DAVID BRODSKY

A Bride without a Blessing

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David Brodsky

A Bride without a Blessing

A Study in the Redaction and Content of Massekhet Kallah and Its Gemara

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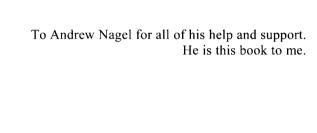
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One who reads a verse from the Song of Songs and makes it like a ditty, and also one who reads a verse of the Torah not in its appropriate time, brings a flood upon the world, because the Torah puts on a sackcloth and stands before the Holy One, Blessed be He, and says, "Master of the Universe, your sons have made me like a lyre..." He says to her, "My daughter, if so, when they are happy what should they do?"

-Massekhet Kallah 4



Acknowledgements

And who is [a person's] rabbi?...R. Yose says, "Anyone who enlightened his eyes with his teaching."

-Massekhet Kallah 24

This book is a revision of my dissertation which I completed at New York University. As such, I owe a great debt of gratitude to my former adviser, Lawrence Schiffman, for all that he did for me. He set a wonderful example of what scholarship is and how it is conducted. His grasp and appreciation of the complexities of the formation and transmission of rabbinic texts pushed me to develop and fine tune my own theories on this subject. His ability to appreciate methodologically sound research regardless of his personal beliefs and perspectives gave me the freedom to approach my dissertation without the fear that he might disagree with the conclusions. I knew that I needed only to concern myself with doing good research. Finally, his comments on and critiques of my dissertation were all extremely insightful and helpful.

Elliot Wolfson's methodological approach to Kabbalistic literature was the inspiration for my approach to the content of Massekhet Kallah. Wolfson uses a variety of philosophical and literary theories to help him read texts more insightfully. His focus remains always on the text and what it is saying, and using the theory to help him to see what he otherwise would miss. I have tried to do the same in my reading of Massekhet Kallah. I would like to thank Prof. Wolfson for helping to train me as a reader of Jewish texts and as a consumer of post-modern philosophy, and for all of his help and input pertaining to my analysis of Massekhet Kallah.

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A number of people helped me find valuable sources. Yachin Epstein informed me of the existence of MSS TS F 2(1).39, TS F15.21 and TS NS 312.23. Jay Rovner helped me find MS JTS R1823, which corresponds with number six in Higger's critical apparatus, a manuscript that Higger cites merely as "a Yemenite manuscript" at JTS. I. Julia Leslie told me of a relevant parallel in the Hindu text, *The Perfect Wife*.

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On this arduous path, I have been blessed with the help of so many. As Abaye is quoted as saying in Kallah Rabbati 2:9, עלמא כל דאזל מתפרע, everything that goes out in the world is repaid in kind. May they each be repaid in kind for their generosity with me.

Preface

The title of this book has a threefold significance. First, "A bride without a blessing" is the opening phrase of Massekhet Kallah (MK), and MK is often identified by quoting this phrase. Second, it exemplifies what I believe to be one of the main concerns expressed throughout much of MK: forbidding or at least strongly discouraging marital relations in the absence of sanctity. Thus, the opening sentence of MK reads in full: "A bride without a blessing is forbidden to her husband like a menstrually impure woman." Third, MK and the first two chapters of Kallah Rabbati (KR 1–2) which form a "gemara" on MK are "brides" to the Bavli insofar as we shall find that they seem to derive from amoraic Babylonia and preserve alternative versions of numerous statements and passages found in the Bayli. Indeed, when coupled with their Bayli parallels, these passages in MK and KR 1-2 will offer us a fascinating new perspective on the development of these sugyot in all three texts. Yet, the fact that they have been overlooked and even derided as merely flawed receptacles of the Bayli has left them each as a bride without a blessing. Through this book, I hope to offer that blessing so that we may reunite this long abandoned bride with its betrothed, the Bayli.

On a personal note, in 1936 Michael Higger dedicated his critical edition of MK and KR in part to his friend, Rabbi Armond Cohen. At the time, Armond Cohen used to eat in my great-grandfather's restaurant in Cleveland, Ohio, and seventy years later as I publish my critical analysis of MK and KR 1–2, my grandparents report that he is still alive and well.

August 2, 2006

¹ See, for example, Rashi, bQid49b, s.v. ve-'afilu be-massekhet kallah.

