

Strangers in a Strange Text

Non-Jews in and around the Talmud

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Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

How does the Talmud treat non-Jews? .1

2. How do non-Jews treat the talmud?

3. How has the Talmud served as a place of encounter between Jews and non-Jews (real ?and imagined)



Bloomington, Indiana circa 1998



Congregation Beth Shalom
Bloomington, Indiana

Why Are Jews Persecuted For Their Religion? The Talmud-The Real Essence of the Jewish Creed

Like you, at one time I believed that the essential difference between Jews and Christians was that the Jews believed in the Old Testament and the Christians believed in the New Testament. The truth is that their "real bible" is **The Talmud**. The Jewish book "The Mitzbeach" states that "there is nothing superior to 'Holy Talmud'."

While the Jews profess to be attached to the Old Testament to the outside world, the real essence of the Jewish creed is not the Old Testament as such, not the books of Moses, but **The Talmud**. There are several branches of Jewry such as the Orthodox, Reform, Liberal, Conservative, Sephardim, Ashkanazim, Zionist, etc., but they all use **The Talmud** in their synagogues, just as all different branches of Christians use the same Bible.

The Talmud is made up of 63 books in 524 chapters and is often printed in 18 large volumes. It was written by Rabbis between the years 200AD and 500AD. It basically contains all the Jewish laws in their relationships between each other, and also in relationship of the Jews towards the Gentiles.

Eight Catholic popes condemned the Talmud. Martin Luther, founder of the Protestant Church, ordered it burned. Pope Clement VIII declared, "The impious Talmudic, Cabalistic and other wicked books of the Jews are hereby entirely condemned and they must always remain condemned and prohibited and this law must be perpetually observed."

The Talmud holds that only Jews are true human beings and Gentiles are "goyim" (meaning cattle or beast). The following are shocking but exact quotes from the various books of "The Talmud."

1. Sanhedrin 59a: "Murdering Goyim is like killing a wild animal."
2. Abodah Zara 26b: "Even the best of the Gentiles should be killed."
3. Sanhedrin 59a: "A goy (Gentile) who pries into The Law (Talmud) is guilty of death."
4. Libbre David 37: "To communicate anything to a Goy about our religious relations would be equal to the killing of all Jews, for if the Goyim knew what we teach about them, they would kill us openly."
5. Libbre David 37: "If a Jew be called upon to explain any part of the rabbinic books, he ought to give only a false explanation. Who ever will violate this order shall be put to death."
6. Yebhamoth 11b: "Sexual intercourse with a little girl is permitted if she is three years of age."
7. Schabouth Hag. 6d: "Jews may swear falsely by use of subterfuge wording."
8. Hilkoth Akum XI: "Do not save Goyim in danger of death."
9. Hilkoth Akum XI: "Show no mercy to the Goyim."
10. Choschen Hamm 388, 15: "If it can be proven that someone has given the money of Israelites to the Goyim, a way must be found after prudent consideration to wipe him off the face of the earth."
11. Choschen Hamm 266, 1: "A Jew may keep anything he finds which belongs to the Akum (Gentile). For he who returns lost property (to Gentiles) sins against the Law by increasing the power of the transgressors of the Law. It is praiseworthy, however, to return lost property if it is done to honor the name of God, namely, if by so doing, Christians will praise the Jews and look upon them as honorable people."
12. Szaaloth-Utsabot, The Book of Jore Dia 17: "A Jew should and must make a false oath when the Goyim asks if our books contain anything against them."
13. Baba Necia 114, 6: "The Jews are human beings, but the nations of the world are not human beings but beasts."
14. Simeon Haddarsen, fol. 56-D: "When the Messiah comes every Jew will have 2800 slaves."
15. Nidrasch Talpioth, p. 225-L: "Jehovah created the non-Jew in human form so that the Jew would not have to be served by beasts. The non-Jew is consequently an animal in human form, and condemned to serve the Jew day and night."
16. Aboda Sarah 37a: "A Gentile girl who is three years old can be violated."
17. Gad. Shas. 2:2: "A Jew may violate but not marry a non-Jewish girl."

18. Tosefta. Aboda Zara B, 5: "If a goy kills a goy or a Jew, he is responsible; but if a Jew kills a goy, he is NOT responsible."
19. Schulchan Aruch, Choszen Hamispat 388: "It is permitted to kill a Jewish denunciator everywhere. It is permitted to kill him even before he denounces."
20. Schulchan Aruch, Choszen Hamispat 348: "All property of other nations belongs to the Jewish nation, which, consequently, is entitled to seize upon it without any scruples."
21. Tosefta, Abda Zara VIII, 5: "How to interpret the word 'robbery.' A goy is forbidden to steal, rob, or take women slaves, etc., from a goy or from a Jew. But a Jew is NOT forbidden to do all this to a goy."
22. Seph. Jp., 92, 1: "God has given the Jews power over the possessions and blood of all nations."
23. Schulchan Aruch, Choszen Hamispat 156: "When a Jew has a Gentile in his clutches, another Jew may go to the same Gentile, lend him money and in turn deceive him, so that the Gentile shall be ruined. For the property of a Gentile, according to our law, belongs to no one, and the first Jew that passes has full right to seize it."
24. Schulchan Aruch, Johre Deah, 122: "A Jew is forbidden to drink from a glass of wine which a Gentile has touched, because the touch has made the wine unclean."
25. Nedarim 23b: "He who desires that none of his vows made during the year be valid, let him stand at the beginning of the year and declare, 'Every vow which I may make in the future shall be null.' His vows are then invalid."

