

Assassinations Foretold in Moby Dick!

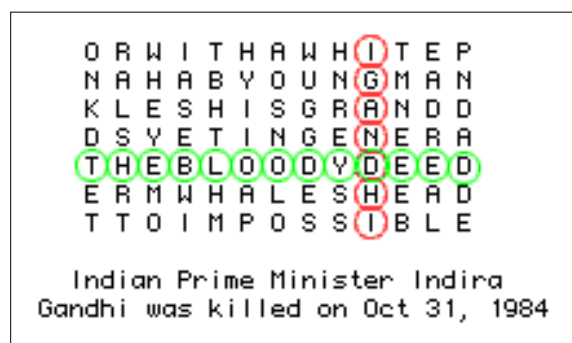
The following challenge was made by Michael Drosnin:

When my critics find a message about the assassination
of a prime minister encrypted in Moby Dick, I'll believe
them.

(Newsweek, Jun 9, 1997)

Note that English with the vowels included is far less flexible than Hebrew when it comes to making letters into words. Nevertheless, without further ado, we present our answer to Mr Drosnin's challenge.

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi



President Rene Moawad

LOW MALE IN THAT MAT
BURST OPEN THE DOOR
ENTASSOME FRUGALH
REITNOTFORTHETHI
YEW HAT MEN OLD RAD S
CRIMINATION AND TH

ENERALLY HAILED WIT
IT IT MIGHT BETHA TAL
S NECESSARY ONT WOAC
STHE GREAT LEVIATHA
HEPEQUODSTRYWORKS
ANEXPLODINGBOMBUP

Lebanese President Rene Moawad was killed
Nov 22 1989 when a bomb exploded beside his car.

Soviet exile Leon Trotsky

HAMMER WITHIN A FEW INCHES OF
OSTARTHER TASHMYBOYSTARTH
EDCRAWLBACKDUCKHIMAGAINA
ETSALONECOMPRISE THE WHOLE
STRANGE ANOMALY TOUCHING TH
GITALLSLIDHIS SOLITARY THI
WASHIS ORDERS WERE REEXECUTED
THE STEEL HEAD OF THE LANCE AN

Leon Trotsky was executed with an
ice-pick on Aug 20 1940

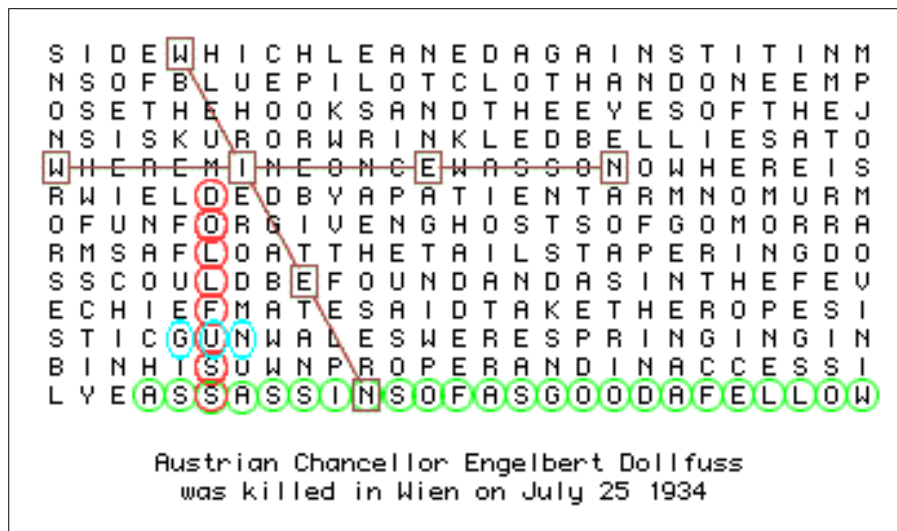
The Reverend Martin Luther King

IS WHO COMING TO LAY HIM DOWN CA
OUT SET QUEEQUEG INSISTED THA
IS FIERY LANCE IN MIGHTIER STR
ND WHEN HE WAS GOING TO COME ON B
ING AND NOT TO BE KILLED BY THEM
YET HERE ARE WHALLES HERE ABOUT
ES OPOTAMIAN FAMILY THESE WHA
ILL STUBB CAUTIOUSLY WHISPER
NT AND COURAGE GEOUNOUGH IN OF
THE INTENSIFYING AGENT IN THI
PREPARE FOR DEATH AND IN DEED T