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements	VII
Preface	X
List of Abbreviations	XVI
Section 1:	
Massekhet Kallah	
Introduction	3
Chapter 1: Previous Scholarship	9
I. Higger's Critical Edition of MK II. Secondary Literature on MK	
Chapter 2: Redaction and Relationship to the Bavli	34
I. Time and Place of Redaction	34
II. Parallels with the Bavli	
1. MK 18–19 and bNid13a	
2. MK 7–8, bShab64a–b, yShab8b (6:4) and yḤal58c (2:4)	
3. MK 8–10 and bNed20a–b4. MK and the School of R. Johanan	
Conclusions	
Chapter 3: Understanding the Sacred in MK	87
I. Of Consecration, or "The Significance of the Phallus"	87
1. The Central Theme of MK	87
2. Ma'al and q-d-sh	
3. The Lacanian Phallus	
II. An Overview of MK	
III. A Comparison/Contrast with Contemporary Sources	108

Chapter 4: Unveiling the Veiled:	
Analyzing the Content of MK	118
I. Part I: Wife-as-Sacred-Object	119
1. IA1 (MK 1–2) — The Bride and the Menstruant	
2. IA2 (MK 3) — The Bride and the Prostitute	
3. IB (MK 4) — Torah, Daughter of God	
4. IC1 (MK 5) — Passing the Cup	
5. IC2–3 (MK 6–7) — Don't Look, Don't Touch	124
6. ID1 (MK 8) — The Lame, the Blind, the Mute, and the Deaf:	
First Take	129
7. ID2a (MK 9) — Vaginal God and Godlike Vaginas:	
The Encounter with the Mysterium Tremendum	132
8. ID2b (MK 9) — Cooking the Meat	
9. ID2c-g (MK 10) — The Model Relationship	
10. ID3a (MK 11-12) — Of Bathrooms and Bloodletting	
11. ID3b–ID3d (MK 13–15) — When Bottoms would be Tops	
12. ID3e (MK 16) — R. Akiva goes to Market	145
13. ID4 (MK 17) — Conclusion to Part I:	
Meriting the Direct Encounter with God	
II. Part II: The Penis	151
1. IIA (MK 18) — Idolaters, Murderers and	
Other Sexual Deviants	153
2. IIB-C (MK 19) — The Hand to the Penis:	
Cut It Off, or Be Cut Off	
III. Parts III and IV: Oaths, Torah and Charity	
1. III–IVA2 (MK 20–22)	
2. IVB (MK 23)	165
IV. Part V (MK 24): The Rabbis' Sayings —	
Bringing about World Redemption	168
Chapter 5: Conclusion to Section 1	170
I. Dating and Redaction	170
II. Content	171

Section 2: Kallah Rabbati and Its Relationship to the Bavli

Chapter 6: KR 1–2: An Introduction	179
I. Thesis Statement	180
II. Relationship of KR 1–2 to KR 3–9, and the	
Linguistic Evidence for the Amoraic Redaction of KR 1-2	182
III. Further Evidence: Fine-tuning the Dating of KR 1-2	
IV. That the Bavli Is not One of KR 1-2's Sources	207
V. Geonic Parallels: Comparing the Relationship of	
KR 1–2 with the Bavli to that of Geonic Parallels with the Bavli	211
VI. Multiple Versions of Sugyot and Statements:	
The Evidence from the Bavli Itself	
VII. KR 1–2 and the Nature of Oral Transmission	218
Chapter 7: Previous Scholarship	226
I. On the Reliability of Higger's text	226
II. Scholarship Up to Lerner	228
III. M. B. Lerner	231
IV. Summary and Conclusion	238
Chapter 8: KR 1–2's Relationship to MK	241
I. The Relationship between KR 1-2's Version of MK	
and MK Itself	
II. Did Some Gemara of KR 1–2 Become Incorporated into MK?	
III. The Relationship between the Gemara of KR 1–2 and MK	
Conclusion	261
Chapter 9: KR 1–2 Stam on Baraitot:	
Parallels with the Bavli	263
I. Stam on Individual Baraitot (or Meimrot)	267
1. KR 1:23 and bPes112b	268
2. KR 2:4 and bNid13b	
3. KR 2:13 and bKet66b-67a	
4. KR 2:2 and bYom84a	297
II. Parallel Stam on Two Baraitot or a Baraita	
and a Meimra that Contradict One Another	
1. KR 2:8 and bKet65a	
2. KR 2:16 and bPes108a	313
Conclusions	318

