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Wandering Days: The Abbasid reforms of the Fiscal Calendar

In the central and oriental lands of the Abbasid caliphate, the Iranian New Year day called Nawruz marked the opening of the fiscal year, coexisting with other time-reckoning systems. It was a vague calendar of 365 days, without leap years. In this presentation, I will discuss the problems it posed to an agricultural economy and how the caliphal administration dealt with them, showing how Arabic sources in prose and verse can contribute to shed light on the evolution of the Abbasid state.

Bowl depicting a man holding a cup and a flowering branch, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Accession number: 1977.126

יום ה', 7.3.19, الساعة 12:30 – תחילת המפגש
12:00 – ההכנתות