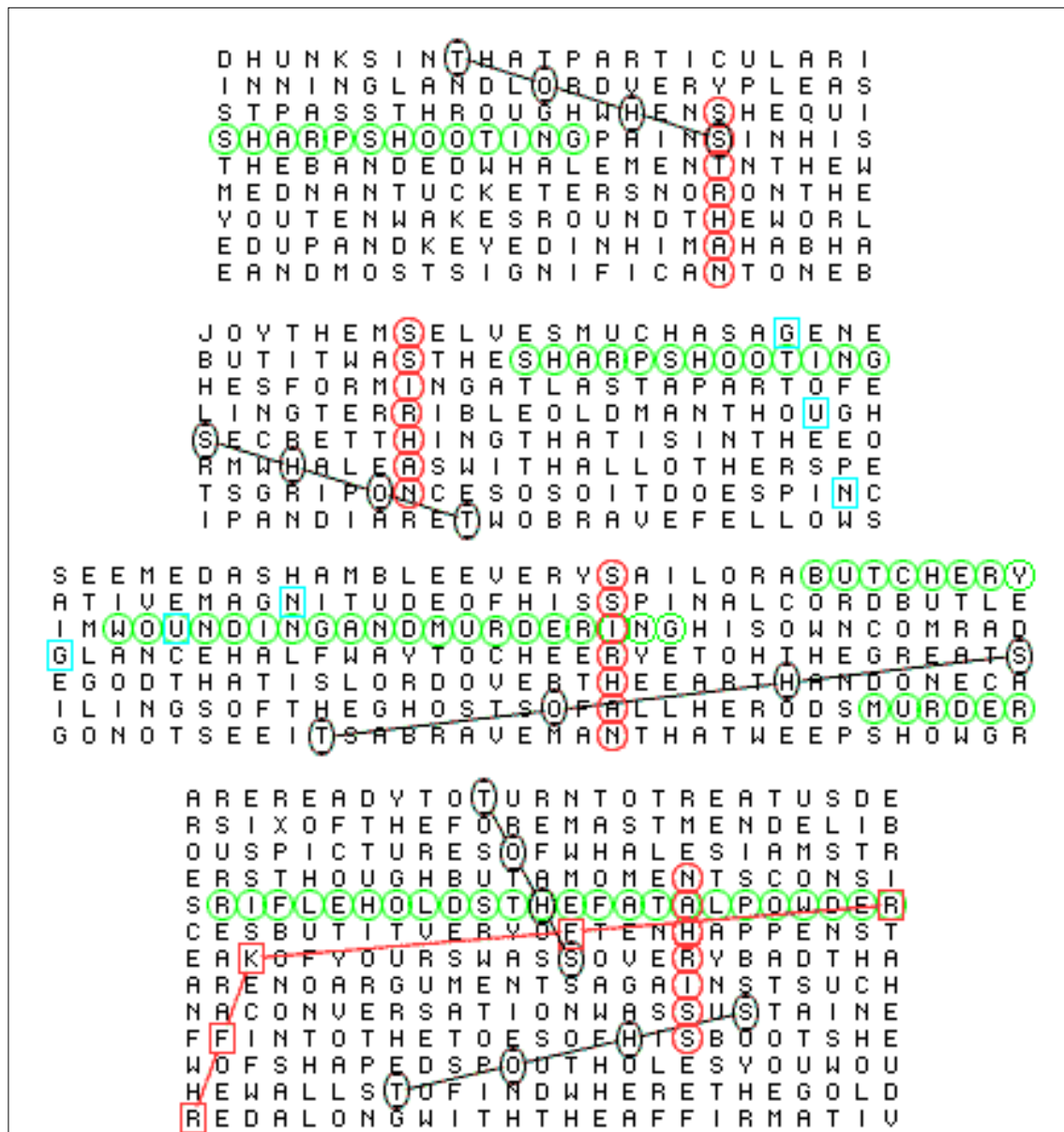
Martin Luther King was was fatally shot
in Tennessee on April 4, 1968

(The underlined words were found by Shannon Kohl)

Chancellor Engelbert Dollfuss



The assassin Sirhan Sirhan



Sirhan Sirhan was the murderer of Robert F Kennedy.

John F. Kennedy

President John F. Kennedy was shot in the head by an assassin who quietly waited in a concealed place. It was in Texas, November 1963, during a presidential motorcade.