III. Parallel Stammattic Questions Preceding Statements	
KR 1:10 and bYev60b	319
Chapter 10: Lack of Parallel Stam between KR 1–2	
and the Bavli	322
I. KR 1-2 Lacks Relevant Bavli Stam (and Meimrot)	322
1. KR 1:17-23 on MK 11-15, bGit70a and bKet77b	
2. KR 1:20 and bBer40a	
3. KR 1:16, bYev69b and bQid75a	
4. KR 1:11-16 on MK 8-10 and bNed20a-b	
Conclusions	334
II. Illusory Parallel Stam	334
1. KR 2:8 and bNid13b	
2. KR 2:5 and bKet77a	343
3. KR 1:18 and bGit70a	345
4. KR 2:5 and bNid13a	348
Conclusions	353
Chapter 11: KR 1–2 Sugyot: Parallels with the Bavli	355
I. MK 18–19, KR 2:4–8 and bNid13a–b	355
II. KR 1:1 and bKet7b–8a	
III. Other Related Sugyot	
Conclusions	
1. Related Sugyot	
2. Parallel KR 1–2 and Bavli Stam	
Chapter 12: KR 1–2 Meimrot and Their Parallels	
with the Bavli	379
I. Amoraic Statements with Minor Variation	
II. Attributions	382
III. Variant Attributions that Can Be Seen as a Later Recasting	
of Earlier Statements	
1. KR 1:5 and bQid40a	
2. KR 1:7 and bSot17a	
3. KR 2:5 and bKet77a	
4. KR 2:9, bShab119b, and bBB91b	
Conclusions	415
Constant Continue	
Conclusions to Section 2	417

Appendices

Appendix A: MK: Translation Outline42	22
Appendix B: Vaginal Gods and Godlike Vaginas43	37
Appendix C: Parallel Sugyot: Texts and Translations44	42
KR 2:8 and bKet65a	45
Appendix D: KR 1–2's Version of MK48	84
Appendix E: KR 1–2 Sugyot on MK49	90
Appendix F: Amoraic Attributions49	94
Appendix G: Potential Post-Fourth Generation Amoraim in KR 1–249	97
Appendix H: KR 2:4 and bNid13b: The Attribution Variants	00
Appendix I: KR 2:9—The Story of R. Akiva and the Dead Man	03
Appendix J: "Amoraic" Aramaic phrases in KR 3-950	05
Appendix K: Three Phrases of Uncertain Origin in KR 1-250	07
Glossary50	09
Bibliography5	10
Index of Sources	23
Index of Names54	4 0
Subject Index54	46

List of Abbreviations

Amora from Babylonia (the number that follows indicates the AB

generation)

Ahil Ahilot

ΑP Amora from Palestine (the number that follows indicates the

generation)

Arkh Arakhin

AZ'Avodah Zarah

h Bavli

b. ben (son of) BBBava' Batra' Bekh Bekhorot Ber Berakhot

BM Baya' Metzi'a' BO Bava' Oamma' Chr. Chronicles Dem Dema'i Dt. Deuteronomy

ed. edition Eruv Eruvin Ex. **Exodus** Ez. Ezekiel Genesis Gen. Git Gittin Hag Hagigah

Hal

Hallah HG Halakhot Gedolot

Hor Horayot Hul Hullin Is. Isaiah Jeremiah Jer. Ker Keritot Ket Ketubbot Kila'im Kil

KR Kallah Rabbati

KR 1-2 The first two chapters of Kallah Rabbati KR 3-9 Chapters 3 through 9 of Kallah Rabbati

Lev. Leviticus Abbreviations XVII

m	Mishnah
Mak	Makkot
Meg	Megillah
Men	Menahot
Mid	Middot
Miqv	Miqva'ot
MK	Massekhet Kallah
MQ	Mo'ed Qatan
MS/MSS	manuscript/manuscripts
Naz	Nazir
Ned	Nedarim
Nid	Niddah
Num.	Numbers
Opp.	Oppenheimer
Pes	Pesaḥim
Ps.	Psalms
Qid	Qiddushin
R.	(1) When preceding a person's name: "Rabbi"
	(2) When following a named book of the Bible: "Rabbah"
RH	Rosh ha-Shanah
Sam.	Samuel
Sanh	Sanhedrin
Shab	Shabbat
Shevi	Shevi'it
Shevu	Shevuʻot
Sot	Sotah
Suk	Sukkah
t	Tosefta
T	Tanna (the number that follows indicates the generation)
Taan	Ta'anit
Tem	Temurah
У	Yerushalmi
Yev	Yevamot
Yom	Yoma
Zev	Zevaḥim
?	illegible letter (in a manuscript)
	When used to cite manuscript variants: material to the right
	of the bracket is taken from the base text; material to the left
	of the bracket is the manuscript variant.
()	Indicate material that is in the text but I believe does not
	belong there.
Г٦	- In diamen anne 4 min 1 els est in anne in els anne lant lant I lanting a chan i i lant lant

Indicate material that is not in the text but I believe should be

[]

added.

