

THE ROOTS OF THE HOUSE OF
SHALOM CHAYIM SAYAG^{E.}
(GABAY)

THE FOUNDATION
OF THE CONTINUING GENERATION

Collected by:

Abraham son of Eliyahu Shmuel Fattal and Simha daughter of Shalom

1992





תמונת הגאון האדיר ריש גלותא דבבל בעל המחבר ספר בן איש חי וכו'. נר ישראל. עמוד הימני.
פטיש החזק. המפורסם לשם טוב ולתהלה בשמו ובספריו היקרים בנסתר ובנגלה המקובל תאלקי כקשית

כמוהר"ר יוסף חיים זצוק"ל

בכמוהר"ר אליהו בכמוהר"ר משה חיים זצוק"ל

נולד בבבל (בבגדאד) כ"ז אב התקצ"ז. זרחה שמשו והארץ האירה מכבודו ממזרח שמש ועד מבואו.
ומלא את מקום אבותיו הקדושים ז"ל י"ג אלול התרי"ט. ועלה בקדושה השמימה י"ג אלול התרס"ט
סך הכל חמשים שנה תמימות זיע"א. צולם בשנת הכת"ר בגיל עשרים ושש לחייו.

THE HOUSE OF MY GRANDFATHER SHALOM HAYIM SAYAG (GABAY)

My grandfather Shalom was born in Calcuta in India, from parents who came from Bagdad and immigrated to India in the period of the success of Sir Davis Sason there. His father was Chayim Gabay and his mother Rachel from the house of Yona Hasayag, a family with a religious Jewish tradition. His aunt was Rachel the wife of the Rabby Gaon of Iraq's Jewry, the Rabbi Joseph Chayim z"l, that was the Head Rabbi ^{CHAYIM} Cherem Bashi of Iraq's Jewry at his time.

We will return to my grandfather Chayim Gabay and to his wife Rachel. Their children are:

Ezra who immigrated from India to Hong Kong, there he died as a bachelor at a very old age. Chayim Gabay with the rest of his children returned to Bagdad. His daughter ^(Chaton) Chaton married Abudy and they had the children Lia, ^(Cadury) Cadury who married my aunt Masauda and died from a heart attack without children and Nissim their young son who traveled in his youth and studied in Bombei, returned and worked in a governmental office in Bagdad. 2. Chana that married Yechezkel Gdaa and after the marriage they immigrated to Bombei in India, there they had a son named Solomon and a daughter whose name I don't recall. I remember that in 1925 ^(Hana) Chana returned to Bagdad for a short family visit to raise money for the dowry for her daughter's marriage. 3. Farcha married with Abudy Muxzaffy. 4. Yechezkel immigrated from Iraq to ^{Shangchay} Shangchay, there he had boys and girl and the contact with him was severed. 5. Shalom my grandfather who was very young when they returned to Bagdad. He learned Tora and goldsmith's profession with the family Beith Yona Hasayag. During his childhood he wrote in his hand writing, in print ^{in 6} letters, the prayer book with which he prayed until his last day, and also

he wrote the fate book according to the Hebrew letters and he gave an explanation for every letter, and signed this book, ~~I~~ the young Shalom Chayim Gabay. These two books that were written at the time in his handwriting were destroyed before the uncles immigrated to Israel from fear of their being caught by the Iraqi authorities.

Grandfather Shalom had a rich friend without children named Meir Alias, the Jewish hospital in Bagdad was ^{AFTER} on his name, and so it was. Once this friend became ill and needed treatment at the governmental hospital, ^{Hamagda} "Hamagda", due to his Jewish descent he was not received at the hospital. My grandfather became madly angry when he heard about this and convinced him to build an hospital for the Jews that will carry his name. His rich friend accepted his advice, and so the first Jewish hospital was founded in Bagdad. His first place was in the Jewish quarter in Bagdad, in Cumber Ali Street (across our house). It was a large and magnificent house with 2 floors, in front of the building was the house of grandfather, where all the aunts grew up. Due to the enlargement of the Jewish population and the demand of the ill the place became crowded and small, a large lot was ^{P. DEFEND} purchased at the southern part of Bagdad, outside the southern gate then that was called Bab El Muatzam. There the new hospital was erected, a modern and roomy hospital with a department for girls. Upon the transfer of the hospital to it's new place the house of my grandfather was also transfered to another place, and in the place of the hospital was built a Jewish school named "El Watany School".