GETTINGUPAGAINTHOUGHDAYBREAKWAS
 ESPECIALLYASPETERCOFFINSCOCKANDB
 HANDSVOTEDQUEEQUEGANOBLETUMPTHE
 HAZELNUTSMIXEDWITHPOUNDEDSHIPBIS
 EERTENEMENTIATLENGTHFOUNDONEWHOB
 TOFALLTRIFLESCAPTAINBILDADHADNOT
 IMPENITENTMANCAPTAINFELEGIGREATL
 ERANDHESELDOMORNEVERGOESABROADWI
 THEINFERENCESWITHOUTHISFURTHERHI
 LLOWEDHIMTHEREHESTOODVERYQUIETLY
 WATERFUELANDIRONHOOPSANDSTAVESBU
 REMAINEDINVISIBLYENSHRINEDWITHIN
 WITHTHATPELEGHURRIEDHIMOVERTHESI
 GHTYCOLONYMOREOVERINTHEINFANCYOF
 HADBEENSOKILLEDSTARBUCKWELLKNEW

H O L L O W L Y L A U G H E D A N D T H U S E
 I G H T N E S S C O U L D B E F O U N D A N D
 E W I T H P I T C H B A T T E N T H E M D O W
 G O U T T H E C R A T E R S F O R V O L C A N
 B E A R I N G D I R E C T L Y D O W N U P O N
 S T S A F E A B O A R D S H E C R O W D E D A
 N C T I V E L Y A D O P T I N G T H E O R D I
 R B O A R D A N D L A R B O A R D S H E C O N
 A L L H E R K E E L A N D H E R T H R E E M A
 E O L D M A N S D E S P O T E Y E W A S O N T
 E R V A L S S O M E P A S S I N G U N M O M E
 T I N T O T H I H A N D S S T A R B U C K T H
 E A N I N G I N A L M O S T E V E R Y S I G H
 R E T H E Y D I E D Y O U S A I L U P O N T H
 S W E R E Y E O F O L D A H A B S C L O S E C
 Y W H O L E O C E A N S A W A Y F R O M T H A
 R O A D U P O N T H E D E E P B U T W I L L Y
 W I L L I N D R A W I N G N I G H T O S O M E
 F O R E C R I E D A H A B H A I L I N G T H E
 F R I S I N G F R O M T H E P A I N T E D H U
 L E T H E B R E E Z E N O W F R E S H E N E D
 D E V I L I S H W A Y A N D F R O M H I S B O
 R E A N T I O C H S S E L E P H A N T S I N
 G S T I L L I F T H E G O D S D E C R E E I T
 T H E P L A N K S A S H E W A S T H U S W A L
 Y H E S H A L L B E K I L L E D T H I S G O L
 M S O T H A T T O T H I S H U N T E R S W O N

FINSCOCKANDBULLSTORIESABOUTHIMHADPREVIOUSLYS
 OREOPENWATERTHEBRACINGBREEZEWAXEDFRESHTHELIT
 UEGANOBLETRUMPTHECAPTAINBEGGEDHISPARDONFROMT
 UPTTHOUGHITOVERWHELMEDALLTHEMILLIONSINCHINAH
 IXEDWITHFOUNDEDSHIPBISCUITANDSALTEDPORKCUTUP
 RNEXTMORNINGEARLYLEAVINGQUEEQUEGSHUTUPWITHYO
 NEMENTIATLENGTHFOUNDO NEWHOBYPHISASPECTSEEMEDT
 TYEALSO WANTTOGOINORDERTOSEE THEWORLDWASNOTTHA
 TOFALLTRIFLES CAPTAINBILDADHADNOTONLYBEENORIG
 LAYSANDTHATTHESE LAYS WEREPROPORTIONEDTOTHEDEG
 ILLANIMPENITENTMANCAPTAINPELEGIGREATLYFEARLE
 KYELADNEVER SAYTHATONBOARDTHEPEQUODNEVER SAYIT
 STANDSYONDERANDHESELDOMORNEVERGOESABROADWITH
 TWAYIWONDERTHOUGHTIIFTHISCANPOSSIBLYBEAPARTO
 TWILLDOFORIKNEWTHEINFERENCESWITHOUTHISFURTHE
 DLESITABOUTRIGHTISAYQUOHOGORWHATEVERYOURNAME
 ALKEDONDECKWHEREWEFOLLOWEDHIMTHEREHESTOODVER
 NTTOTELLUSOUTWITHITBUTIFYOUAREONLYTRYINGTOBA
 TEDCOMPRISINGHERBEEFBREADWATERFUELANDIRONHOO
 EMENBUTITWASTOODIMTOBESUREEVERYDIMVERYDIMS
 AIDNGSONBOARDMEANWHILECAPTAINAHABREMAINEDINVISI
 GHEMOVEDALONGTHEWINDLASSHEREANDTHEREUSINGHIS
 ECAPTAINBILDADSTOPPALAYERINGAWAYANDWITHTHATP
 LADIESPLAUDITSANDIFTHEIDEAOFPERILSOMUCHENHAN
 RETHEWHALES SHIPISTHETRUEMOTHEROFTHATNOWMIGHTY
 MACHINERYMUCHMIGHTBERUMINATEDHERECONCERNINGT
 TOBEKILLEDBYTHEMFORTHEIRSANDTHATHUNDREDSOFME
 HEMOSTEXASPERATEDMONSTERLONGUSAGEHADFORTHISS
 FIRSTOFALLWASQUEEQUEGWOMSTARBUCKTHECHIEFMAT

