



Figs. 1–4: The Jewish Mating Dance Art Concept and Formula (JTS L66)  
 The Ostriches Hebrew Pentateuch, Radā', Yemen, end of the twelfth century  
 From left to right: folios 12r, 31v, 79v, 95r  
 Paper. Ink. Red color. Green color. Gold dust  
 Courtesy of the JTS, New York



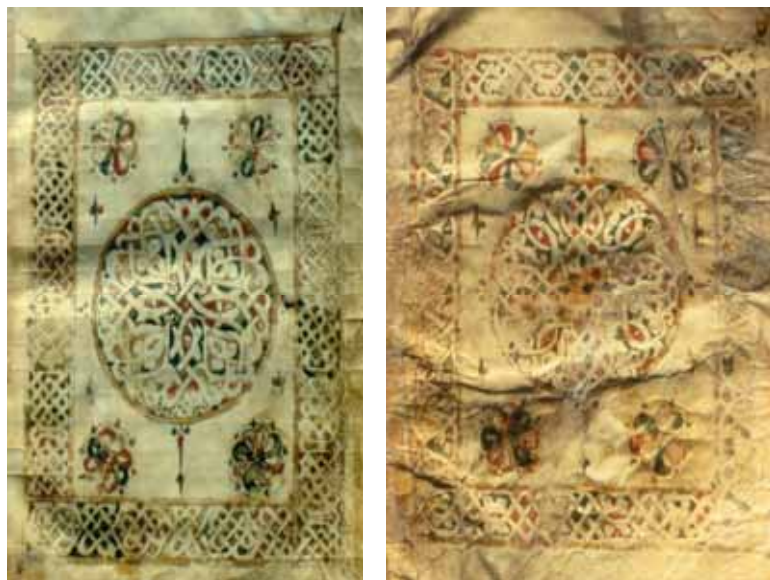
Figs. 5, 6: "The Torah is the Jewish Law" (JTS L66)  
 The Ostriches Hebrew Pentateuch, Radā', Yemen, end of the twelfth century  
 Juxtaposed couplet of frontispieces carpet pages, folios 14v, 15r  
 Paper. Ink. Red color. Green color. Gold dust  
 Courtesy of the JTS, New York



Fig. 7, 8: The Mating Dance in Nature  
The Israel Nature and Parks Authority, State of Israel.  
Photographed in December 2006 by Dr. Beni Shalmon at the Hai-Bar  
Yotvata, at the Israeli Negev (see n. 6)



Fig. 9: Running Male and Female Ostriches.  
The male has black feathers with white at the edges and white feathers of the tail, whilst the female has brown feathers only. Photographed by Pazia Miller in 2009 at the Safari, Ramat Gan



Figs. 10, 11: The Ostrich Rosette (JTS L64, L62)  
The Earliest known Hebrew Šan'ā Pentateuch, Šan'ā 1206  
Left: L64a, folio 108v. Right: L62, folio 88v  
Paper. Ink. Red color. Green color. Gold dust  
Courtesy of the JTS, New York





Fig. 12: The Double Headed Ostrich (JTS, New York, L62, folio 88v)  
 The earliest known Hebrew Aden Pentateuch, end of the twelfth century  
 Paper. Ink. Red color. Green color. Gold dust  
 Courtesy of JTS, New York



Fig. 13: The male Ostrich Freeing its Feathers in Nature

This non mating male ostrich is recognized by its black feathers and the white feathers of the tail. The white freeing feathers of the tail show a spiral at the edge. That spiral effect had been imitated by the Rasulids of Yemen on theirs silver coins, as shown on fig. 23



Figs. 14, 15: Ostriches and the *Ketubba* of Sarah bint Yiṣḥaq al-Qāra,  
 Ṣan'ā 1790 (JTS, Ket. 319)

A pair of big juxtaped Ostrich at the top center of the *ketubba*  
 Paper. Brown Ink. Red Ink. Green Ink  
 Courtesy of the JTS, New York





Fig. 16: Ostrich at the *Ketubba* of Badra bint Musa al-Şā'irī, Şan'ā  
 A pair of juxtaposed Ostrich at the bottom of the *ketubba*  
 Paper. Ink  
 Collection of Yehuda Levi Naḥum, Ḥolon. Photo after: Seri, p. 22

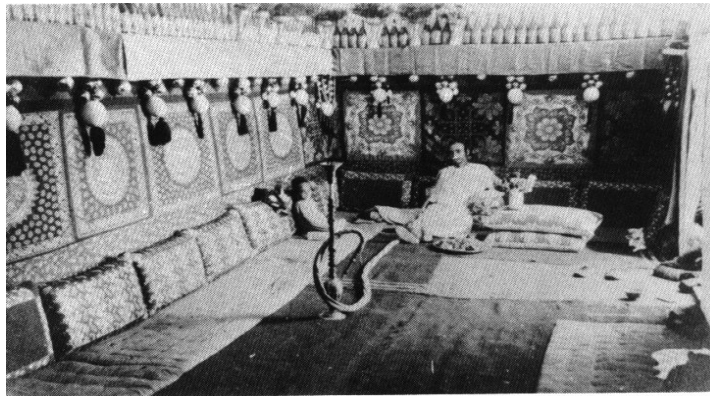


Fig. 17: Ostrich eggs as fertility symbol  
 (photo Yiḥye Ḥaiby, Ṣan'ā 1930–1940)  
 Ostrich eggs at the celebration room for a Jewish woman after giving birth.  
 Photo after: Sha'ar 1985, p. 81, fig. 149

