

THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

by

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One day in the spring of 1947 an Arab shepherd happened idly to cast a stone into a little hole which he noticed on the side of a hill in the Judean wilderness, and thereby ushered in a series of events which has resulted in great excitement among archeologists all over the world. It has led to the writing of dozens of articles. Scholars of many nations have participated. Atomic energy has contributed to the discussion. New manuscripts in several languages have come to light, and our evidence for the accuracy of the text of the Old Testament has been pushed back nearly a thousand years. The events which followed the discovery of the first group of ~~the~~ Dead Sea Scrolls in the spring of 1947 have been among the most thrilling in the whole history of Biblical archeology.

The reason that the shepherd did not simply move on to cast stones in other directions was that he heard an unusual noise when this one disappeared into the hole in the side of the hill. It sounded as if a clay jar had been smashed to bits. The Arab cast another stone and heard the same sound. His curiosity aroused, he eagerly made his way to the entrance of the little cave and crawled in. Immediately his eyes fell upon ~~two~~ *ancient clay jars, broken to pieces. Amid the* ~~remains~~ *remains* ~~of~~ *of* ~~two~~ *of* scrolls wrapped in linen cloth. Other jars lay near by, some of them already broken, others intact. Unwrapping one of the scrolls, he saw writing upon it. He picked up a few of the scrolls, and carried them up to Jerusalem, where he sold a few of them to the Hebrew University. The rest were purchased by the Archbishop of the Syrian Church.

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