

Mashadi History Trivia

- On that fateful day, the 12th of Nisan, 1839 (Allah-dad), about how many Jews were murdered by a mob of Moslems?
 - 1
 - 15
 - 36
 - 50
- After the Allah-dad, the Mashadi Jews were given two choices: Conversion to Islam, or death. While the community decided to outwardly convert, they would practice the Jewish faith in secret. What did our ancestors do in order to maintain this double-life and not get caught?
 - They adopted Islamic names for their children, while secretly giving them Hebrew names
 - For kosher food, they would do *shechita* (ritual slaughter) underground. They would buy non-kosher meat as well, in order to not arouse suspicion of their neighbors, which they would then feed to the dogs.
 - They had to pretend to pray in the mosques, while also having secret *minyanim*.
 - They had to keep their stores open on Shabbat and holidays, but they would hire help to run the stores, and instructed them to turn away potential customers with various excuses, so as not to engage in business transactions on Shabbat and holidays.
 - In order to so protect themselves from inter-marriage, they would often marry off their children at very young ages, around nine or ten years old. If a Islamic suitor approached them for their daughter, they could claim that she was either married or had already been spoken for.
 - All the above



Answers: 1 (c), 2 (f)

Meet the Mollah...

Mollah Yusef Dilmani

The *Mollah* was the teacher of the community, in effect a rabbi for all the religious needs of the people. Mollah Yusef Dilmani ז"ל is a great example of this.

Brief Bio & Accomplishments:

- Born in 1901, passed away on the holiday of *Shavuot*, 1985.
- He taught how to read and write Hebrew, and most even marriage ceremonies were carried out by him.

Interesting Stories:

- It was an ordinary evening, and Mollah Yusef was sitting in his office, burying his face in a pile of books that surrounded him.

As his learning went on, he realized that a question

which bothered him for quite some time was in a book placed high up on his bookshelves. Due to his old age, he was no longer able to climb up the ladder, which extended close to 8 feet high, to retrieve this book. So he called over his grandson to retrieve which ever book he needed.

After his grandson gave him the book he wanted, the *Mollah* decided to show his grandson around the massive library, filled with books in Jewish literature from the floor to the ceiling.

He brought out an old, dusty, worn-out book, which was stored away in a safe compartment. He said to the boy, "You see this? This is the Talmud which my teachers, the sages of Iran, copied by hand over 500 years, and it is in the hands of our community now, so that we may live our lives as our ancestors did." Our traditions have, and will always remain alive and pure, with the help of Ha-

Questions? Comments? Ideas? Email us at MYCRiU@gmail.com



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