Fig. 18: Ostrich and Torah Case  
 (Radā', the eighteenth century)  
*Torah* Case illuminated all  
 around with couplets of running  
 ostriches, surrounding by ostrich  
 feathers  
 Wood . Green color. Gold dust  
 Photo after: Muchawsky-  
 Schnapper 2000, p. 157





Fig. 19: Mattania Badihi reading the Torah scroll on the *teva*, illuminated all around with ostriches in en-face and in profile positioning  
Photo taken in the synagogue of the Badihi family, in ca. 1930–1940, at Şan'ā, by Yiḥye Ḥaybi  
The *teva* itself is from Radā', dated to the eighteenth century  
Photo after: Sha'ar 1985, p. 15, fig. 11



Fig. 20: Ostrich freeing its tail feathers (The British Museum, London)  
The ostrich is shown in profile, but the tail feathers are shown in en-face  
Rasulid silver coin. Bears a mint stamp and is dated to 1403  
Mint obliterated

Photo After: Lane-Poole 1880: x, pl. xxv/360-80



Fig. 21: Ostrich freeing its tail feathers  
Mint: Zabid, Ta'izz district, 1404  
Photo after: Nützel 1891, p. 63



Fig. 22: Ostrich hunt by falcon  
Rasulid silver coin  
Mint: Zabid, Ta'izz district, 1384  
Photo after: Nützel 1891, p. 57



Fig. 23: Ostrich freeing its tail feathers.

The ostrich is shown in profile, but the tail feathers are shown in en-face

The focus is on the spiral edge of the tail feathers, shown one by one

Four Rasulid silver coins

From left to right: OMJ-2003-31-092 reverse; OMJ-2003-31-095 reverse;

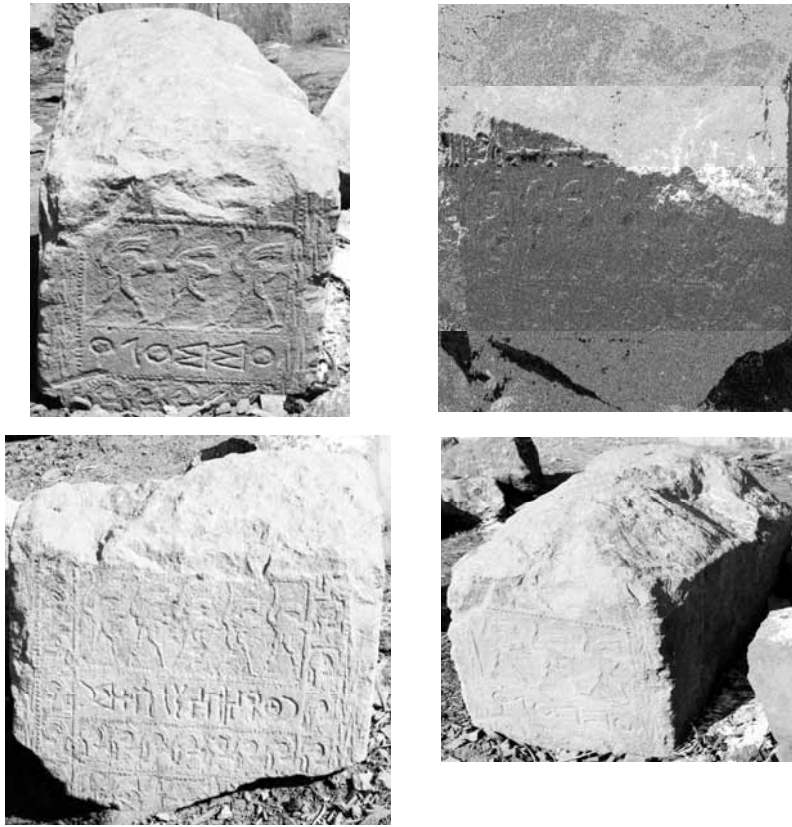
OMJ-2003-31-097 reverse; OMJ-2003-31-096 reverse

Photo in 2003 by Stefan Heideman, Oriental Coin Cabinet, Jena University.

Germany

Courtesy of Stefan Heidemann





Figs. 24–27: The Mārib Ostrich Archetype  
Relief frieze of running mating ostriches on a huge four stones, nowadays out of its context

Mārib, the capital of ancient Sheba, east to Ṣan'ā, ca. 750 BC  
Photo by Christian Robin, directeur du recherché, CNRS, Paris  
Courtesy of Christian Robin





Fig. 28: A pair of gilding silver hollow anklets with four ostrich head terminals

The total weight is about a quarter of kilo

Signed: סאלם [סעיד?] קסיל, Şan'ā

Stamped with *ḡābi'*, the official stamp of the Zaydi Imm in Arabic, showing Imām al-Mahdī, 1771/2

All the four ostrich heads, accompanied with a part of the throat, are silver casting known in *Qānūn Şan'ā* Law as *al-şabb al-abyaḡ* (white [silver] casting)

The anklets are made by hammering, known in *Qānūn Şan'ā* Law as *maḡrūq*  
Courtesy of Sotheby's, Tel Aviv



Fig. 29: The Mārib Ostriches mating gesture (the National Museum of Ṣanʿā)  
Relief frieze of mating gesture of a pair of ostriches at the center of two  
juxtaposed groups of running ostriches on a huge stone  
Photo by Christian Robin, 1976  
Courtesy of Christian Robin