

Israel, through Turkey. A few years later, the Syrian Regime became slightly more lenient with the Halab community – a fact that enabled my sister Nina to move to Milan in Italy, where she was later to meet her future husband. In order to attend her wedding, we were reunited as a family with our parents, who travelled to Milan. My brother Albert remained in Halab as hostage, to make sure they returned to Syria.

For many years, my father devoted ample time to compile the «التشرة» bulletin - a collection of commentaries, laws and customs about the weekly Torah portion, which he edited in Arabic, interspersed with Aleppo Jewish dialect. At a later stage, he produced a comprehensive banner, again in Halab-Jewish-Arabic, about the blessings which one must recite before tasting the various cuisines and cooking. In this manner, the latest evidence was kept of last generation Halab-Arab-Jewish linguistics and Halab Jewish customs, their cuisine and life style. Eventually, this collection would be used as material for scholars such as Prof.

Nachem Ilan and graduate student Shai Maza. For the publishing task, he enlisted my sisters – particularly Dalia - to type these sheets on a typewriter. Upon his instructions, the synagogue's attendant delivered the weekly bulletin to Jewish households every Friday night. At a later stage, the bulletin was also delivered to Jewish families living in Damascus and Kamshili. Everything was done in a clandestine manner, far from the watchful eyes of the «مخابرات» - the Secret Service people who tailed the Jews constantly.

The story goes that the distribution of the sheets containing “Lech Lecha” portion of the Torah, promising Eretz Israel to our Father Abraham, was discovered by the authorities and my father was summoned to appear before the Secret Service for an interrogation. He explained to them, elegantly, that this did not involve any Zionistic propaganda because the promise had been given to the seed of Abraham, which also includes the sons of Ishmael. Eventually, these sheets were bound into 'a thick book

entitled: “Lectures About the Torah”. محاضرات على التوراة

This is how the last Jewish book was produced in Halab for many generations to come. It was published in three editions. Israel received the third, from the year 5748, containing 36 chapters, 15 of which dealt with the laws and customs of Jewish holidays and feasts, 11 derived from the weekly Torah portion and 10 dealt with Aleppo tradition and life style. The book also contained a collection of chants and liturgical poems according to the Aleppo Jewish custom, and an activity report on the “Keter Torah Committee”, headed by the author himself.

Several years later, with the immigration of Halab Jews to New York, and partly to Israel as well, the management of the Aleppo Jews Heritage Center, in conjunction with the Jewish Agency, decided to publish this book once more in its original edition, in thousands of copies which it distributed to Syrian Jews in Israel and abroad, to facilitate their spiritual orientation in their new countries of domicile.