Abraham Lincoln

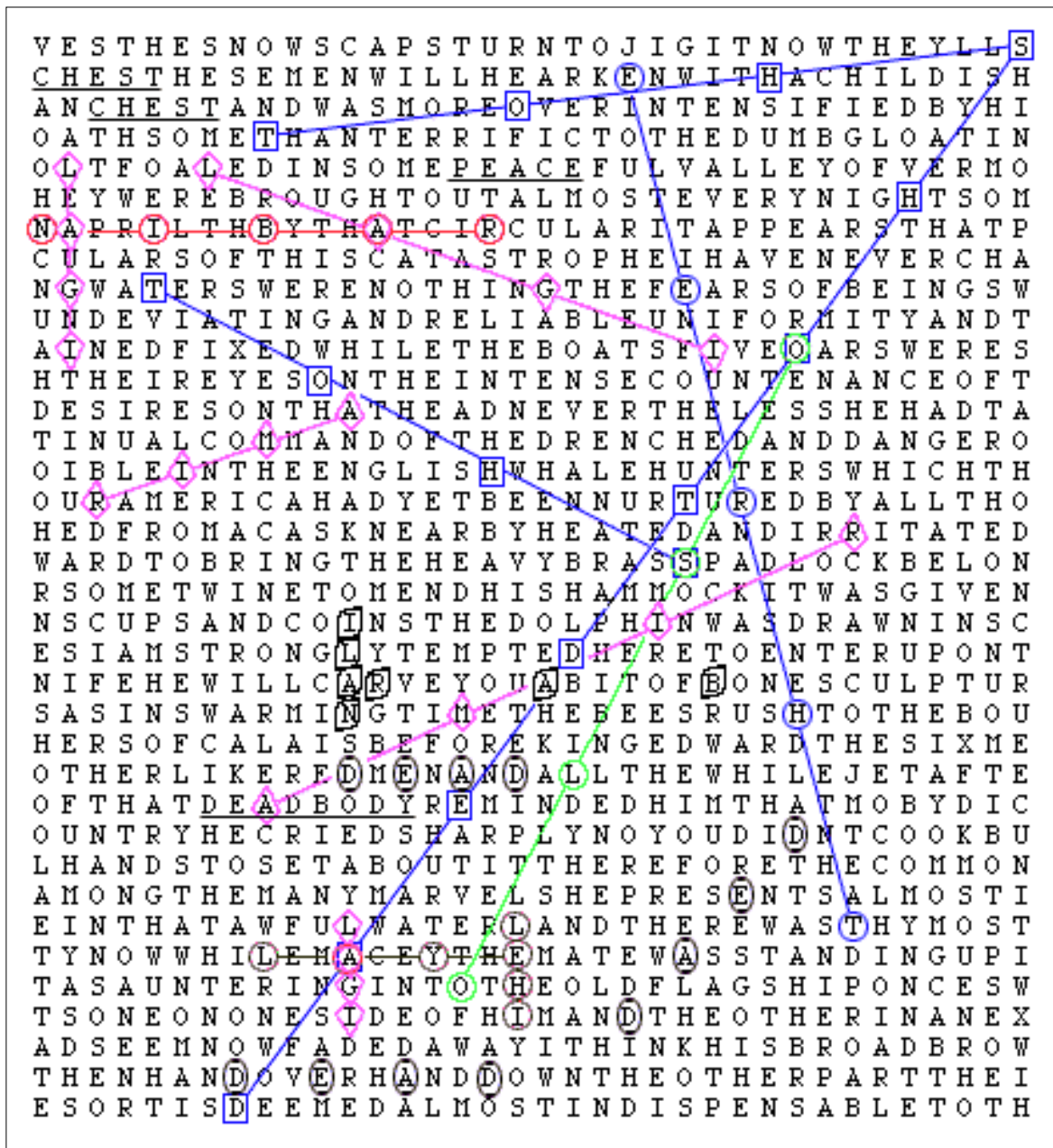
President Abraham Lincoln was shot dead on April 14, 1865.