We could provide many more quotes from this offensive book, but I believe that the point is clear: The Jews are involved in what can be called, and indeed has been called, a conspiracy against all mankind and will take whatever steps they deem necessary for them to dominate the rest of the world.

It is because of these beliefs, and the willingness of the Jews to act upon them, that "anti-semitism" exists and perhaps the reason why the Jews have been disliked and driven out of every nation in which they have inhabited at least once.

In the pages that follow, I hope to make clear to you just how far the Jews have gotten with this Talmudic conspiracy.

The Facts Of Jewish Media Control

Electronic News & Entertainment Media

The largest media conglomerate today is Walt Disney Company, whose chairman and CEO, **Michael Eisner**, is a Jew. The Disney Empire, headed by a man described by one media analyst as a "control freak", includes several television production companies (Walt Disney Television, Touchstone Television, Buena Vista Television), its own cable network with 14 million subscribers, and two video production companies.

As for feature films, the Walt Disney Picture Group, headed by **Joe Roth** (also a Jew), includes Touchstone Pictures, Hollywood Pictures, and Caravan Pictures. Disney also owns Miramax Films, run by the Weinstein brothers.

When the Disney Company was run by the Gentile Disney family prior to its takeover by Eisner in 1984, it epitomized wholesome, family entertainment. While it still holds the rights to *Snow White*, under Eisner, the company has expanded into the production of graphic sex and violence. In addition, it has 225 affiliated stations in the United States and is part owner of several European TV companies.

ABC's cable subsidiary, ESPN, is headed by president and CEO **Steven Bornstein**, a Jew. This corporation also has a controlling share of Lifetime Television and the Arts & Entertainment Network cable companies. ABC Radio Network owns eleven AM and ten FM stations, again in major cities such as New York, Washington, Los Angeles, and has over 3,400 affiliates.

Although primarily a telecommunications company, Capital Cities/ABC earned over \$1 billion in publishing in 1994. It owns seven daily newspapers, Fairchild Publications, Chilton Publications, and the Diversified Publishing Group.

Anti-Semitism

Advertisement for the Talmud in Arabic Translation

“The translation of the Babylonian Talmud is historically unprecedented, entailing a six-year effort of more than 95 translators, researchers, and language editors under the supervision and leadership of the Middle East Studies Center – Jordan. . .”

التلمود البابلي
(بالعربية)

مركز دراسات الشرق الأوسط - الأردن
Middle East Studies Center - Jordan

تعتبر ترجمة التلمود البابلي سبقاً تاريخياً استحق جهد ٦ سنوات شارك فيه أكثر من ٩٥ مترجماً وباحثاً ومحرراً لغوياً بإشراف وإدارة مركز دراسات الشرق الأوسط - الأردن

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إن ترجمة التلمود البابلي إلى العربية يشكل تحولا أساسيا في استيعاب صول الدينية والفكرية للعقل اليهودي الأرثوذكسي.
إن هذه الترجمة تفتح آفاقا واسعة أمام الدراسات الأكاديمية لفهم الفتي اليهودي وإدراك انعكاساته المختلفة على مر التاريخ.

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Response by the ADL



Imagine a World
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Anti-Semitism
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Press Release

Introduction Of Arabic Translation Of Talmud Promotes Anti-Semitic Theories

New York, NY, May 24, 2012 ... The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) today harshly criticized the editor's introduction to the first-ever Arabic translation of the Talmud for propagating age-old anti-Semitic concepts about Jews and Judaism, and called on the Jordanian government to step in and take action.

The translation, published by the Middle East Studies Center (MESC), a Jordan-based think tank, features an introduction that repeatedly distorts and takes out of context certain passages in the Talmud, including the selective use of quotations leaving the misleading impression of a pervasive attitude of antipathy toward non-Jews mandated by Jewish religious law and teachings. Included among the baseless conclusions in the introduction are charges that the Talmud promotes trickery, cheating and the murder of non-Jews.

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ADL's Concern

“The translation, published by the Middle East Studies Center (MESC), a Jordan-based think tank, features an introduction that repeatedly distorts and takes out of context certain passages in the Talmud, including the selective use of quotations leaving the misleading impression of a pervasive attitude of antipathy toward non-Jews mandated by Jewish religious law and teachings. Included among the **baseless** conclusions in the introduction are **charges that the Talmud promotes trickery, cheating and the murder of non-Jews.**”

But Are These Charges
Baseless?

Responsibilities of Non-Jews

Seven Noahide Commandments

- Establishing courts of law,
- and idolatry (*avodah zarah*),
- and cursing God's name,
- and sexual offenses,
- and bloodshed,
- and theft,
- and eating the limb of a living animal.

Tosefta AZ 8:4

על שבע מצוות נצטוו בני נח

על הדינין

ועל עבודה זרה

ועל קללת השם

ועל גילוי עריות

ועל שפיכות דמים

ועל הגזל

ועל אבר מן החי

Discrimination against Non-Jews

Tosefta AZ 8:5

Concerning **bloodshed**, in what sense?

A non-Jew (*goy*) against a non-Jew, or a non-Jew against a Jew (*yisrael*) is **liable**;

a Jew against a non-Jew is **exempt**.

