

ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NEW SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS  
DEALING WITH "TORAH CODES"

A. Background

1. *ELS*'s (Equidistant Letters Sequences) appear **randomly** in any text.
2. According to traditional Jewish sources the Torah in general, and the Book of Genesis in specific, contain a wealth of information in cryptic form. This information is encoded in a number of different ways. One of the ways mentioned is in the form of *ELS*'s (Equidistant Letters Sequences). This means that there are *ELS*'s which are not random, but intentionally encrypted in the text of the Torah.
3. The modern study of *ELS*'s in The Torah, began about 80 years ago by Rabbi Chaim Michael Dov Weissmandl. He discovered astonishing patterns of *ELS*'s, without using any kind of computation machines. His findings were first published about 65 years ago in a limited private edition (in Hebrew).
4. The findings of Rabbi Weissmandl, showing a kind of *design*, of non-random *ELS*'s, were the trigger for the modern scientific research of the "**Torah codes**" (= demonstrably non-random *ELS*'s patterns in the Torah).

B. The paper published in *STATISTICAL SCIENCE*

1. In 1994, Witztum, Rips and Rosenberg (WRR) published a scientific paper in *Statistical Science*. This paper demonstrated, in a mathematical way, with very strong statistical significance, that Torah codes are real. Specifically, it showed that the names of great rabbis who lived in relatively recent times (9th - 18th century) were encoded in the Book of Genesis along with their respective dates of birth and death.
2. The paper of WRR attracted widespread attention because it was a mathematical demonstration and it had passed peer-review. Many books followed which discussed the Torah codes. It was a newsworthy item. Because it was so famous, it also attracted critics who would stop at nothing to disprove these codes in the public eye. These critics eventually published their own paper in 1999 in *Statistical Science*. The central message in their paper is an implied accusation that WRR cheated by selectively biasing their data.
  - Their central claim is that they did "the same thing" as WRR, but in a Hebrew translation of Tolstoy's "*War and Peace*." In reality, they selectively biased the data to produce a result which superficially resembled the result of WRR.
  - The main statistical work presented in their paper is the "Study of Variations," aimed at proving the biasing accusation.
3. Their claims were completely refuted by Witztum shortly after the critics' publication. The detailed refutation is available on the Internet at: <http://www.torahcode.co.il/english/oppose.htm> (English) and at: [http://www.torahcode.co.il/oppose\\_heb.htm](http://www.torahcode.co.il/oppose_heb.htm) (Hebrew). There he shows the following:

- The central claim that they did “the same thing” as WRR in "*War and Peace*" is fallacious. Because few of their readers have enough knowledge of Hebrew or rabbinical bibliography they are easily misled.
- Their "Study of Variations" is proven to be not only flawed and therefore invalid, but also a product of deception and suppression of vital data.

4. The refutation of their central claim requires enough knowledge of Hebrew and rabbinical bibliography to enable detailed linguistic and bibliographic analysis. Unfortunately, most readers do not have such knowledge. Therefore, one has to seek mathematical and statistical tools to differentiate between a significant result of a real ELS codes experiment and one created artificially by biasing the data.

5. Such mathematical and statistical tools were developed and used in a new research described in a peer-reviewed paper published in 2020 in B.D.D., Journal of Torah and Scholarship of Bar Ilan University. In this paper, Witztum describes a new scientific experiment which validated, in the most simple, straightforward and convincing way that the great rabbis experiment was absolutely real. This was accomplished by demonstrating that the great rabbis and their dates of birth and death are not only encoded in Genesis, but are encoded in a large portion in the Torah which is twice the length of Genesis and includes Genesis. The same test applied to the critic's biased data with the Hebrew translation of *War and Peace* fails completely.

### C. The paper of Gans, Inbal and Bombach

1. In 1995, Harold Gans, a Senior Cryptologic Mathematician with the National Security Agency, US Department of Defense, published a draft of a paper describing a new experiment performed to examine ELS rabbi/community matches in Genesis. He took the names and appellations of the WRR's great rabbis, and checked them with the names of the Jewish communities where they were born or died. Data collection for the experiment was accomplished through a mechanical procedure by means of a precise algorithm (*the Inbal Algorithm*). The experiment succeeded with very strong statistical significance.

2. This work is very important: it supplies another strong evidence that Torah codes are absolutely true and not a hoax, and that WRR's list of names and appellations is really encoded.

3. This is the very reason that the critics attacked the communities paper, trying to undermine the algorithm and its implication. In 1996 a committee was formed in the Hebrew University "to investigate the Gans-Inbal results on ELS's in Genesis." Actually, the committee didn't do this. Instead, "the committee performed two additional tests in the spirit of Gans' experiments." To this date, no one has succeeded in finding any flaw in this algorithm, and even the diligent critics do not claim that they succeeded in doing "the same thing" in *War and Peace*.

4. The committee's tests didn't show significance due to fatal flaws in data collection. See: "The Failure of the Committee Established to Examine Gans' Experiment", at <http://www.torahcode.co.il/english/oppose.htm>, Section 2 there.

5. An improved version of Gans' paper (with Inbal and Bombach) underwent peer review in 2006. The referees were apprised of the committee's results (its documents were already published in 2004 and were referenced in the paper). The paper passed peer review and was published:

H. Gans, Z. Inbal and N. Bombach, *Patterns of Equidistant Letter Sequence Pairs in Genesis*, Proceedings of the 18th International Conference on Pattern Recognition, August 2006.

6. A new paper by Witztum published in 2022 in B.D.D., Journal of Torah and Scholarship of Bar Ilan University, presents surprising experimental results. Witztum redid three "communities" experiments:

- The experiment of Gans, Inbal, and Bombach.
- The communities experiment of (the critic) Barry Simon.
- The "fresh" (F) experiment of the committee (done according to the instructions of the critics).

This time, the statistical significance of the results was measured in the most simple, preferred and straightforward way, by "texts' test". "Texts' test" is done by comparison of the results in Genesis to those of many "similar" texts. (This test was known and would have been used for the great rabbis experiment as well as for the communities experiment except that until fairly recently, computer speeds were too slow. These experiments would have been prohibitively expensive). It was found that

- The correlation between the ELS's of names of the personalities and ELS's of names of the communities they were associated with, is manifested significantly no matter whether Gans, Inbal, and Bombach's data are used, or Simon's or the committee's F list.
- In other words: Even when Simon's data or the committee's F list are used – the encoding of the data as ELS's in the Book of Genesis is manifest! The critic's own data validated the Torah codes!