



The members of the Yahad community, today known as the Qumran sect, were Jews who left Jerusalem and went to live in Qumran on the western shore of the Dead Sea. They developed a unique philosophy and a strict life regimen, which may be discerned from the scrolls and other items found at Qumran.

The two Bedouin shepherds who first discovered the Dead Sea Scrolls.

The Discovery

The first scrolls from Qumran were found in 1947 by two Bedouin shepherds of the Ta'amireh tribe while climbing a rock cliff looking for a lost goat. They noticed a cave, the lower entrance of which was blocked by a stone wall. They saw another entrance above it and threw a stone inside. To their surprise, they heard the sound of the stone hitting a clay vessel. Because it was a difficult climb to the upper entrance and because they lacked means of illumination, the two shepherds did not enter the cave that day.

(opposite) Interior of Cave 1. Before 1947 the stone wall partially blocked the entrance.

Two days later, one of the Bedouin shepherds, Muhammad ed-Dibb, entered the