ARDSKILLEDATYOU
 HTORTENINEACHSW
 ALMOSTSEEMEDTHA
 POINTINGDOWNASW
 ICTAILTENDONITI
 NGALOWADVANCING
 ARECARRIEDBYEVE
 SINGWHALEARCUT
 EINLEISURELYSEA
 LIZINGVICINITYT

Yitzhak Rabin

Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin was shot dead on November 4, 1995. His assassin was Igal Amir, who fired three shots of which one hit Rabin fatally in the chest. Amir was a student at Bar-Ilan University, and associated with an

underground group Eyal which modelled itself on a historical terrorist group called Lehi. Amir was angered by Rabin's role in the "Peace Process" and especially by the Oslo accords.



The text

You can verify the above messages, and find your own, using the public-domain text of Moby Dick. It can be downloaded as a [gzipped text file](#) (478KB, expanding to 1187KB).

Some more information about the pictures can be found [here](#).

Princess Diana's death

The death of Lady Diana was also predicted by Moby Dick. See the [Princess Di](#) page for details.

A note to the credulous

It has come to my attention that some people have taken this page as claiming that Moby Dick **really predicted** the assassinations of famous people. Please be assured that none of these patterns happened by other than pure random chance.

No laws of probability are violated here, or even stretched a little. **That is also true of Drosnin's book**, which is the whole point of this page. Once you learn Drosnin's rules (none) and the method (a bit of messy programming) you can find things like this anywhere. The reason it looks amazing is that the number of possible things to look for, and the number of places to look, is much greater than you imagine.

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Scientific Refutation of the Bible Codes

by

**Brendan McKay
and Friends**



This is the main web site which examines the Bible Codes (also called Torah Codes) from the point of view of the mathematicians and other experts who have examined them critically.

A brief summary of the codes claims is that the Hebrew text of the Bible (especially of the Torah, the first five books) contain intentional coincidences of words or phrases that appear as letters with equal spacing. More details of the claims from the Jewish point of view can be found [here](#) and [here](#), and from the Christian point of view [here](#). All of those sites present a pro-codes viewpoint.

A brief summary of the result of our very extensive investigation is that all the alleged scientific evidence for the codes is bunk. This page presents much of the evidence for that assertion.

The famous rabbis experiment

The most serious claim of scientific evidence for the Codes was made by three Israelis: Doron Witztum, Eliyahu Rips, and Yoav Rosenberg (WRR). They claim that biographical information about medieval rabbis is "encoded" in the Hebrew text of Genesis. Specifically, the rabbis' names and other appellations are claimed to be encoded closer to their dates of birth and death than should be expected by chance. WRR's "experiment" appeared in the respectable journal *Statistical Science* in 1994.

- [WRR's paper](#) (abridged)
- The first serious attack on WRR's paper was published by mathematicians Dror Bar-Natan and Brendan McKay. They found that a small change in the choice of appellations for the famous rabbis can lead to **War and Peace** performing just as well as Genesis. The [final edition](#) of this work is accompanied by an extremely detailed disproof of Witztum's alleged refutation.  (May 27)
- In May 1998, a semi-technical presentation of the case against the famous rabbis experiment was published in **Chance**, a magazine of the American Statistical Association. The authors are Maya Bar-Hillel, Dror Bar-Natan, and Brendan McKay. The paper is available here in [Postscript](#) or [PDF](#) format.
- Finally, an extensive refutation of the famous rabbis experiment, and of many other alleged experiments, was accepted by the same journal that published WRR's paper. The paper, by Brendan McKay, Dror Bar-Natan, Maya Bar-Hillel, and Gil Kalai, will appear in the May 1999 issue of **Statistical Science**. It is available [here](#).  (June 12)
- The discovery of a recording of a **lecture given by Eliyahu Rips** about 1985 cast doubt on the official history of the famous rabbis experiment. A [transcript and some analysis](#) are available.

