

תנו רבנן: בראשונה היו מניחין עורות קדשים בלשכת בית הפרוה, לערב היו מחלקין אותן לאנשי בית אב, והיו בעלי זרועות נוטלין אותן בזרוע. התקינו שיהיו מחלקין אותן מערב שבת לערב שבת, דאתיין כולהו משמרות ושקלן בהדדי. ועדיין היו גדולי כהונה נוטלין אותן בזרוע. עמדו בעלים והקדישום לשמים. אמרו: לא היו ימים מועטים עד שחיפו את ההיכל כולו בטבלאות של זהב שהן אמה על אמה כעובי דינר זהב. ולרגל היו מקפלין אותן ומניחין אותן על גב מעלה בהר הבית, כדי שיהו עולי רגלים רואין שמלאכתם נאה ואין בה דלם. תנא, אבא שאול אומר: קורות של שקמה היו ביריחו, והיו בעלי זרועות נוטלין אותן בזרוע. עמדו בעלים והקדישום לשמים. עליהם ועל כיוצא בהם אמר אבא שאול בן בטנית משום אבא יוסף בן חנין: אוי לי מבית בייתוס אוי לי מאלתן, אוי לי מבית חנין אוי לי מלחישתן, אוי לי מבית קתרוס אוי לי מקולמוסן,

תנו רבנן: ארבע צווחות צווחה עזרה ראשונה: צאו מכאן בני עלי שטימאו היכל ה'. ועוד צווחה: צא מיכן יששכר איש כפר ברקאי שמכבד את עצמו ומחלל קדשי שמים, דהוה כריך ידיה בשיראי ועביד עבודה. :  
 , וישמש בכהונה גדולה. ועוד צווחה העזרה: שאו שערים ראשיכם ויכנס יוחנן בן נרבאי תלמידו של פנקאי, וימלא כריסו מקדשי שמים. אמרו עליו על יוחנן בן נרבאי שהיה אוכל שלש מאות עגלים, ושותה שלש מאות גרבי יין, ואוכל ארבעים סאה גוזלות בקינוח סעודה. אמרו: כל ימיו של יוחנן בן נרבאי לא נמצא נותר במקדש.

### Josephus Flavius -- Antiquities of the Jews -- Book XX Chapter VIII

8. **About this time king Agrippa gave the high priesthood to Ismael, who was the son of Fabi.** And now arose a sedition between the high priests and the principal men of the multitude of Jerusalem; each of which got them a company of the boldest sort of men, and of those that loved innovations about them, and became leaders to them; and when they struggled together, they did it by casting reproachful words against one another, and by throwing stones also. And there was nobody to reprove them; **but these disorders were done after a licentious manner in the city, as if it had no government over it. And such was the impudence and boldness that had seized on the high priests, that they had the hardiness to send their servants into the threshing-floors, to take away those tithes that were due to the priests**, insomuch that it so fell out that the poorest sort of the priests died for want. **To this degree did the violence of the seditious prevail over all right and justice.**

11. **About the same time king Agrippa built himself a very large dining-room in the royal palace at Jerusalem, near to the portico.** Now this palace had been erected of old by the children of Asamoneus. and was situate upon an elevation, and afforded a most delightful prospect to those that had a mind to take a view of the city, **which prospect was desired by the king; and there he could lie down, and eat, and thence observe what was done in the temple; which thing, when the chief men of Jerusalem saw they were very much displeased at it; for it was not agreeable to the institutions of our country or law that what was done in the temple should be viewed by others, especially what belonged to the sacrifices. They therefore erected a wall upon the uppermost building which belonged to the inner court of the temple towards the west, which wall when it was built, did not only intercept the prospect of the dining-room in the palace, but also of the western cloisters that belonged to the outer court of the temple also, where it was that the Romans kept guards for the temple at the festivals. At these doings both king Agrippa, and principally Festus the procurator, were much displeased; and Festus ordered them to pull the wall down again: but the Jews petitioned him to give them leave to send an embassy about this matter to Nero; for they said they could not endure to live if any part of the temple should be demolished; and when Festus had given them leave so to do, they sent ten of their principal men to Nero, as also Ismael the high priest, and Helcias, the keeper of the sacred treasure. And when Nero had heard what they had to say, he not only forgave them what they had already done, but also gave them leave to let the wall they had built stand. This was granted them in order to gratify Poppea, Nero's wife, who was a religious woman, and had requested these favors of Nero, and who gave order to the ten ambassadors to go their way home; but retained Helcias and Ismael as hostages with herself. As soon as the king heard this news, he gave the high priesthood to Joseph, who was called Cabi, the son of Simon, formerly high priest.**