XVIII	Abbreviations
ב-א	Bar Ilan Manuscript (used in critical apparati only)
מ289	Moscow Manuscript 289 (used in critical apparati only)
מ476	Moscow Manuscript 476 (used in critical apparati only)

Section 1

Massekhet Kallah

Introduction

Massekhet Kallah (hereafter "MK") is part of a collection of texts known as the Minor Tractates. Like Midrash Rabbah, the Minor Tractates are not a single text so much as a later collection of earlier texts, many of which are not related one to another. For this reason, none of the texts collected in the Minor Tractates should be considered related to any other text collected there until specific evidence has been brought. Since the Minor Tractates have traditionally been published with the Babylonian Talmud, many people have assumed that they are minor tractates of that text. This cannot be maintained, however. Instead, the Minor Tractates seem to have been named as such vis-à-vis the Mishnah/Tosefta. They were likely associated with the Mishnah/Tosefta because they are stylistically similar to those two corpora, meaning that they are written in Hebrew, primarily as apodictic statements with verses sometimes quoted for textual support

See H. L. Strack and Günter Stemberger, Introduction to the Talmud and Midrash, trans. and ed. Markus Bockmuehl (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1996), 225; Abraham Cohen, "Preface," in The Minor Tractates of the Talmud (London: Soncino Press, 1963), 1:xi. Contra Strack and Stemberger and Cohen, I argue that these tractates were considered minor tractates of the Mishnah/Tosefta, not the Bavli. This is not to say that they actually are part of the Mishnah or Tosefta, but merely that the appellation referred to their perceived relationship to Mishnah/Tosefta and not to the Bavli. This can be seen from both those who saw the Minor Tractates as canonical and those who saw them as not canonical. For the former, we find a reference to them in Num. R. 18:21 as "the external mishnah" (see also M. B. Lerner, "The External Tractates," in Compendia Rerum Iudaicarum ad Novum Testamentum, section two, The Literature of the Jewish People in the Period of the Second Temple and the Talmud, 3, The Literature of the Sages, First Part: Oral Tora, Halakha, Mishnah, Tosefta, Talmud, External Tractates, ed. Shmuel Safrai [Assen/Maastricht: Van Gorcum; Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1987], 368). For the latter, we find Judah b. Barzilai (Sefer ha-'Ittim, siman 168) arguing that there are only sixty tractates and no more, and therefore that MK cannot be considered a tractate (I shall return to this statement further on, in Chapter 1). By using the number sixty he is referring to Mishnah/Tosefta and not to the Bavli which has far fewer tractates. The printing of these tractates with the Bayli likely confused the matter. Lerner is essentially correct when he identifies them as independent "of the recognized literary units, i.e., Mishna, Tosefta, Talmud and Tannaic Midrashim" (Lerner, "The External Tractates," 367). While they are not part of the Mishnah or Tosefta, their stylistic similarity to that corpus led them to be associated with it, and even to be considered part of it by some.

following the pronouncement.² As with most of the other Minor Tractates, MK is a tosefta-style text.³

MK is concerned with discouraging several types of inappropriate behavior, many of which have a sexual nature. Thus, MK strongly dissuades men from masturbation, inappropriate sexual positions with their wives, and looking at or touching any and all parts of a woman's body. In addition to these sexual topics, MK dissuades men from the following activities: treating the written Torah cavalierly by turning verses into songs that are sung in taverns, deriving benefit from one's fame as a Torah scholar (called "the crown of the Torah"), confusing money set aside for charity with other money, and misattributing the sayings of the rabbis. In Chapters 3 and 4, I shall take up a detailed analysis of these disparate topics. In Chapters 1 and 2, I shall remain focused on the relationship between MK and other rabbinic texts (especially the Bavli), attempting to discover what this relationship can reveal about the redaction and dating of MK, and about the nature of the transmission of both the lemmata and intermediate units in the amoraic period in general.⁴

three different levels of inquiry...the "lemmatic," the "intermediate," and the "documentary" levels of textual focus. Broadly speaking, the "lemmatic" focus brings into view the smallest whole units of Rabbinic literary tradition—its sentences [i.e., individual sayings]; the "intermediate" focus attends to the composition of lemmatic material into transmissional units that transcend their incorporated lemmata yet have no intrinsic literary dependence upon other materials beyond their boundaries; and the "documentary" focus attempts to define the processes by which such intermediate units of tradition are compiled into the extant works themselves.

