

The David Patterson Lectures
Week 6

Professor Gideon Bohak
(Tel Aviv)

*'The Pishra de-Rabbi Hanina ben Dosa:
A Babylonian Jewish Anti-Witchcraft
Spell and Its Historical Significance'*

Professor Gideon Bohak holds the Jacob M. Alkow Chair for the History of the Jews in the Ancient World at Tel Aviv University, where he teaches at the Department of Jewish Philosophy and Talmud and the Program of Religious Studies. His main fields of research are Jewish magic and the Cairo Genizah.

Abstract: The *Pishra de-Rabbi Hanina ben Dosa* (i.e., the "Spell-loosener of R. Hanina ben Dosa") is a short Jewish magical text of a late-antique, Babylonian provenance. It has been edited only once, from a single, faulty manuscript, and received very little scholarly attention, in spite of its historical importance. In my talk I will introduce the text, point to its affinities with older Mesopotamian anti-witchcraft literature and with the Jewish Babylonian incantation bowls and Hekhalot literature, and discuss its textual transmission from Late Antiquity to the twentieth century.

Thursday, 22 February 2024
6 – 7 pm (UK time)

This lecture will be a hybrid session which will be accessible both online (see below) and in person in the Catherine Lewis Lecture Theatre.

No need to register if attending in person.

In order to participate in this lecture online, please register at this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtcOygrjliEt1TjiyUS7nyyrqTecFQvK94>

ALL LECTURES ARE OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC
Refreshments to follow