

How It Got Into The Talmud

Irving F. Miller

As Rav Idi bar Avin was dozing,
Rav Mari declared bread
must be stored securely
to protect it from weasels.
Rav Abaye explained
the difference between
wine and oil while
Rav Nachman bar Yitzhak
asked if it is permitted
to put one's hand
in a hole where
there might be scorpions.
Rav Yehoshua pointed out
that when one eats onions,
one must start with the leaves.
When Rav Meir noted
that a man is liable
if his camel falls
and he does not raise it,
Rav Yehonasan wasn't listening.
He was thinking about
an ox to be stoned.

Rav Yehudah wrote down every word.

IRVING F. MILLER was born in New York City and educated at New York University, Purdue University, and the University of Michigan. He taught and administered programs at Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, University of Illinois at Chicago, and University of Akron. His poems have appeared in print and online anthologies and in several chapbooks.