

**THIS WOMAN'S NEW RESEARCH SHOWS WHAT BABYLONIAN JEWS SAW WHEN THEY FACED THEIR DEMONS (INCLUDING LILITH!)**

Demons are well-known figures in Jewish mysticism. In the Talmud and elsewhere there is a wealth of information about their characters, warnings against them and means to dispel them. In keeping with the Jewish injunction prohibiting the making of statues and masks, there are no visual aids to indicate how the demons look. There was a period in history, however, between the rise of Christianity and the Muslim conquest of the Middle East, when Jews (mainly in Babylon) gave demons a shape.

Painstakingly, archaeologist and art historian **Dr. Naama Vilozy** has copied these images, analyzed their attributes and put together the first visual catalog ever of Jewish demons.... Lilith is often depicted naked and with longer hair and frequently in a seductive dance pose like **Ardit-Lili**. In the inscriptions surrounding the images she is described as a female demon who strangles babies at their hour of birth.

**NIR HASSON** in "A Visual Guide to the Demons That Spooked the Jews of Babylon," *Haaretz*, March 21, 2017.

**THE RESISTANCE**

**This scientist studies protests. And she is seeing something new.**

Dana Fisher noted that protesters' motivations at recent marches were unlike anything she'd seen before. Whenever she surveys demonstrators, she allows them to check off their reasons for protesting from a list of causes: "Women's rights," "Environment," "Racial justice," "Equality," "Peace," "Labor," "Religion." Typically, protesters will tend to pick the same, single motivation: the environment at a climate march, LGBTQ rights at a pride parade.


But at recent marches, "I asked about the issues that mobilized them, and they were just like, 'All of them. Across the board, I'm here because of all of them'."

**SARAH KAPLAN** in "A scientist who studies protest says 'the resistance' is not slowing down," *The Washington Post*, May 3, 2017.

**DAF YOMI POETRY**

Lilith Magazine's book editor, Ilana Kurshan, writes limericks to summarize her daily reading of a page of Talmud, or *Daf Yomi*. Her new memoir, *If All the Seas Were Ink*, is pegged to her 7.5 years with this Talmud discipline.

(Ketubot 22a)

 A beautiful maiden-girl said/  
To the suitors who flocked, "But I'm wed!"/  
And once every last dope/  
Had abandoned all hope/  
She married her heart's choice instead.

(Bava Kama 32b)

Chanina would say when the light/  
Would begin to fade each Friday night:  
"Let us go greet the queen/  
Who has come on the scene/  
Like a bride, such a beautiful sight."



(Bava Metzia 58b)

If a convert comes by, you can't say/  
"It was ten years ago to the day/  
That your Dad ate some pork/  
With a spoon and a fork!"  
Do not torture or turn him away.