Concerning **theft**:

A non-Jew (*goy*) against a non-Jew, or a non-Jew against a Jew (*yisrael*) is **prohibited**,

but a Jew against a non-Jew is **permitted**.

על שפיכות דמים כיצד

גוי בגוי וגוי בישראל חייב

ישראל בגוי פטור

על הגזל. . . גוי בגוי וגוי בישראל אסור

וישראל בגוי מותר

What Does the Talmud Say?

Bavli Sanhedrin 57a:

The VILNA edition

Concerning theft. . .

על הגזל . . .

A Cuthite against a Cuthite,

כותי בכותי

or a Cuthite against a Jew is
prohibited,

וכותי בישראל אסור

but a Jew against a Cuthite is
permitted.

וישראל בכותי מותר

Wait, What does The Talmud Really Say?

Bavli Sanhedrin 57a:

Manuscripts and
early prints

Concerning theft:

על הגזל . . .

A non-Jew (*goy*) against a
non-Jew,

גוי בגוי

or a non-Jew against a Jew
(*yisrael*) is prohibited,

וגוי בישראל אסור

but a Jew against a non-Jew
is permitted.

וישראל בגוי מותר

What happened?

Tosefta, Talmud
Manuscripts, and early
prints

Concerning theft:

A **non-Jew** (*goy*) against a
non-Jew,

or a non-Jew against a Jew
(*yisrael*) is prohibited,

but a Jew against a non-Jew
is permitted.

Vilna Edition

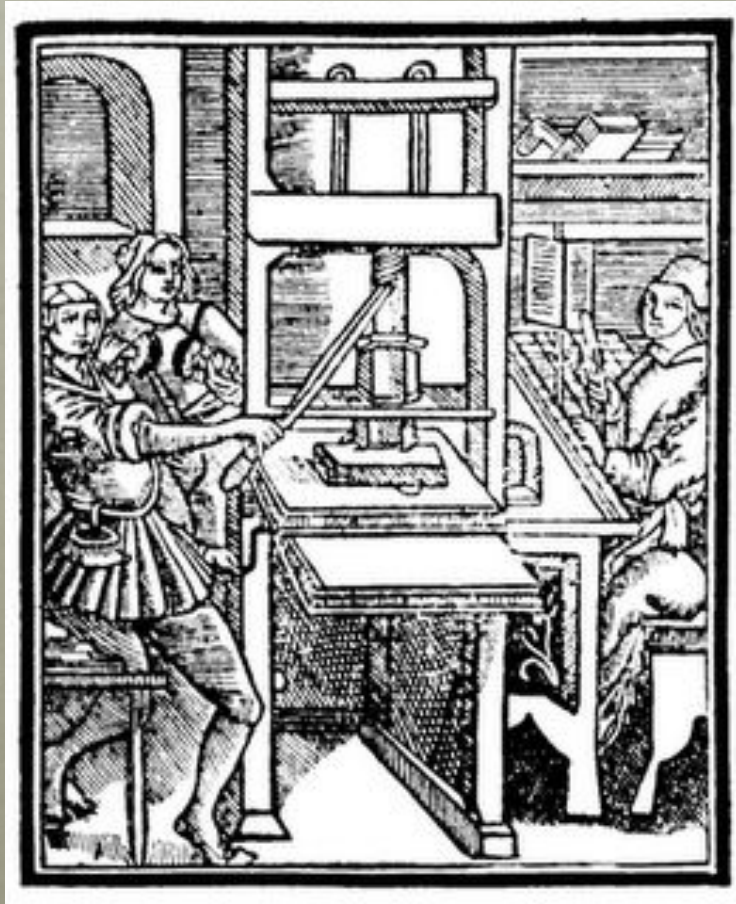
Concerning theft:

A **Cuthite** against a Cuthite,

or a Cuthite against a Jew
(*yisrael*) is prohibited,

but a Jew against a Cuthite is
permitted.