They tell that during the first world war, the Ottoman government gathered all the foreign citizens in order to expel them, among them also my grandfather who was born in India and was a British citizen. The authorities were convinced that he was an Iraqi citizen from his childhood and so he was released and saved from expulsion.

I remember that my grandfather was light skinned with beautiful blew

eyes, straight, with a white beard. He worked in the goldsmith's profession and taught this profession to his son Baruch and to his son in law ^{Kadury} Cadury, the husband of my aunt Masauda. He worked in this profession until his last day and the name of the family was taken from his profession, "say^gag" in Arab. He was a religious man. He kept an eye on the baking of the Matzot for Pesach each year, an honest man, without a commercial sense, most of his property and his savings were lost in giving loans to agricultural Arabs. He died and was buried in Bagdad in 1941. My grandmother "Rachama", was the daughter of Joseph Twige and Esther from the house of Yona Asay^gag. After her marriage with my grandfather her parents, with the rest of their children, immigrated to Egypt and lived in the city Zak^gzik. The connection with them was severed during the first world war, until my father Eliyahu visited them in Egypt in 1927. Her parents were no longer alive, only the brothers and their children who worked in textile. My Grandmother Rachama lost her eyesight from the age of 40 and remained blind until her death when she was a 100 years old. In the immigration of Iraq's Jewry to Israel, they brought her with them, she died in Ramat Gan and was buried in the cemetery in Kiryat Shaul in ^ב a very innocent and honest woman.

Their children:

1. Simcha (my mother) was born in ^B Bagdad in 1881, married my father at a very young age in 18 Elul 5657, due to her young age it was feared that the Rabbi will not agree to the engagement, and it was necessary to seat her on a high chair and dress her in a dress older than her age. The rest of the details please see in the part of my father Aliyahu Fattal.
2. Masauda was also born in Bagdad and married ^K Cadury the son of her aunt Chaton Abudy, the sister of my grandfather Shalom. ^K Cadury was a goldsmith who learned the profession at my grandfather. He was a religious man, honest, loved Israel but did not succeed to visit it. When I

was yet in Iraq he bought ^{Lot} ~~Pots~~ in Israel, in Atarot near Jerusalem, he died from a malformation of the heart in Bagdad, without children.

Masauda my aunt came to Israel with the Iraqi immigration to Israel. She was a handsome woman, light skinned, friendly and dynamic, was always the living spirit among the sisters. She died in an elderly home in Ramat Gan in 25.6.86 and was buried in Kiryat Shaul, in the grave she bought before her death.

3. Lulu was born in Bagdad in about 1895, married Salman Batat, a merchant in grains, they lived a long time in an agricultural village "^{or}Shimya" in the south of Iraq, a woman who was full of life with a good memory and a clear head until a very advanced age. In one of the visits the family paid her in Shimya, my mother, father, my aunt Masauda and her husband ^K Cadury, they had to cross the river on boat on the way to her. The waters of the river were stormy, and almost all of the boat travelers would have drawn, but there was a miracle and the storm passed and all the people in the boat were saved from drawing. Salman died in Bagdad from a cold. Their children (1) ^K ~~P~~acha who married a relative named Shaul ^{FARHA} Shitaxat, the owner of an accounting office and dealing in real estate in Rishon LeZion. Their daughter Mally (Mazal), an officer in the army, is married to Motty (Mordechay) and they have 2 sons. A second son, Meir, is married with 2 children. And a third son is also married with 3 children. (2) Abraham is married to Marcel, he is an electrician and they live in Ramat Gan. He immigrated to Israel with the immigration from Iraq. Before the founding of the state, during the days of the British Mandate, he was in the country and was caught as in illegal immigrant and was deported to Iraq. Their children are Gady who is married to Margalit. And Yael is married to Erez and they have 2 children. (3) Eliyahu (Elias) is married to the daughter of his aunt Margalit Levy daughter of the aunt Gorgia. He lived and worked a long period in

commerce in Teheran, Iran. After prohibitions during the rule of Humeiny he succeeded to escape from Iran. They live, temporarily, in London, and they have a daughter Ritta who is married to Jacob Mualem and live in Tel Aviv, and a son Sason ^{AFTER} on the name of his grandfather.

