

Jackal's Well

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Jackal's Well (MT 'Ēn hattannin, "Spring/Eye of Snakes/Jackals/Dragons") is a place outside Jerusalem by which Nehemiah passed on his inspection of the ruined walls, apparently between the Valley Gate and the Dung Gate (Neh 2:13). The Dung Gate can be found near the juncture of the Hinnom and Kidron valleys, whereas the location of the Valley Gate is unclear. If the Valley Gate gave access from the City of David to the Tyropoeon Valley, Jackal's Well could be found in the Tyropoeon Valley north of the Dung Gate. If the Valley Gate provides exit to the Hinnom Valley, Jackal's well could be found in the Hinnom Valley west of the Dung Gate. Jackal's Well could hardly be identified since there are no known water sources in either the Hinnom or the Tyropoeon Valleys. The old spring might have been dried up. Since the word 'Ēn could be translated with "eye", it need not necessarily refer to a source of water. Former identifications either with En-Rogel = Bīr Ayyūb (1724.1305), a spring southeast of the Dung Gate, or with the Siloam Pool are hardly possible. LXX translates the toponym with "fountain of the figs" having a different text (*ht'nyim*) whereas Vg. has "Dragon's Spring." Josephus knows about a "Serpent's Pool" (J.W. 5.108), a similar designation for a place outside Jerusalem near the monument of Herod.

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