp disem Fels Aunsauz, un dan ried no de Schlucht opptoo. Sorj doafäa, daut kjeene Spua von Pieed to seene sent. Wan de Ritta vebie sent, dreit om, un riet no Tiberias trigj. Hopentlich woat de Schlikj junt entkome lote. Winta un ekj woare wieda riede. Wie sent äa Ziel, un wan see ons fange sulle, woare see junt toch lote.”

Homez un Winta reede wieda. Eene Stunde lota wees Homez opp Heele läach aum Boajch un säd Winta, daut hee fa de näakjste riede sull. Natuamässich stemd Winta too, un aus hee doa aunkaum sprunk hee vom Pieet erauf un saumeld sien Jepak. Hee veenjst daut Pieet, om de Flucht wada opptonäme. Oba dan erkjand Winta, daut Homez nich mea met am wia. Hee dreid sikj om un sach am wiet verut, om de Vefolja wajchtolocke.

Hinja een Steen vestoake, kjikjt Winta too aus de Ritta noda kaume. Aule saute opp majchtje Pieed. Winta erkjand, daut hee sikj vestääkje must, om Entdakjunkt to entkome. Hee dreid

baggage behind him. He threaded his way through rocks to the entrance. He looked around and saw one of the riders lingering. Bending low he brushed away his footprints and hurried inside the cave.

The cave he had entered was disappointingly small. Both branches were without a back exit. There was no sign of moisture, and his water supply was already exhausted. But he had no time to change shelters. In a nook he found a large earthen jar, but removal of its cover showed it was empty. The floor, the roof and walls of the cave were of solid rock. High above through a small fissure a ray of light shone through. He heard scorpions scurrying about, and immediately feared for snakes. The cave gave him temporary safety, but it was precarious.

Centering himself on the light Winter feverishly wrote this last story of Homez. All was quiet; the riders clearly had ridden past in pursuit of Homez. Hopefully Homez could elude them, and Emily and Cato were safe. Winter trusted the pursuers would not catch his horse, now without rider. Hopefully they would ride on, not return for he had no weapon. Some hours later Winter heard a scuffling noise and realized a man stood outside. He has made a discovery, Winter thought, of an object dropped in the rush to enter the cave. The man gave a loud shout and Winter heard others come running. Winter saw a man at the entrance and when the man saw him, he instantly jumped back.

Winter next heard men in conversation, and then a shouted order. A loud thud followed and he knew a large rock had been rolled across the entrance. More thuds followed and

sikj to de Heel un trock sien Jepak hinja am. Hee must tweschen groote Steena gone om toom Engank kome. Hee kijkt om un sach, daut eent von de Rittasch auhnilt. Winta bejkt sikj, reef siene Square auf, un ield en de Heel enenn.

De Heel, wua hee enenn jekome wia, wia nich groot. Dee haud twee Auste, oba kjeent gauf Utgank. De Heel haud kjeen Wota, un siene Wota Vesorjunk wia aul utjespält. Oba hee haud kjeene Tiet, siene Schulinj to veendre. En eene Akj funk hee eene riesje ieedne Wos. Aus hee de Dakjunk aufnaum sach hee, daut dee ladich wia. De Boddem vonne Heel, uk daut Dak un de Wenj, wiere ut fausten Jesteen. Huach bowe derch een kijienet Loch kaum eene Lichtstrol. Hee hieed, woo Skorpione erom huschte, un fuaz fercht hee fa Schlange. De Heel gauf am oppverieescht Sechaheit, oba dee wia jewoacht.

Winta stald sikj enne Medd vom Licht un schreef schwind dise latste Jeschicht von Homez. Aules wia stell, de Ritta wiere vebie, en de Vefoljunk von Homez. Hopentlich kunn Homez an entgone, un Emily un Cato wiere secha. Winta hopt uk, daut de Vefoljasch nich sien Pieet, nu one Ritta, fange wudde. Hopentlich wudde see wieda riede, wiels hee haud kjeen Jewäa. Eenje Stunde lota hieed Winta een Ruschen un wort en, daut een Maun bute stunt. Hee haud waut jefunge, docht Winta, veleicht waut, daut hee en siene lel enne Heel nentogone, veloare haud. De Maun roopt lud un Winta hieed, woo aundre aunkaume. Winta sach eenen Maun biem Engank, un aus de Maun am sach, sprunk hee fuaz trigj.

Winta hieed nu de Mana em leisen Jespräakj un dan kaum een luda Orda. Lota hieed hee een luda Stuks un wist, daut een groote Steen äwa däm Engank jerolt wia. Mea Stukse foljde

the entrance was closed up. Their actions had not removed Winter's light, which continued to provide comfort. After some time the men were gone. Winter went to the entrance. It was sealed, as he had feared. Without water, a few hours remained.

Maria's package was before Winter, securely wrapped. Winter's consolation was that Emily had escaped and Mary's package had not been taken. Guarding the package had certainly cost Homez his life. Winter's mind panned the past, Martilla drifted by, his parents, and then he reached Alexander. He will carry on, he thought. What will become of Emily? What will become of the movement?

In the great heat and without water, Winter was rapidly weakening and he now painfully wrote his last words on a paper, "Today is the 257th day of the eighteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar. My story is complete, and my strength is all but gone. I have placed Mary's package and the parchment of my stories in the jar. I leave one last request. Should someone find the manuscript within the lifetime of "

un de Engank wort tojeschlote. Äare Haundlunghe haude Winta sien Licht nich wajchjenome, waut am wiedahan hendich wia. No eenje Tiet wia aules Stell. Winta jinkj toom Engank. Daut wia vesääjelt, soo aus hee jefercht haud. One Wota bleewe am noch een poa Stunde.

Maria äa Pakeet wia noch bie Winta, secha vepakt. Winta sien Troost wia, daut Emily entkome wia un Maria äa Pakeet nich jenome worde wia. Daut Bewoaken vom Pakeet haud sechalich Homez sien Läwe jekost. Winta sien Vestaunt fua nu äwa de Vegonheit, Martilla dreef derch, dan siene Elre, un dan kaum sien Sän Alexander. Hee woat wiedamoake, docht Winta, waut woat aus Emily woare? Waut woat ut de Jemeenschoft kome?

Enne groote Hett one Wota, wort Winta langsam schwaka un hee schreef met weedoag siene latste Wieed opp een Stekj Papia: "Vondoag es de 257. Dach vom achttieenden Joa von de Harschoft vom Kjeisa Tiberius. Miene Jeschicht es foadich, un miene Krauft es meist wajch. Ekj hab Maria äa Pakeet un daut Pergamen von miene Jeschichte en de Wos jelajcht. Ekj lot eene latste Aunfroag. Wan wää daut Pergamen finjt en de Läwestiet von "

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