THE OXFORD COMMENTARY ON
THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

Series Editor
Timothy H. Lim

The series is intended for the scholarly study of the most important non-biblical Dead Sea Scrolls. It aims to provide scholarship of the highest level that is accessible to non-specialists, based on the best digitized images and readings. Each volume will include a synthetic and substantial introduction, followed by a line-by-line commentary on the scrolls. The commentary will provide an English translation, textual notes, and thematic discussions of the original Hebrew text of the scrolls.
The Damascus Document

STEVEN D. FRAADE

The most important non-biblical literature of the highest level that is best digitized images and readings. A substantial introduction, followed by sessions. The commentary will provide thematic discussions of the original...
In memory

Ida Hutsh
Charles Benj
Carola Jo
Otto

“They shall not be absent from children, nor from the mouth...”
In memory of my grandparents ל"ת:

Ida Hutshing Fraade (1875–1942)
Charles Benjamin Fraade (1872–1966)
Carola Joseph Spitz (1901–1999)
Otto Spitz (1887–1980)

"They shall not be absent from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your children, nor from the mouth of your children's children" (Isaiah 59:21).
**Preface**

This commentary to the Damascus Document was many years in the making, but most recently with acute attention beginning in 2015 with a visiting fellowship at the Israel Institute for Advanced Studies in at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, at the invitation of Professors Vered Noam and Rami Reiner. The theme for the research group was “Interpretation as a Generator of Religious Law: A Comparative Perspective,” as good a lens as any (of which there are many) through which to view the Damascus Document. Similarly, I had the privilege to present “Reflections on Writing a Dead Sea Commentary on the Damascus Document,” to colleagues at the Orion Center for the Study of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Associated Literature at the Hebrew University in 2017, kindly arranged by its director, Professor Esther Chazon.

However, long before that I frequently taught the Damascus Document, either alone or in conjunction with other topics in the history of ancient Judaism, in graduate-level seminars at Yale, with students of very varied backgrounds and interests. On several such occasions I had the great pleasure of co-teaching the seminar with my Yale colleague John Collins. My notes from those seminars would become the skeleton for the present introduction, translation, notes, and commentary. Several prior publications (see bibliography, especially Fraade 1993; 1998; 1999; 2000a; 2000b; 2005; 2006a; 2006b; 2007a; 2007b; 2008b; 2011b; 2018a; 2018b; 2018c; 2018d), most of which began as talks before public audiences, allowed me to test my interpretations and raise unresolved questions before live audiences. All of this is to say that there are more colleagues and students to thank and acknowledge than space or my memory would allow. If you are reading this, you will know who you are.

Over those years, I benefited from leave time and research assistance from my dual homes at Yale, the Department of Religious Studies and the Program in Judaism Studies, and, in particular the generous attention of the Senior Administrative Assistant of the latter, Ms. Renee Reed. I similarly enjoyed the support of the MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies at Yale.

The invitation to contribute this volume to this series, the Oxford Commentary on the Dead Sea Scrolls, came from its series editor, Timothy Lim. He has been steadfast in both his support and criticisms as he copiously and astutely corrected and commented upon several earlier drafts, constantly prodding me to do better, for which I owe him a profound debt of gratitude. Similarly, Connor Boyd of the University of Edinburgh, tirelessly assisted me with proofreading and preparing the indexes, which he did expertly, insightfully, and graciously, and for which I am deeply appreciative.
Preface

The editorial staff and affiliates of Oxford University Press made the route from manuscript to book as efficient and calming as could be: Tom Perridge, Karen Raith, Howard Emmens, Cheryl Brant, Katie Bishop, and an anonymous reader.

Finally, but there from the beginning and all along the way, I owe an inestimable debt to my beautiful family. I dedicated previous books to my wife (Ellen Cohen), who was always lovingly supportive and encouraging, to my children (Shoshana, Liora, and Tani Cohen-Fraade, and now Abby Fraade), who took pride, somehow, in my bookish accomplishments, and to my beloved parents (Dorothy and Bert Fraade), of blessed memory, who would have enjoyed great nachas from this book, even though, however much I am deserving, I inherited it from them, by both nature and nurture.

Now it is time to honor my grandparents, of blessed memory, to whom I dedicate this book of ancient words and modern interpretations. I was lucky to have known them all, except for Ida Hutshing Fraade. The one whom I knew the longest, Carola Joseph Spitz, was always genuinely interested in and supportive of my studies. In concluding a book about exile and refuge, I am profoundly aware that they were exiles from Europe (Riga and Berlin) and refugees to New York. As they now take their places as great-great-grandparents, I hope that memory of them and their deeds will continue “in each and every generation” (4Q270 [4QD] 2 II, 21).

If, according to Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak (1993: 180), “Translation is the most intimate act of reading,” then commentary in addition to translation only extends and deepens the experience and the metaphor. Having spent so many years in close and careful attention to the textual practices and verbal meanings of the Damascus Document, we have gotten, as if to say, under each other’s skin, in a positive sense, sharing each other’s company rather than mastering it. The publication of this volume can be seen as a modest, preliminary attempt by me to extend such textual intimacy to a broader audience, for which I am grateful to all of the above for having given me the opportunity to do so.