This Happened



Medieval Manuscript

AVODAH ZARAH, mS JTS; spain, 1290

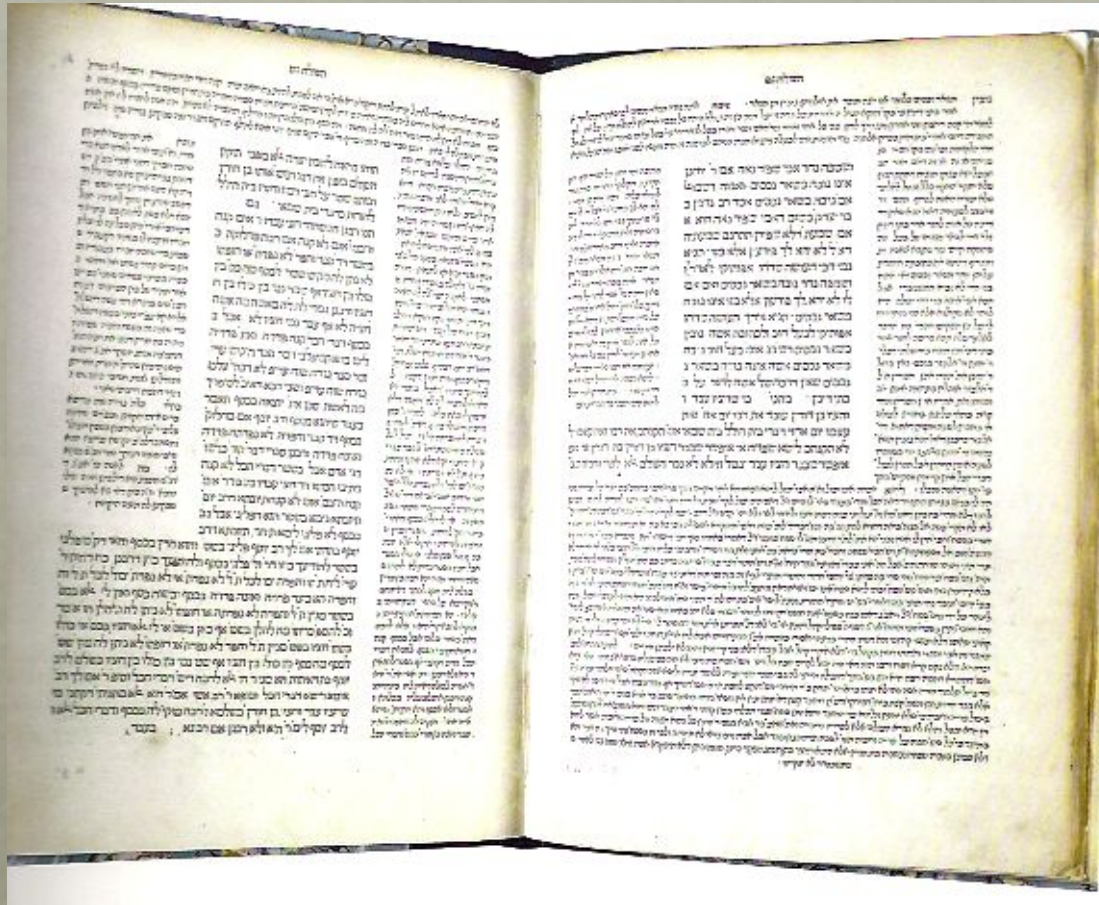


Burning the Talmud



Printing the Talmud

Tractate Gittin, printed by Joshua Solomon or Gershom Soncino, Italy 1488



Printing the Talmud

Tractate Brakhot, printed by Daniel Bomberg Venice 1520-23



Pope Paul IV (1476-1559)

Born Giovanni Pietro Carafa, he led the Roman Inquisition as Cardinal Carafa before becoming Pope in 1555.

Carafa zealously used his power to attack Christian Protestants, Hebraists, and Humanists, as well as Jews.



Edict ordering the burning of the Talmud

Venice 1553

M D LIII Die XXI. Octobris, in Consiglio X. cum Additione.



HE cadauno, così Christiano, come Hebreo, Librari, Bottegieri, & qualunque altro di che grado, & condition si voglia, etiam Ecclesiastici, che si ritrovaessero haver in qualunq modo appreso di se, & nelle case, & botteghe loro, ouer modo aliquo in poter suo, ouer hauessero dato, o deposto appreso de altri Talmud Hebrei, ouer parte alcuna di quelli, Compendij, Summarij, o altra opera dependente da esso Talmud, Debbono in termine de giorni otto prossimi presentar tutte esse opere in questa Città alli effecutori contra la Blasfemia, & di fuori alli Rettori delli luoghi, & manifestar à chi le hauessero date, o depostate, iquali Rettori debbano subito mandar de qui ad essi effecutori tutte le opere che li saranno presentate, & così quelle che saranno mandate de qui insupra, come quelle che li saranno presentate in questa Città debbano esser effecutori far subito brisar publicamente: nella piazza di S. Marco, senza alcuna eccectione. Passato veramente il detto termine de giorni otto si ritrovera che alcuno non habbia obedito al proclama sopra detto, et che habbia appreso di se modo aliquo, & in poter suo l'opera del Talmud, o parte di esso, o Compendio, Summario, ouer altra cosa dependente da esso Talmud, o che non habbia manifestato, insupra, sia bandito in perpetuo di tutte le Terre, & Luoghi del Dominio nostro, così da Mare, come da Terra, & anco di questa nostra Città di Venetia, & del suo distretto, con taglia de 600 de piccoli a chi quelli, ouer alcun di loro prendera dentro li confini, & consegnera nelle forze della Giustitia, da esser pagari delli beni di essi presentati se ne faranno, se non dalla Cassa di questo Consiglio delli danari deputati alle Taglie, Li prest veramente, & cadaun di loro debbano vogar anni doi in Galea de condannadi, & poi ritornino al bando, & questo tante uolte quante contrafaranno, & non essendo atti à vogar, il che debba esser giudicato per li preditti effecutori, s'ar debbano anni cinque in prigione serrati, & poi ritornino al bando ut supra. Et se alcuno accusera qualunque delli desobedienti sopradetti, ouer cadaun altro che in ogni tempo hauesse, o tenesse quomodo cunq; ut supra, delle opere sopradette sia tenuto secreto, & guadagni hauera la verita 400 da esser pagate ut supra, & se vno compagno, & complice accusasse li altri suoi complici sia assolto dalla pena, nella qual potesse incorrere, & guadagni la taglia sopradetta, & tutti quelli che si ritroueranno colpeuati in ogni tempo delle cose sopradette incorrino, & incorri se intendino nelle pene, & bandi sopradetti cò tutte le taglie, & modi ut supra espressi, & l'effecution della presente parte per le cose di questa Città sia commessa alli effecutori contra la Blasfemia, & per le cose di fuora alli Rettori delle Città & luoghi oue occorreranno simil cose.

