



Talmud Tales – Session 14 – The Cave: Part 2

JT Shevi'it 9:1 (*Leiden Manuscript*)

Rabbi Shimon ben Yochai was hidden in a cave for thirteen years,

In a cave of carobs in Truma, until his body rusted.

At the end of the thirteen years, he said: “Should I not go out to see what is new in the world?”

He went out and sat by the mouth of the cave.

He saw a hunter hunting a bird.

The hunter laid out a trap.

Rabbi Shimon ben Yochai heard a heavenly voice that said: “Freed!” and the bird flew off.

He said: “If not for the will of Heaven, a bird would not get trapped; all the more so is this true of human beings.”