In other words, the lemmata refer to the individual sayings, the intermediate units to collections of sayings or to *sugyot*, and the documentary level to the text itself (i.e., MK, the Mishnah, the Yerushalmi, etc.). Thus, for purposes of this book, the documents at hand would be MK, KR 1–2 and the Bavli as a whole; the intermediate units would be the subunits within MK, KR 1–2 and the Bavli (e.g., a block of sayings and stammatic material that can be seen to predate the final redaction of KR 1–2). These subunits themselves are composed of subunits (e.g., individual sayings), which, following Jaffee, I refer to as lemmata.

² Kallah Rabbati is the one exception to this, since it is written in the style of "gemara." Kallah Rabbati has only been included with the Minor Tractates since its publication in the Vilna edition of the Babylonian Talmud towards the end of the nineteenth century.

³ MK 7, which is written in the general style of Midrash Halakha, is the one interesting exception to this. Of course, even Mishnah and Tosefta have passages that are written in the style of Midrash Halakha. See, e.g., mMak 1:6, Hul 8:4, Ker 6:9; tBer 1:15, Dem 2:7, Shab 15:16, RH 2:1, 2:2, Yom 2:15.

⁴ By using the terms lemmata and intermediate units, I am following Martin Jaffee, "Oral Tradition in the Writings of Rabbinic Oral Torah: On Theorizing Rabbinic Orality." *Oral Tradition* 14 (1999): 12. Jaffee differentiates between

Introduction 5

Much of my dating of MK relies upon my findings regarding the dating and redaction of the first two chapters of Kallah Rabbati (KR 1-2). Since KR 1-2 is a commentary on MK, MK must predate it. Thus, even in the absence of data from MK, KR 1-2 can be used to date MK at least as a terminus ad quem. As I shall demonstrate in Section 2 below on KR 1-2, a comparison of KR 1-2's parallels with the Bayli reveals that the Bayli was not KR 1-2's source. Rather, KR 1-2 derives from a source that predates the redaction of the Bavli. Particularly revealing is the fact that, while 70 percent of baraitot and 82 percent of meimrot in KR 1-2 have parallels in the Bavli, the anonymous portion of the Bavli (Bavli stam) is conspicuously missing from the parallel in KR 1-2, implying that KR 1-2 likely predates this layer. In addition, a comparison of KR 1-2 with geonic texts demonstrates that KR 1-2 is linguistically distinct from those texts (with KR 1-2 preserving earlier linguistic formulae), and that it has a different relationship to the Bavli from the geonic sources. Finally, analysis of the Aramaic formulae reveals KR 1-2 to be amoraic rather than post-amoraic (see Chapter 6, pp. 182ff. below). The linguistic analysis is particularly significant. By using KR 3-9 as a control with which to compare Aramaic formulae, my analysis demonstrates to a statistically significant extent that KR 1-2 is linguistically distinct from KR 3-9. While KR 1-2 is almost exclusively composed of Aramaic formulae that can be found in meimrot in the Bavli, KR 3-9 has a mix of formulae that can be found in meimrot in the Bavli and formulae that can be found exclusively in the stam of the Bayli. This demonstrates that the two sections of KR are distinct, and it leaves the amoraic dating of KR 1-2 and the post-amoraic dating of KR 3-9 as the only viable theory to explain the data. Thus, form and source critical methods establish the origins of KR 1-2 in the late amoraic period.

Based on these conclusions, MK cannot be considered post-amoraic either, since a text cannot predate the commentary on it. In Chapter 2, I set out to test this dating based on the evidence from MK itself. As in Section 2, I use form and source critical methods to do this. First, a comparison with three important and lengthy parallels with the Bavli demonstrates that the Bavli was not MK's source, but that MK preserves an earlier version of the passage that is uncontaminated by the later layers of the Bavli parallel. In fact, clues left behind in the meimrot in the Bavli itself reveal that MK preserves the order of the lemmata that was known by the amoraim who authored those statements, and not the order found in the Bavli in which those statements were subsequently preserved. In other words, the Bavli's own meimrot point to MK as preserving the original order of the lemmata, and reveal that the order found in the Bavli has been reorganized by a later hand. In another passage, MK preserves the more expansive version of the midrash upon which several meimrot preserved in the Bavli seem

predicated. That is, while the Bavli preserves part of the midrash, and while it preserves the meimrot, it is only from MK that we find the rest of the midrash on which the meimrot in the Bavli are predicated. Finally, parallels between MK and the Yerushalmi reveal the Babylonian linguistic features of the passage even in the Yerushalmi parallel. While this does not in and of itself prove that MK is the Yerushalmi's source for these passages, it does demonstrate that the Yerushalmi is coincidentally borrowing from a Babylonian source. If MK is indeed the Babylonian amoraic text it seems to be, then it is our most likely source for these Yerushalmi parallels.⁵