Publicata sopra le Scale de San Marco, & de Rialto.

Con licentia delli superiori, che nullun'altro ardisca stamparla.

04501

Septemper 9, 1553
Rosh Hashana
Campo Dei Fiori, Rome

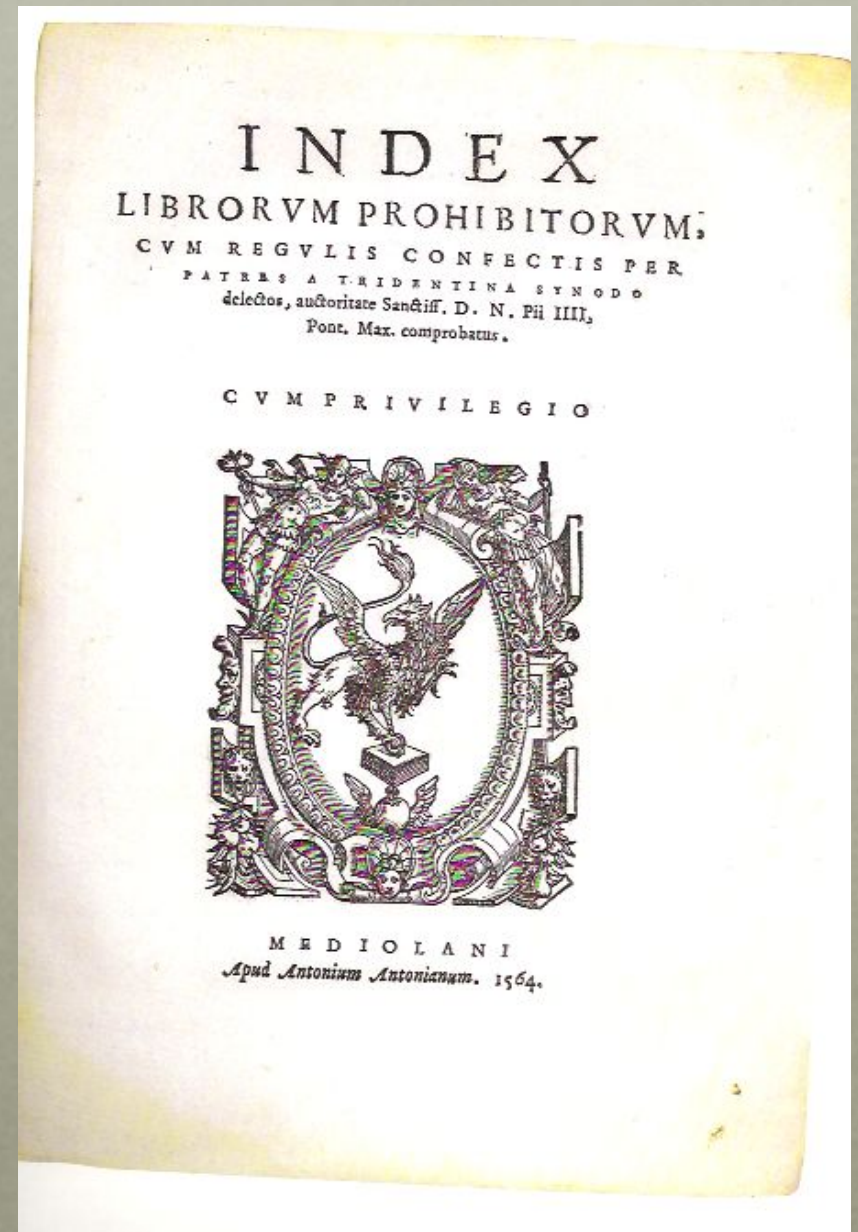


Index Librorum Prohibitorum

The Tridentine Index
Milan, 1564

The Talmud is prohibited, with the added proviso:

“But if they shall be published without the title *Talmud*, and without calumnies and insults to the Christian religion, they shall be tolerated.”