(4) Reuven who was born in Bagdad. Came to Israel with the immigration from Iraq. After several years he went to Teheran and married the daughter of his aunt, Nadra, the sister of Margalit daughter of Gorgia. He worked in Teheran and after the founding of Humeiny's rule they immigrated to Israel and they live in Ramat Gan. Their childrne are Bella who is married to David ^{Paniz} Feniry and they live in Florida, U.S.A.. They have 4 children, Shirly, Nataly, Michal and Danny. Reuven and Nadra have a second daughter, Rama, who is married with Gad, from a Bulgarian ancestry, and they have twins.

4. Gorgia who was born in Bagdad, married to Sason Abdalla Levi, a merchant and a clerk. During the second world war he worked as a translating civilian with the British army, was captured, and released after the war. Was a wise and educated man. His mother is ^{Dowlat} Tzolad from a Persian ancestry, a very hard, strange, and suspicious woman. She had a house in the Jewish quarter in Bagdad, and she willed it to the Jewish community and not to her children who needed it more. Her husband, the father of Sason, was a quite and innocent man from Persian origins who lived in Persia.

Gorgia was the quite woman among her sisters, and innocent woman, light skinned with blond hair and blue eyes, like my grandfather. It is told that during the engagement to Sason his mother ^{Dowlat} Tzolad saw her and did not believe that her blond hair was real and suspected that it was a wig and rose and pulled at the hair and then ^u saw that it was real and gave her agreement to the engagement and the engagement was finalized with a good end. In 19³² Sason and his family immigrated to Teheran and he

found work as an accountant in a company for drinks. Gorgia died in Iran from cancer and Sason died later in middle age. The name of the family, Levi, was changed to Malawy, the root of the word is from the word lawy which is in Persian Rabbi Lawy.

Their children:

1- Nagy: was born in Bagdad, traveled with the parents to Persia, worked as a merchant, small manufacturer, transport company, visited the country and here he found his future wife, Margalit from Jerusalem, a religious woman, they married and went to Teheran, there they lived and worked there until the fall of the rule of the Persian Shach. They had their son Sason. From Persia they immigrated to England, and due to the weather there, which did not fit them, they immigrated to the U.S.A. Their son learned engineering, came to Israel, married, and returned to the U.S.A. with his wife.

2- Ne^Aima: was born in Bagdad and joined the parents in their travel to Persia. There she married a Jewish Persian business man named Babay^Kan. She died in Italy from cancer. They had children named Frida, Pery, and Fobo.

3- Rachel: was also born in Bagdad and when the parents went to Persia she went with them and married a young man from Iraqi ancestry from the house of ^{ZADKA}Tzdaka. When Israel was founded they came to Israel and they bore^N in the country a son named Moshe. They did not manage in the country and returned to Persia. Her husband worked as a clerk and Rachel was a stewardess in the Persian Air^{LINE}port company. In Persia they had their second son, Ellen. After the fall of the Shach's rule in Persia, they immigrated to California, U.S.A., there her husband died.

4- Margalit: As said, she married her cousin Aliase (Eliyahu) son of Lulu and Salman Batat z"l. See details with the children of Lulu and Salman Batat.

5- Nadra: As said, she also married her cousin, Reuven son of Lulu and Salman Batat z"l, the brother of Aliase. They lived for a while in Persia, and came to Israel after the rule of Humeiny, see details with the children of Lulu and Salman Batat.

6- Morris: Married his wife Shola daughter of the Abad family, after the fall of the Persian Shach, his wife with their son Sason went to the parents in England and stayed there, and Morris was left alone in Persia, they separated.

7- Eli: On the name of his grandfather Abdalla. Worked and lived with the parents in Teheran. During his visit in Israel met his wife Shulamit Sayag^E, after the wedding they left for Persia and lived there several years until the fall of the Persian Shach. They returned to Israel and lived here several years, and due to the economic situation in Israel they left, liquidated all and immigrated to Canada. He is nice man, a merchant with an open mind. Their children: Sason learned medicine and married with an Israeli girl from an Iraqi origin and settled in Canada. Their second daughter, Galla, married in Canada and they have a third son whose name I don't remember.

