

# SOLUTION TO META META 1:



As the text suggests, each boldfaced sequence of words in the text contains exactly 22 letters, the number of letters in the Hebrew alphabet, and so we can use the letters on the dreidel (gimel, he, nun, and shin — the 3rd, 5th, 14th, and 21st letters of the Hebrew alphabet) to index into these sequences, taking the 3rd, 5th, 14th, and 21st letters counting right to left. This extracts a group of four letters from each such sequence:

Shin	Nun	He	Gimel		
W <b>E</b> L C O M E T	<b>O</b> T H E M E T A T	<b>H</b> E <b>E</b> N D		→	E O H E
T <b>W</b> O T H I S P	<b>A</b> R T A N D O N E	<b>A</b> D <b>D</b> E D		→	W A A D
O <b>F</b> F P E R H A	<b>P</b> S T W O A N D T	<b>W</b> E <b>N</b> T Y		→	F P W N
H <b>E</b> B R E W A L	<b>P</b> H A B E T A N D I	<b>F</b> O N E		→	E P I O
A <b>T</b> E X T F U L	<b>L</b> O F T H E S E A	<b>B</b> I <b>B</b> L E		→	T L B B
F <b>I</b> N D T H E Y	<b>G</b> O J U S T L I K E	<b>W</b> E L L		→	I G E E
A <b>K</b> I N F R O M	<b>R</b> I G H T T O L E	<b>F</b> T <b>T</b> H E		→	K R F T
L <b>E</b> T T E R S S	<b>E</b> E N O N T H E H	<b>A</b> N <b>U</b> K A		→	E E A U
Y <b>E</b> S H E N U N	<b>S</b> H I N A N D G I	<b>M</b> E L I S		→	E S M L
A <b>B</b> L E T O I N	<b>D</b> E X L E T T E R S	<b>S</b> W <b>E</b> R E		→	B D S E
F <b>R</b> O M A L I N E	<b>A</b> R S E Q U E N C E	<b>F</b> O R		→	R E C F
A <b>F</b> T E R L O O K	<b>K</b> F O R A N E X T	<b>R</b> A <b>O</b> D D		→	F K R O
I <b>T</b> E M M A Y B	<b>E</b> Y O U W I L L T	<b>E</b> L L U S		→	T E E L
A <b>D</b> E P T W H Y	<b>C</b> O U L D N T B A	<b>P</b> H L B E		→	D C P L
U <b>S</b> I N D E C E	<b>M</b> B E R A S R E A	<b>L</b> L Y I T		→	S M L Y
I <b>S</b> O V E R N O	<b>W</b> Y O U C A N D O	<b>W</b> H <b>A</b> T S		→	S W W A

When the Christmas, Hanukkah, and Festivus meta answers are written in the grid on the page, each vertical column contains three of the four letters in some group, and (again, as the text suggests) we extract the fourth letter in each case:

A	L	A	C	K	O	F	E	L	F	E	S	T	E	E	M
W	E	W	E	R	E	W	I	C	K	E	D	B	U	S	Y
S	T	A	F	F	I	N	G	P	R	O	B	L	E	M	S
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
S	T	W	<b>R</b>	F	E	F	I	<b>D</b>	K	E	B	T	E	E	S
W	E	A	E	<b>K</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>P</b>	G	C	R	O	D	L	E	S	M
<b>W</b>	<b>E</b>	A	C	R	I	W	E	P	<b>F</b>	<b>H</b>	S	B	<b>A</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>L</b>
A	L	<b>D</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	L	T	<b>E</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>Y</b>		

These letters, in order by grid column (it is ambiguous which of KRFT and FKRO goes with KRF and which with FKR, but this can be resolved from context) yield the answer: **WE DROPPED THE BALL.**