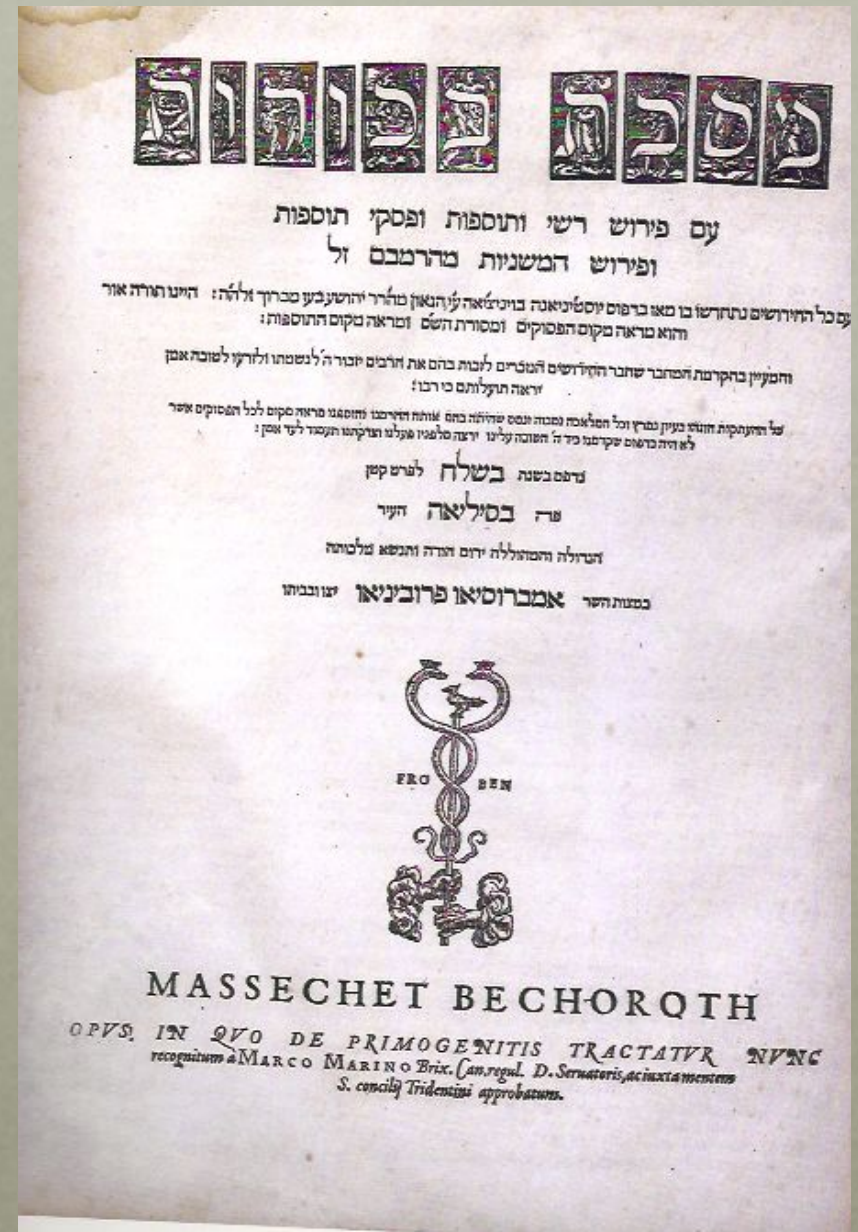


The Basle Talmud

Printed in 1580 by Ambrosius Froben

The most censored edition of the Talmud, it excludes Tractate Avodah Zarah altogether.

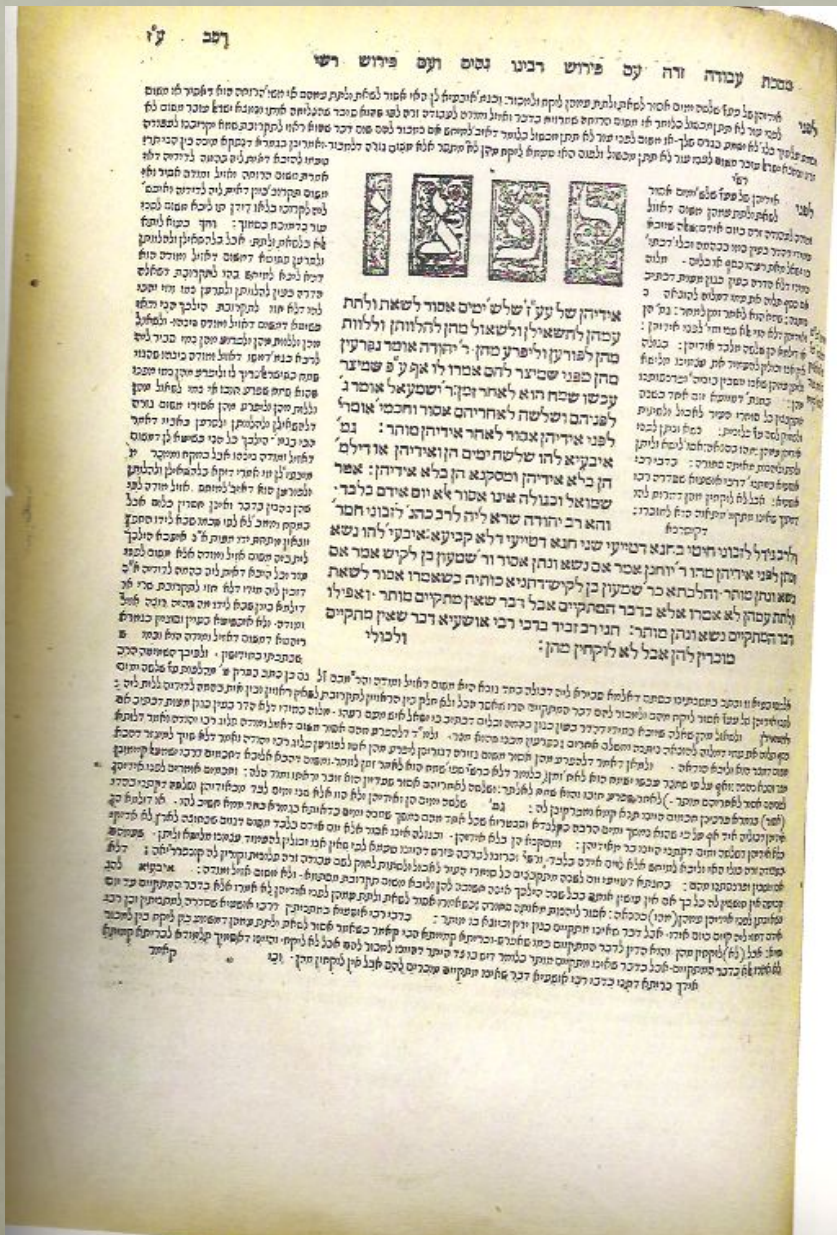
Approved by inquisitor Marco Marino Brixienne, in accordance with the Tridentine Index.