5- Chayim: On the name of his grandfather, was born in Bagdad, the first to his grandmother and grandfather, light skinned with the blue eyes of his grandfather. For the first work in his life he traveled and worked in Persia with the Iraqi merchant Joseph Moshe, after 4 years of work he returned to Iraq and worked as an accountant for the textile merchant Ezra Tzemach, and afterwards as an independent merchant. He married in the family to ^{KHELA} Kahla daughter of Meir Sayag. With the immigration from Iraq to Israel they came with their children, lived in Ramat Gan. Due to his age he did not manage in the country, was disappointed, his health suffered, he died and was buried at the cemetery in Hulon.

Their children are:

(1) Rachel who was born in Bagdad married there to Dr. Salim Aga Baba (not a relative). Upon the immigration of Iraq's Jewry they immigrated to the U.S.A. and he worked several years in his profession. There he was murdered by a black who was a drug addict that wanted drugs or recipe for a drug. They had 3 children, Sharlot, James, and Lesly. The children remained in United States and Rachel returned to Israel and lives in Ramat Gan. (2) Esther was married and separated and became depressed. She lives alone in an apartment which she purchased in Petach Tiqva. (3) Doris that married the engineer Hazam Nakar who died from cancer after suffering several years. Their daughter was Vered who married a ^{is} nice young man from B'chor house and she lives near the mother in Petach Tikva. (4) Evelyn, who married Meir Assia who was born in Iraq and lived with his family in the Far East before he came to Israel. He worked as an accountant in the medicine company "Assya" until he returned, before that they had a commerce house for shoes in Kiron. They have two children, Yitchak and Pazit and they live in KIron. (5) Amal (Amalya) the young daughter. She learned in Israel and works in Social Security in Ramat Gan branch and manages a department there. She lives alone in Ramat Gan.

6- Baruch: who was born in Bagdad in 1900, learned the profession of a goldsmith from his grandfather Shalom. He worked for 3 years as a clerk with the Jewish banker Zion Abudy, 8 years he worked as a teacher for Arab^{ie} and arithmetics in the Jewish public school Kerem Hayeladim, 3 years he worked as a teacher for arithmetics and in the subject of the Israeli people, at Aliance school. In the second world war he, together with his brother Chayim, worked in commerce in Textile in a shop, which was grandfather's occupation, until they immigrated to Israel with the Iraqi immigration. He was a nice man with an open mind, remained an old bachlor, was blinded in one eye. Today he lives in an elderly home in Ramat Gan, and lost the sight in the second eye.

7- Sason: who was born in Bagdad and came to Israel with the Iraqi immigration, with the uncles and the grandmother. He married in Israel to Victorya from the house of Hazom, a nurse by profession, they did not have children and they lived modestly in their house in Ramat Gan. In Bagdad he was a partner in a printing house in which a daily newspaper was printed in Arabic. Died on 18.2.1992.

8- Yona: who was born in Bagdad, worked as a manager of a train station in one of the stations between Bagdad and Batzra, came to Israel with the immigration from Iraq. Married in Israel to Tzabiha from ^{Holima} Alima house who was born in Hala in Iraq. In Israel he worked in distribution of Maariv newspaper. They live in Ramat Gan without children.

A SUMMARY ABOUT IRAQ'S JEWS

^{IRAQI} The Jewry of ~~Iraq~~ is rooted in the valley of Aram Naharayim, formerly Babel, for about 2500 years, ever since the destruction of the temple ^{IN JERUSALEM} and Galut Babel. This Jewry saw many upheavals, changing authorities ^{THEY WERE THE DISTINGUISHED HIGH SOCIETY WHO WERE TAKEN CAPTURED TO BABEL WITH KING ZIDKIYAHU} of peoples and conquerors who conquered and ruled the country for generations. This Jewry remained faithful to her faith, her religion, and her tradition, and from her ^{THEM} came the Geonim (geniuses) and she kept the Jewish heritage during the most difficult periods. This Jewry gave us the Talmud Bably which is ^k renowned and accepted by all the Jews of the world, and which was written ^d by the Geonim of Babel's Jewry. The population of Iraq in 1950 was about 5 million, among them were about 150,000 Jews.

