

English Translation of Orthodox and Conservative Aramaic Ketubah Texts

Orthodox Text:

On the _____ day of the week, the _____ day of the month of _____, in the year five thousand seven hundred and _____ since the creation of the world, the era according to which we reckon here in the city of _____, that _____ son of _____ said to this _____ daughter of _____, "Be my wife according to the practice of Moses and Israel, and I will cherish, honor, support and maintain you in accordance with the custom of Jewish husbands who cherish, honor, support and maintain their wives faithfully. And I here present you with the marriage gift of (*virgins*), (*two hundred*) silver zuzim, which belongs to you, according to the law of Moses and Israel; and I will also give you your food, clothing and necessities, and live with you as husband and wife according to universal custom." And _____, this (*virgin*) consented and became his wife. The dowry that she brought to him from her father's house in silver, gold, valuables, clothing, furniture and bedding, all this _____, the bridegroom accepted in the sum of (*one hundred*) silver pieces, and _____ the bridegroom, consented to increase this amount from his own property with the sum of (*one hundred*) silver pieces, making in all (*two hundred*) silver pieces. And thus said _____, the bridegroom: "The responsibility of this marriage contract, of this dowry, and of this additional sum, I take upon myself and my heirs after me, so that they shall be paid from the best part of my property and possession that I have beneath the whole heaven, that which I now possess or may hereafter acquire. All my property, real and personal, even the shirt from my back, shall be mortgaged to secure the payment of this marriage contract, of the dowry, and of the addition made to it, during my lifetime and after my death, from the present day and forever." _____, the bridegroom, has taken upon himself the responsibility of this marriage contract, of the dowry and the addition made to it, according to the restrictive usages of all marriage contracts and the additions to them made for the daughters of Israel, according to the institution of our sages, of blessed memory. It is not to be regarded as a mere formality without consideration or as a mere formula of a document. We have followed the legal formality of symbolic delivery (kinyan) between _____ the son of _____, the bridegroom and _____ the daughter of _____, this (*virgin*), and we have used a garment legally fit for the purpose, to strengthen all that is stated above, and everything is valid and binding.

Attested to _____ Witness Attested to _____ Witness

Lieberman Clause:

And both together agreed that if this marriage shall ever be dissolved under civil law, then either husband or wife may invoke the authority of the Beth Din of the Rabbinical Assembly and the Jewish Theological Seminary of America or its duly authorized representatives, to decide what action by either spouse is then appropriate under Jewish matrimonial law; and if either spouse shall fail to honor the demand of the other or to carry out the decision of the Beth Din or its representative, then the other spouse may invoke any and all remedies available in civil law and equity to enforce compliance with the Beth Din's decision and this solemn obligation.