This printing of the controversial tractate was likely intended to complete the Basle edition.

Tractate Avodah Zarah

Cracow, 1597



Two Versions of the Talmud

Vilna Print,
Schottenstein

לפני אידיהן של עובדי כוכבים שלשה
ימים אסור לשאת ולתת עמהם

Schottenstein English:

During the three days
preceding the festivals of
idol worshipers, it is
forbidden to transact
business with them.

Manuscripts, Steinsaltz

לפני אידיהן של גוים שלשה ימים אסור
לשאת ולתת עמהם

During the three days
preceding the festivals of
gentiles, it is forbidden to
transact business with them.

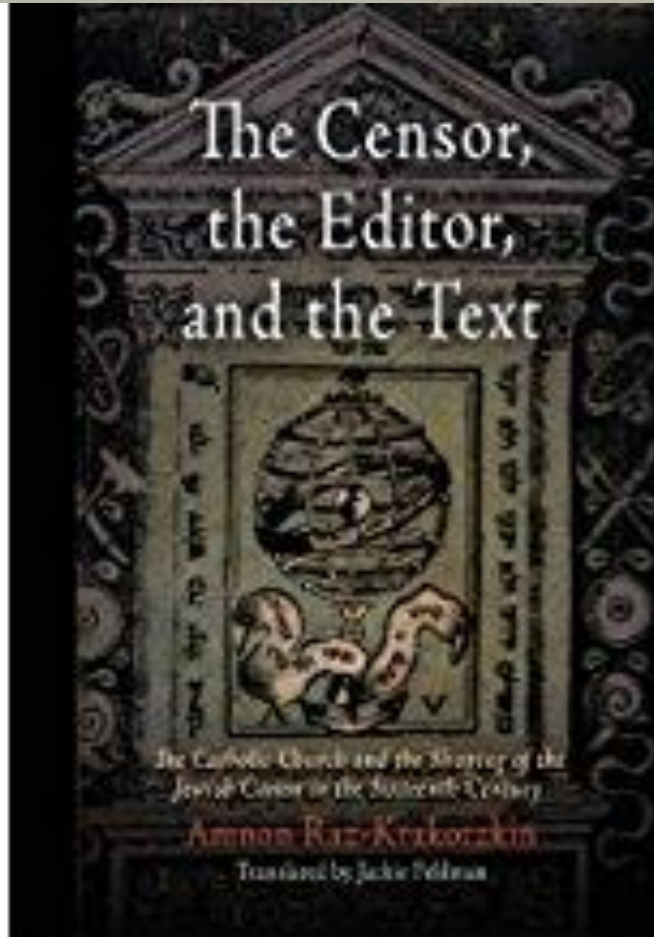
Eliding the Difference

Sefaria's William Davidson Talmud

MISHNA: On the **three days before the festivals of gentiles** the following actions are prohibited, as they would bring joy to the gentile, who would subsequently give thanks to his object of idol worship on his festival: It is **prohibited to engage in business with them; to lend items to them or to borrow items from them; to lend money to them or to borrow money from them; and to repay debts owed to them or to collect repayment of debts from them.**

מתני' לפני אידיהן של **עובדי כוכבים** שלשה ימים אסור לשאת ולתת עמהם להשאילן ולשאול מהן להלוותן וללוות מהן לפורען ולפרוע מהן.

Amnon Raz-Krakotzkin



Censored or Revised?

Menahem Ha-Me'iri

1249-1315 Provence

It appears to me that these matters all pertain only to worshippers of idols and their forms and images, but that nowadays, these activities are wholly permitted. . .

נראה לי שדברים אלו כלם לא
נאמרו אלא על עובדי האלילים
וצורותיהם וצלמיהם אבל בזמנים
האלו מותר לגמרי...

*-Beit Ha-Behirah, Avodah
Zarah*

An Ancient Story of Surveillance

Sifre Deut 344

Once the government [of Rome] dispatched two soldiers and said to them, “Go disguise yourselves as Jews and examine their Torah—what is its nature?”

They went to Rabban Gamliel in Usha. They read Scripture and studied the *Mishna*, *midrash*, *halakhot*, and *haggadot*.

At the time of their departure, they said, “All of your Torah is beautiful and praiseworthy, except for one thing—that the stolen property of a non-Jew is permitted, and of a Jew is prohibited. But we will not report this thing to the government.”

וכבר שלחה מלכות שני סרדיטיאות ואמרה להם
לכו ועשו עצמכם יהודים וראו תורתם מה טיבה

הלכו אצל רבן גמליאל לאושא וקראו את
המקרא ושנו את המשנה מדרש הלכות והגדות

בשעת פטירתם אמרו להם כל התורה נאה
ומשובחת חוץ מדבר אחד זה שאתם אומרים
גזילו של גוי מותר ושל ישראל אסור ודבר זה
אין אנו מודיעים למלכות

The Last Word

B. Avodah Zarah 76b

Mar Yehuda and Bati bar Tuvi were sitting in the presence of King Shapur. They were served a citron.