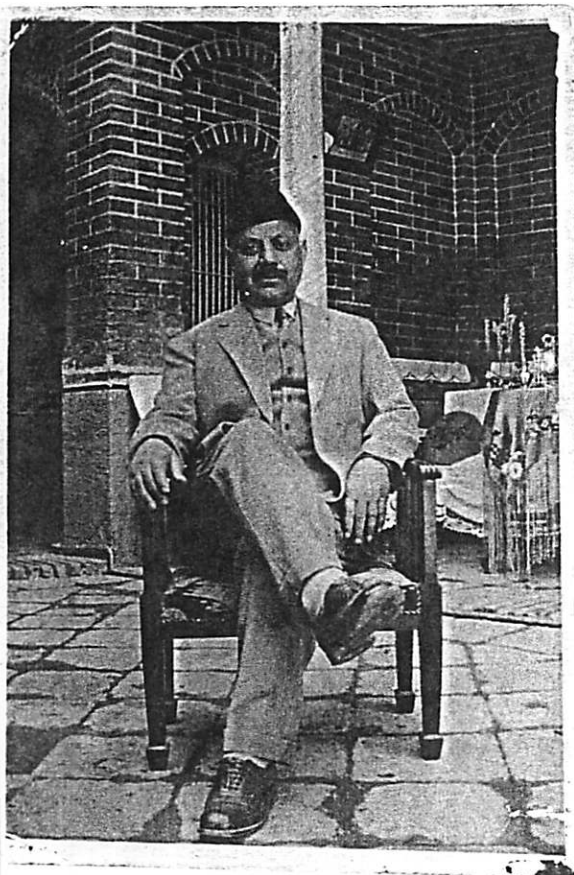
The conquest of Iraq by the British ^{FORCES} during the first world war, a mandate given her at the Brussels Conference, to direct the affairs of the country until independence, brought a new era ^v to the Jewish community. The commerce, which the Jews controlled, developed, the education level rose and developed among wider sections, began the era ^E of general education that was not limited to highschool learning. The educated young men, who knew English, French and Arab, ^{ACCEPTED} were received with open arms, ^{AT DIFFERENT TO} served in the offices for directing the country. The first Minister of the Treasury was a Jew who gave a foundation to the laws and the economics of Iraq. The foreign commercial companies that were founded in the country also gave ^{FOR} accupation to young Jews, in a considerable number, to fill the required positions. Groups of young men organized for cultural activity, sports, and also Zionism. Many Hebrew periodicals flew in, as well as teachers who came from ^{PALESTINE} Israel to teach at the Jewish schools, among them should be remembered Yitzhak Ben Tzvy, ^{LATER} who was the President of Israel, and others who brought the Zionism until this period. The ^{WISH} prayer for the return to Israel was a religious prayer. From now on

developed the Zionist thought. This condition continued after Iraq received its independence and as long as King ^g Faisal ^{THE FIRST} ruled, and until his death in 1932, the condition of the Jews was good. In his place inherited his son, the King ^g Nazzy, a young king, green and inexperienced, who liked fun. He was anti British and influenced by the representatives of Nazzi Germany in Iraq. The Jew ^{IR} of Iraq in the cities adopted the European culture, and this was seen in the ^{LIFE} dress, in the commerce, the schools, the education, and in the society. Several Jews succeeded in the businesses and others advanced and occupied high and respected positions even in key positions in the administrations and law, ^{AS MEMBERS} there were those who were chosen to the Congress. This situation, as said, began to reverse with the coming of the rule of the young king ^{CRAZY} and the advance of the Nazzism in middle Europe.