Other claims by WRR or Gans, and our replies

Several other papers of WRR exist, though none have been published in journals. More claims continue to appear regularly (especially [here](#)). Given our demolition of all of WRR's early work, we do not feel obliged to answer every new claim. Nevertheless, some of the claims have been answered by us in detail.

- One of the earliest codes "experiments" claiming a tiny probability was the **"25 trees"** experiment of Eliyahu Rips. Read what [our analysis](#) discovered.
- A major unpublished experiment of Witztum et al concerns the **70 nations** of the world listed in Genesis 10. Dror Bar-Natan, Brendan McKay, and Shlomo Sternberg studied the experiment exhaustively and concluded that the very strong result is primarily due to illicit data manipulation. Our evidence is presented in a paper available from [Australia](#) or [Israel](#). WRR's original paper is included in the interests of fairness. A [brief summary](#) of the refutation is also available.
- An apparently objective experiment was described by Doron Witztum on Israeli television, but when we tried it, it didn't work. Our report, available [here](#) also explains how such experiments can be constructed by trickery.
- The holiday of **Chanukah** has been a favourite topic of Witztum for a long time. We have shown a [very large cluster](#) of Chanukah-related words in War and Peace. Witztum's reply and our rejoinder are available [here](#).
- Harold Gans, a retired employee of the National Security Agency, has an unpublished report of an experiment using the **cities of birth or death** of the famous rabbis. The most important part of the experiment (the data) was given to him by an Israeli associate of Doron Witztum. We tried repeating this experiment ourselves, taking the data **exactly** as it appears in the two encyclopedias Gans claims to use, and it [failed completely](#).
- One of our favourite reactions to WRR's "experiments" is to produce similar-looking "experiments" in War and Peace. Examples are
 - [Brendan McKay in War and Peace](#).

(Also see [Doron Witztum's reply and our rejoinder.](#))

- [Chanukah candles in War and Peace.](#)
- [Jesus the Messiah in War and Peace.](#)
- [Rosh Hashana in War and Peace.](#)

Independent experiments

We have performed many independent scientific tests of the Bible Codes claims. All of them failed to detect anything not easily explained by random chance. These experiments are not to be confused with the demonstrations of trickery that we have constructed in War and Peace.

A summary of our major experiments can be found in our [forthcoming paper in Statistical Science](#).

These experiments include:

- The famous rabbis experiment, replacing the day and month of birth or death (all that WRR used) by the year, or by the day and month written in other legal manners. Similarly, the dates can be replaced by the names of famous books or by the cities of birth or death.
- The famous rabbis experiment, with the data prepared by an independent expert. Several variations were performed, including a detailed re-enactment of WRR's experiment in the manner they claim it was performed.
- An experiment with the names and dates of birth or death of Israeli presidents, prime-ministers, and Knesset speakers.

All of those experiments, and all the other experiments we have conducted, failed to find any "codes" above chance levels.


Michael Drosnin's book

The book "The Bible Code" by Michael Drosnin has been the most successful mass-market book about the Torah Codes. Alas, all semblance of scientific method is missing, and all of the important codes proponents have disowned him. By repeated examples, we prove that Drosnin did not find anything that can't be found in any book, even in English.

The center-piece of the book is a "prediction" of the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

- [Famous assassinations foretold in Moby Dick.](#)
- [Princess Diana in Moby Dick.](#)
- [Drosnin's own murder predicted.](#)
- [Bill Gates in the Book of Revelations](#) ([more information](#)).
- [The comet collision: a failed prediction.](#)
- [About minimal skip - a reply to Drosnin.](#)

[Moby Dick ver 30uDesions](#)

- A variety of **expert opinions** on various aspects of the Bible Codes are available [here](#).
- Some of the Hebrew and English **texts** used for codes experiments and demonstrations, plus some information about **programs**, can be found [here](#).
- Some photos and brief biographies of **codes people** can be found [here](#).
- A film **Secrets of the Bible Code Revealed**, by Grizzly Adams Productions, is reviewed [here](#).
- If humans really wanted to encode messages as ELSs, they could do [much better](#) than anyone has yet claimed for the Bible.  (June 24)

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