The king cut a piece and ate it. He cut another piece and gave it to Bati bar Tuvi. He stuck the knife into the earth ten times, cut another piece and gave it to Mar Yehuda.

Bati bar Tuvi said to him, “And am I not a Jew?”

He said (turning to Mar Yehuda), “With you, I am certain of this, but with you (turning to Bati Bar Tuvi), I am not certain.”

Some say he said to him: “Remember what you did last night.

כי הא דמר יהודה ובאטי בר טובי הוו יתבי קמיה
דשבור מלכא אייתו לקמייהו אתרוגא

פסק אכל פסק והב ליה לבאטי בר טובי הדר דצה
עשרה זימני בארעא פסק הב ליה למר יהודה

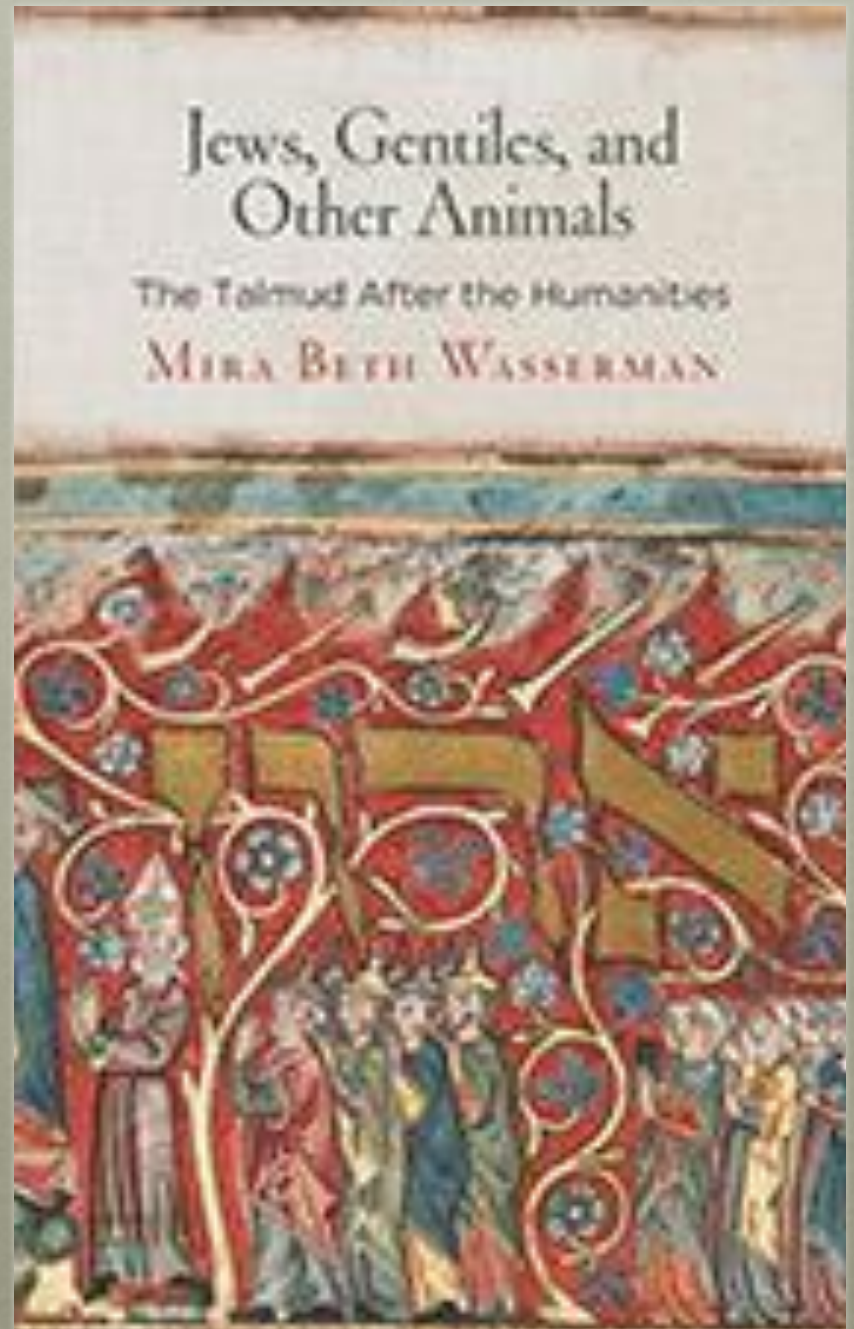
א"ל באטי בר טובי וההוא גברא לאו בר ישראל הוא

א"ל מר קים לי בגויה ומר לא קים לי בגויה

איכא דאמרי א"ל אידכר מאי עבדת באורתא

Tractate Avoda Zara

A New Reading



The Talmud Uncensored

What the Talmud really tells us
about relationships between Jews and non-Jews

Rabbi Mira Wasserman, PhD
Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

Ethical Difficulties

Textual Difficulties

Samuel Holdheim

(1806-1860)

Reform must avoid as much as possible to press the banner of progress into the rigid hands of the Talmud. The time has to come when one feels strong enough vis-à-vis the Talmud to oppose it, in the knowledge of having gone far beyond it. One must not with every forward step drag along the heavy tomes and, without even opening them, wait for some innocent remark, therewith to prove the foundations of progress.

