

Table of Contents

Introduction	7
Gate I	
Machismo and Violence in the World of the Rabbis.....	17
Chapter One	
Rav and the Butcher: On the Image of the Jewish Male.....	19
Chapter Two	
Rabba and Bar Sheshakh: A Rose Water Bath and the Eye Gazing at the Eternal.....	27
Chapter Three	
R. Judah ha-Nasi and R. Hiyya: Phallus and Face.....	35
Chapter Four	
R. Johanan and Resh Lakish: The Image of God in the Study Hall – “Masculinity” vs. “Femininity”	41
Chapter Five	
R. Yose of Yokrat: Teach Your Children Well.....	61
Chapter Six	
The Carpenter’s Apprentice Who Desired His Master’s Wife: On Feminine Evil and Masculine Evil.....	67
Gate II	
The Attitude to the Stranger – the Other.....	73
Chapter Seven	
R. Simeon ben Eleazar and the Offended Man: The Ugliness of the Haughty Scholar	75
Chapter Eight	
R. Ze’eira and the Lawless Men in His Neighborhood	87
Chapter Nine	
R. Eleazar ben Shammua and the Naked Roman: “You Know the Respect Due Your Fellow Creatures”	93

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter Ten	
Abba Tahnah the Pious and the People of His Town:	
Entering the Sabbath with Weekday Clothes	101
Chapter Eleven	
R. Simhah Bunem of Pshiskhah and	
the <i>Deutschi's</i> "Arranged Marriage"	107
Chapter Twelve	
Pelimo and Satan:	
A Divine Lesson in the Public Latrine	113
Gate III	
Authenticity:	
The Individual Faces Life's Questions.....	123
Chapter Thirteen	
Ilfa, R. Johanan, and the Talk of the Angels:	
On Authenticity and the Talmudic Narrative.....	125
Chapter Fourteen	
The "Mud Digger" and His Journey to London	
as an Existential Metaphor	131
Chapter Fifteen	
R. Levi Isaac of Berdichev:	
Silence in the Evil Inclination Synagogue	137
Chapter Sixteen	
The Chinese Rainmaker and the Jewish Rainmaker	143
Chapter Seventeen	
R. Hanina ben Dosa and the Serpent:	
On Bravery and Courage.....	149
Appendix:	
The Rabbis on the Couch:	
Lacan in the <i>Beit Midrash</i>	155
Acknowledgements.....	159
Abbreviations	161
General Index	163
Index of Sources	173