List of Abbreviations

Introduction
The Scrolls
Naming
Dating
Identity
Topical Groupings and Headings of Oracles
In the History of Jewish Law
Rhetorical/Ritual Enactment
Intertextualities
Leadership
Significance of the Damascus Document
Texts, Images, and Translations

Texts, Translations, Notes, and Commentary
(Topical divisions are adapted from Bathsheba Baumgarten 2000a: 167); Baumgarten 2000b: 319

Beginning of the Damascus Document
[1] 4Q266 (4QD) 1 a-b 1-5: Oracles Damascus Document
[2] 4Q266 (4QD) 1 a-b 5-25 (Admonition Preceding the Damascus Document)
[3] 4Q266 (4QD) 2 I, 1-6 (// 4Q266: Admonition Immediately Preceding the Damascus Document) according to 4QD

Admonitions of CD
CD 2:14-6:11: Reflections on History
[10] CD 6:11-14: No Participation
Oxford University Press made the route and calming as could be: Tom Perridge, Ian Brant, Katie Bishop, and an anonymous g and all along the way, I owe an inestim- dicated previous books to my wife (Ellen dative and encouraging, to my children @a, and now Abby Fraade), who took nishments, and to my beloved parents mery, who would have enjoyed great owever much I am deserving, I inherited are, of blessed memory, to whom nd modern interpretations. I was lucky to hing Fraade. The one whom I knew the s genuinely interested in and supportive of exile and refuge, I am profoundly r (Riga and Berlin) and refugees to New s great-great-grandparents, I hope that continue “in each and every generation” y Spivak (1993: 180), “Translation is the menatory in addition to translation only d the metaphor. Having spent so many tual practices and verbal meanings often, as if to say, under each other’s skin, r’s company rather than mastering it. seen as a modest, preliminary attempt to a broader audience, for which I am ven me the opportunity to do so.
Contents

[16] CD 20:22–34: Final Warning to Apostates and Promise to Faithful 71

Laws of CD

[22] CD 9:10–16: Lost or Stolen Property 86
[27] CD 11:18–21: Safeguarding the Purity of the Altar 103
[29] CD 12:1–2: Prohibition of Sexual Relations in Jerusalem 105
[31] CD 12:3–6: Desecration of the Sabbaths and Festivals 106
[34] CD 12:20–22: Statutes for the Wise Leader (Maikkil) 110
[36] CD 13:7–14:2: Duties of the Overseer of the Camp 113
[37] CD 14:3–18: The Meeting of All the Camps 116
[39] 4Q269 (4QD) 10 I, 11–II, 15 (// 1QS 7:8–16): Continuation of the Penal Code according to 4QD 120
[40] 4Q270 (4QD) 7 I, 6–15 (// 1QS 7:16–21): Further Continuation of the Penal Code according to 4QD 123

End of the Damascus Document according to 4QD


A Selection of Legal Fragments from 4QD

[43] 4Q266 (4QD) 5 I, 8–19 (CD 4Q267 [4QD] 5 II, 1–7): A Link between the Admonition and the Laws 133
[45] 4Q266 (4QD) 6 I, 1–13 (CD 4Q272 [4QD] 1 I, 9–II, 2): Diagnosis of Skin Diseases by Priests 137

[47] 4Q266 (4QD) 6 II, 1–13: Impurity from Fluxes and Childbirth 65
[48] 4Q270 (4QD) 3 II, 12–21 (CD 4Q266 [4QD] 6 IV, 1–5): Agriculture I 67
[49] 4Q266 (4QD) 6 IV, 1–5: Agriculture I 67
[50] 4Q271 (4QD) 2 I–6 (CD 4Q270 [4QD] 3 III, 19–21): Other Objects in Contact with God’s Property 71
[51] 4Q270 (4QD) 4 I–8: Suspects 71
[52] 4Q270 (4QD) 4 I–8: Suspects 71
[54] 4Q266 (4QD) 7 I, 2–5: Admission 73

Bibliography

Indexes

Ancient Sources
Modern Scholars
Subjects
Contents

140
[46] 4Q272 (4QD) 1 II, 3–17 (// 4Q266 [4QD] 6 I, 14–16):
Impurity from Fluxes

141
[47] 4Q266 (4QD) 6 II, 1–13: Impurity from Fluxes (cont.)
and Childbirth

143
[48] 4Q270 (4QD) 3 II, 12–21 (// 4Q266 [4QD] 6 III, 3–10; 4Q267
[4QD] 6 2–7): Agriculture I

146
[49] 4Q266 (4QD) 6 IV, 1–5: Agriculture II

147
Agriculture III

148
[51] 4Q271 (4QD) 2 7–13 (// 4Q269 [4QD] 8 I, 3; 8 II, 1–6;
4Q270 [4QD] 3 III, 19–21): Ritual Defilement by Metals and
Other Objects in Contact with Pagan Cult and by Corpses

150
[52] 4Q270 (4QD) 4 1–8: Suspected Adulteress Wife

151
[53] 4Q271 (4QD) 3 1–15 (// 4Q267 [4QD] 7; 4Q269 [4QD] 9;
4Q270 [4QD] 5): Honesty and Fairness in Various Matters

155
[54] 4Q266 (4QD) 7 I, 2–5: Admonition Not to Bear a Grudge

Bibliography

Indexes

Ancient Sources

Modern Scholars

Subjects