Treasures — Yerushalmi Bava Metzia 2:5, 8c

Parallel versions of this story are in Gen. rabba 33(1), Lev. rabba27(1).

<u>Alexander the Macedonian</u> went to the king of $Cassia^{T1}$ In the Midrashim: Behind the Mountains of Darkness. He saw that he had much gold, much silver. He told him, I do not need your gold nor your silver; I came only so see your practice^{T2} Greek $\pi \rho \tilde{\alpha} \xi_{I\zeta}$, how you are dealing, how you are judging.

While he was still discussing with him, there came a man having a dispute with another, for he bought (a plot, entered it) [a garbage heap, dug in it]⁷³ *The text in parentheses is the L text, the one in brackets is the text of E and the Midrashim. The sequel shows that the latter text is original.* and found a treasure trove of denars. The buyer said, I bought a garbage heap, I did not buy a treasure.

The seller said, I sold a garbage heap and all it contains.

While they still were arguing with one another, the king asked one of them, do you have a male son? He answered, yes. He asked the other one, do you have a female daughter? He answered, yes. He told them, marry them to each other and the treasure should belong to both. He⁷⁴*Alexander*. started to laugh. He⁷⁵*The savage king.* asked him, why are you laughing? Did I not judge correctly? He asked him, if the case came before you, how would you have judged?

He⁷⁴*Alexander* told him, one kills both of them and the treasure falls to the king.

He⁷⁵*The savage king.* told him, do you love gold so much? He⁷⁵*The savage king.* made him a meal and brought before him golden meat, golden chicken.

He⁷⁴Alexander. asked him, can I eat gold?

He⁷⁵*The savage king.* told him, the spirit of this person should be wiped out. You cannot eat gold, why do you love gold so much?

He⁷⁵*The savage king.* asked him, does the sun shine upon you?

He⁷⁴Alexander. answered, yes.

Does rain fall on you? He⁷⁴Alexander. answered, yes.

He⁷⁵*The savage king.* asked him, do you have small animals? He⁷⁴*Alexander.* answered, yes.

The spirit of this person should be wiped out; you live only by the merit of the small animals, as it is written⁷⁶<u>*Ps. 36:7*</u>: "Man and animal You are saving, o Eternal!"