While the main thesis of Chapter 2 is the confirmation of KR 1-2's dating of MK to the amoraic period and the location of that redaction in amoraic Babylonia, it was impossible not to notice and not to comment upon the important role that the school of R. Johanan seemed to play in the Bayli parallels. In two of the three extensive parallels with the Bayli, which are also two of the three cases in which MK significantly differs from the Bayli, a remarkable number of statements in the Bayli parallel are attributed to R. Johanan and his students and colleagues.⁶ Even in the third lengthy parallel with the Bayli in which R. Johanan and his students and colleagues for the most part are not quoted (although, significantly, R. Eleazar b. Pedat is quoted in that passage in the Bayli), the parallel in the Yerushalmi attributes a related statement to R. Johanan in conjunction with the parallel, confirming this strange relationship between this sage (and his school) and MK. As an ancillary thesis, therefore, in Chapter 2, I also offer a more precise hypothesis regarding the details of MK's date of redaction and process of transmission.

Not only does the school of R. Joḥanan seem to have played an important role in the post-redaction transmission of MK, but one key parallel with the Bavli and Yerushalmi seems to reveal that MK preserves the second but not the third amoraic generational layer of the sugya. Since both the Bavli and Yerushalmi help to confirm the layers (including the general attribution of the layers), I suggest the latter half of the second amoraic generation as a likely date of redaction of MK. During this process of redaction, an early version of MK seems to have been transmitted to Palestine to R. Joḥanan and his circle of students, and some of the

⁵ Positing that MK is a likely source for these parallels does not necessarily mean that the Yerushalmi had MK as we know it. As we shall discover, the Yerushalmi may have known a rudimentary version of MK. In other words, MK may have continued to undergo further redaction after an early version of it was transmitted to Palestine.

⁶ In spite of the fact that the Bavli and MK manifest striking difference in attribution and even at times in wording, the fact that both texts contain passages with a lengthy series of the same or similar statements demonstrates that they are related in some way.

Introduction 7

intermediate units of this version of MK seem to have been transmitted back to Babylonia in their form as reworked by this school.

MK, then, seems to have been at times the direct and at other times the indirect source for the Bavli rather than vice-versa. A number of converging pieces of data all point to this single hypothesis. Moreover, to date, this is the only hypothesis I have been able to develop that explains all of the data. Nevertheless, since any attempt to retrace the precise origins, transmission, and evolution of rabbinic material over time and space is inherently speculative, this hypothesis must remain an hypothesis.

In Chapters 3 and 4, I take up the analysis of the content of MK, which presents several difficulties. On the one hand, MK seems to cover several unrelated topics. On the other hand, these topics overlap, at the very least, insofar as they each address the physical consequences upon the bodies of the men and their offspring who engage in "inappropriate" behavior with a consecrated object. At the core of each topic is the violation of the consecrated status of an object (in MK, consecrated objects include persons, things, and ideas). While the notion of heqdesh (consecration) helps us to understand what these topics have in common, it does not ultimately help us to understand why these specific objects are conceived by the redactors of MK as having this status, nor why the violation of this consecration should lead to physical consequences upon the bodies of the men who engage in such behavior and their offspring.

Lacan's notion of the phallus helps to explain why these particular objects would have been understood as consecrated, and why these specific consequences might be associated with the activities that are thought to cause them, for, each of the objects deemed consecrated in MK are deemed phallic in Lacanian theory. I turn to Lacan not because I believe that Lacan can necessarily explain human nature as a whole, but because I find that his theory explains much of what lies behind MK. In other words, in this book I do not attempt to ascertain the validity of Lacan's theories beyond the scope of their applicability to this one text. Indeed, in this book I do not even attempt to evaluate the validity of Lacan's theories for rabbinic literature as a whole. Nevertheless, this book's conclusions do imply that if Lacan's theory of the phallus is applicable to MK, then it may indeed be applicable to other passages in other rabbinic texts as well.⁷

⁷ Admiel Kosman and Ruth Golan have also found Lacan of use for explaining Babylonian passages from the talmudic period. See their "A Woman's Voice Is "Erva": The Female's Voice and Silence—Between the Talmudic Sages and Psychoanalysis," in Saints and Role Models in Judaism and Christianity, ed. M. Poorthuis and J. Schwartz, (Leiden: Brill, 2004), 357–375. In fact, much of the material they found most applicable to a Lacanian reading (a passage in bBer24a) is that attributed precisely to the group of sages I find to be most likely associated with the redaction of MK: the (second and) third generation of Babylonian amoraim. In fact, the passage has a similar asceticism to that of MK.