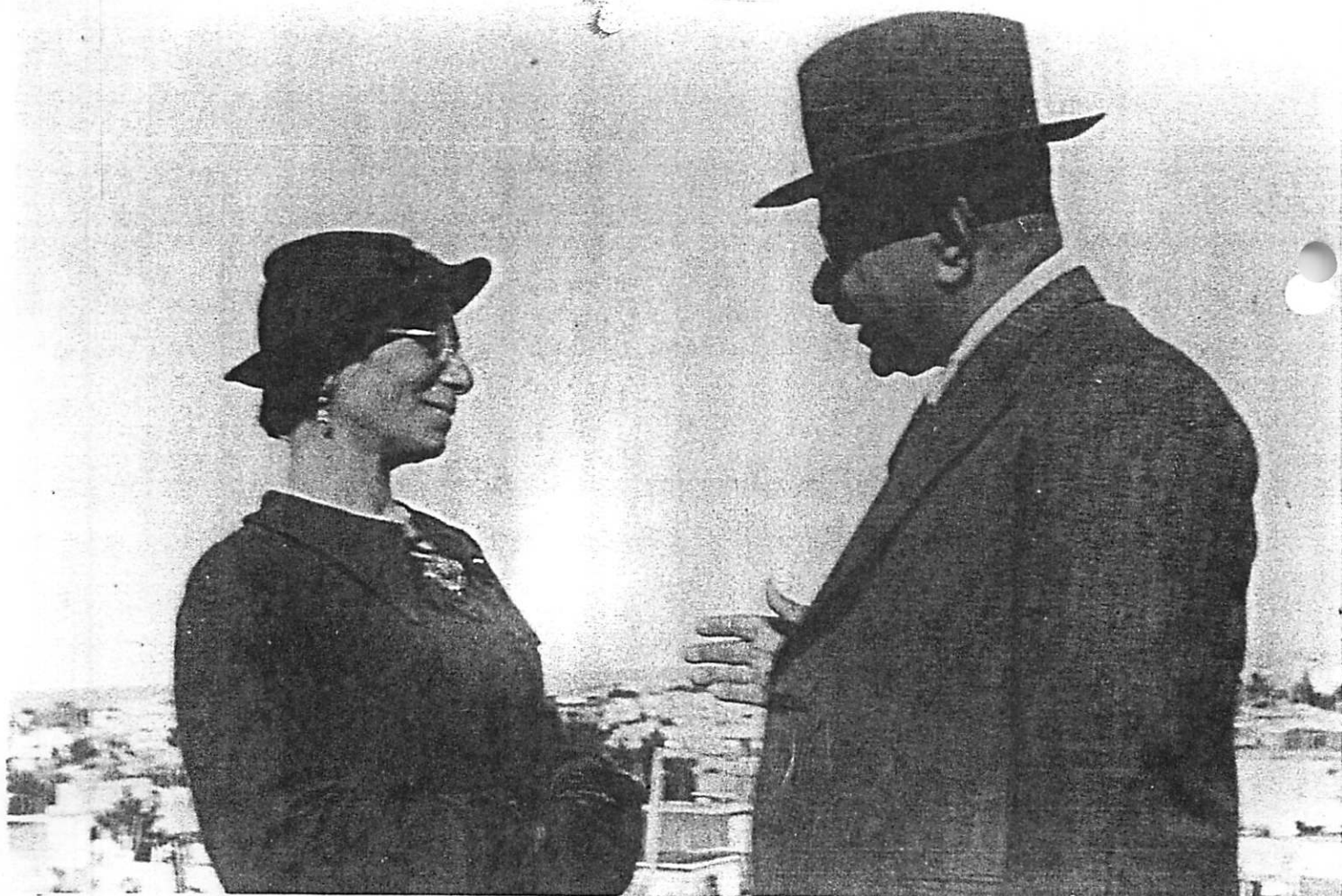
The second world war brought the Jewish community in Iraq a financial, economic, cultural and social flowering and success. The Middle East was comparatively quite. The fights ^{WAR} of the war ^{ING} were relatively far, and in the place of the destruction in the west, the commerce in Iraq developed and succeeded, building ^{NEW} ^{PROJECTS} deals that brought new rich, ^{GROUP OF PEOPLE} their whole way of life changed. Families moved their quarters from the old ^{BAGHDAD} quarters with the narrow roads in the middle of the old city to outside. The shape of the houses used to be like houses with walls and in the middle was the court, ^{BUILDING} as if they came to protect the house. In place of those narrow roads there ^{JEWELERS} was a change in building the houses and living outside the city, they built ^{OUT SIDE THE CITY} houses with gardens around them, they installed modern toilets, a dining room, a sitting room for the family for the day, a salon for the guests, bedrooms for the children and for the parents, with a garage for the car of the family. The use of various electrical home appliances grew. In the evenings they went to enjoy themselves in movies, clubs. In saturday night the youth filled the fun houses, played with cards, which took their place as part of the enjoyment. They also held closed dance parties in salons

inside the houses. The western kind of coffee houses developed, and they were a place for enjoyment for the young couples. There began a relaxing of several limitations of the religion but they remained traditional. They saw the reality and there was a change in the businesses and in the work, ^{TOOK PLACE} they began to ^{WORK} close half a day at noon and returned to the family house to dine together, with a rest afterwards. ^{AND WIFE HAVE TO SEND DINNER TO THEIR HUSBAND} The wives of the men who remained at their work place until the evening sent ~~them particularly their dinner to their place of work.~~

ELIAHOU & SIMCHA FATTAL



1933 BAGHDAD



TEL-AVIV 1938