MK will be shown to be concerned with the danger inherent in the encounter with those consecrated objects of its time: women as wives, money as charity, and words as rabbinic sayings, among others. To interact with them in a mundane way threatens to desecrate their consecrated status. This threat to the object of consecration is accompanied by a commensurate threat to the bodies of the men and their offspring. That is, the bodies of the men and their children are smitten with diseases and ailments as a direct consequence of the profanation of the consecrated object.

Misusing consecrated objects is me'ilah, stealing from God. This crime against God results in a rupture with God. It should not surprise us, then, if this rupture is expressed in MK as having cosmic effects upon the bodies and souls of the men, their offspring, and ultimately the Jewish people as a whole.

Chapter 1

Previous Scholarship

I. Higger's Critical Edition of MK

In 1936, Michael Higger published his critical edition of MK and KR. While his edition of KR is quite problematic (as noted in Section 2), his edition of MK is still of great value. For MK, Higger had ten manuscripts to compare and to dissuade him from editing the text based purely on his own intuition (as he did in KR and in many of his other critical editions). In all of MK, only once does he change the text contra the manuscripts based on his intuition, and even in that case, his revision consists merely of reversing the order of a few sentences. That instance is in MK 13 (pp. 143–44, lines 89–93 of Higger's edition), and he notes the change in his apparatus. Obviously, the order of the sentences should be returned to the order attested in the manuscripts, and I have done precisely this wherever I quote or translate this section.

Another small problem with Higger's version of MK is that he created an eclectic text. Nevertheless, he usually remains faithful to his primary manuscript (the Munich manuscript). The few emendations that he makes (apart from the one significant change just mentioned) are mostly limited to filling out abbreviations and quoting the full verses found in brief in the manuscript. Higger has ample manuscript support for these minor changes, and they should not concern us. His edition is eclectic because on occasion Higger uses the version in manuscript Oxford 370 (Opp. 726) over and against the version in the Munich manuscript. Most of these variants are fairly minor and are supported by the majority of the manuscripts; also, Higger documents the fact that he is not following the Munich manuscript in his critical apparatus. I have checked his main text and his critical apparatus against the Munich manuscript to determine his faithfulness to that manuscript. Thus, Higger's critical edition is generally acceptable for MK (although not for KR). Nevertheless, whenever I quote from MK, I

¹ Michael Higger, Massekhtot Kallah (New York: Moinester Publishing Co., 1936).

² See pp. 226ff. below.

have chosen to copy directly from the Munich manuscript, rather than from Higger's edition.

One misleading aspect of Higger's edition is that he includes Alexandri Zeuslin's and R. Elijah b. Solomon of Vilna's editions and emendations in his critical apparatus along with the manuscripts of MK, even though R. Elijah of Vilna's emendations, for example, are primarily a conscious reconciliation of MK's version with that of the Bavli.³ This can easily mislead the unwary into thinking that a manuscript of MK has such a variant. In addition, in 2006, scholars have access to nearly two and a half times as many manuscripts of MK as Higger did, although the majority of these manuscripts fall into one or another of the manuscript families already attested in Higger's critical apparatus.⁴ Thus, while a new edition with an apparatus that includes all of the extant manuscripts would be of great value, Higger's edition of MK is more than adequate in the meantime.

II. Secondary Literature on MK

Apart from Higger, scholars have only devoted a few pages each to the topic of MK and its redaction, and most of their analysis has focused on the three references to a massekhet kallah⁵ in bQid49b, bTaan10b and

³ For a critique of Higger's inclusion of Zeuslin's text as a witness to Massekhet Soferim, see Debra Reed Blank, "It's Time to Take another Look at 'Our Little Sister' Soferim: A Bibliographical Essay," *Jewish Quarterly Review* 90 (1999): 17.

⁴ One significant exception is MS London, Or. 9953, which manifests significant variants from any other known MS of MK. This MS, however, contains only a small fragment of MK, making it of limited use. Furthermore, the MS contains the addition to MK 23 found in only one MS family and which seems to be a corrupt addition, suggesting that this version and its variants may be late. The full list of MSS of MK which have come to my attention are as follows: MS Budapest, Orszagos Rabbinkepzo Intezet Konyvtara 53; MS Cambridge, Trinity College, 74; MS Cambridge TS F 2(1).39; MS Cambridge TS F 15.21; MS Cambridge TS NS 312.23; MS JTS R34 (Adler 2237); MS JTS R56; MS JTS R1305; MS JTS R1823 (folio 75b-80a); MS Leeds, Brotherton Library, Roth 317; MS London, Beth Din and Beth ha-Midrash, 28; MS London, British Library, 472 (Oriental 5009); MS London, British Library, Or. 9953; MS London, British Library, Or. 10031; MS London, British Museum, Or. 1389; MS Moscow, Lenin State Library, Guenzberg 515; MS Munich 95; MS Oxford, Heb. g. 8 (Neubauer 2857); MS Oxford, Mich. 175 (Neubauer 2257); MS Oxford, Opp. 39 (Neubauer 371); MS Oxford, Opp. 59 (Neubauer 1000); MS Oxford, Opp. 250 (Neubauer 372); MS Oxford, Opp. 726 (Neubauer 370); MS Paris, Bibliotheque Nationale, heb. 394; MS Vatican, ebr. 299; MS Warsaw, Uniwersytet, Inst. Orientalistyczny 258.

⁵ A variant to *massekhet kallah* in some versions is *massekhta de-kallah*. The breakdown is as follows. In bQid49b, MS Oxford Opp. 248 (367) has במסכת כלה; MS Munich 95 has במסכת; the Spanish recension has במסכל כלה; MS Vatican 111 and the Venice edition have במסכתא דכלה. In bTaan10b, MSS Oxford Opp. Add. fol. 23 (366) and

Index of Sources

Hebrew Bible

Commis		N 1	
Genesis	124 464	Numbers	50
1:27	134, 464	4:25	58
6:5	453	5:12	93
6:12	455, 477	6:4	58
24:60	422	15:39	71, 78
27:12	44, 432, 452	31	319
27:18–19	298	31:49	55, 425
28:11	136	31:50	54, 55, 61, 83,
30:16	71		124, 126, 424
30:25–31:13	137		
38:9	455	Deuteronomy	
38:10	43, 44, 50, 336,	1:13	71
	338, 340, 341,	1:15	71
	433, 453, 455,	12:2	44, 48, 453
	457, 477	15:11	289
38:14-23	94	22:9	95
46:30	368	23:18	94
49:14	71		
		1 Samuel	
Exodus		1:9	220, 221, 302-
4:24-26	117		12, 443
20:13	457	1:18	311
20:17	69, 73, 426	1:19	309, 312
24:5	106, 431		,
24:11	106, 381, 431	2 Samuel	
29:29	320	13	133, 134
32:25	414		,
33:20	438	2 Kings	
33:21	136	2:12	58
55.21	100	2.1.2	
Leviticus		Isaiah	
1:21	58	1:15	478
11:44-45	109	5:17	58
14:56	277	14:1	451
18	113	19:18	58
18:19	106	33:21	58
20	113	41:16	58
20:17	96	57	475
20:18	106	57:5	41–52, 158, 432,
22:31–33	163	37.0	451–53
		57:6	48
		2	••

57:16	451, 457	Psalms	
61:1	455	5:5	336, 457
65:5	95	22:21	157
0010	,,	25:8	390, 392
Jeremiah		30:1	396
2:30	433	40:9	397
10:15	44	62:13	396
46:20	58	66:18	390, 392, 394
51:18	432, 452	112:9	163, 434
31.10	732, 732	147:14	412
Ezekiel		177.17	712
20:38	71, 77, 78	Proverbs	
20.36	71, 77, 78	11:21	424
Hosea		29:18	414
4:2	58	29.10	414
4:6	433, 487	Job	
4.0	433, 467	12:20	438
A			402
Amos	50	31:12	402
7:14	58	22 2	
01 11 1		Song of Songs	20
Obadiah	-0	6:8	20
1:6	58	- 1	
		Ruth	
Habakkuk		1:17	435
3:9	47	4:2	422
		4:11–12	423
Zephaniah			
3:18	58	Ecclesiastes	
		3:21	45, 433, 455
Zechariah		5:5	433
9:6	58	8:5	434
12:11	58		
		Esther	
Malachi		2:22	379, 436
3:16	227, 389, 392-		
	97, 416	1 Chronicles	
		12:33	72

Mesopotamian Literature

Code of Hammurabi §§209–10,

130

Qumran, Hellenistic, and Roman Literature

Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha		Herodotus Histories of the Persian War,		
Susanna	156	1:133	365	
Wisdom of Solomon		Hippocrates		
14:23-29	154	On the Sacred Disease	142	
		Peri Heptamenou	129	
Aristotle		Peri Oktamenou 10	129	
De Anima				
II, 3	161	Musonius Rufus		
III, 12	161	XII, "On Sexual Indulge	ence"	
The Generation of Anin	nals		114	
716a7-8	158			
727a25-30	159	Philo		
735a5-9	158	On the Creation		
765a10-12	159	124	129	
		On the Special Laws		
Caelius Aurelianus		3.1–70	113	
Acute Diseases II, book	X, "On Seizure or	3.9	113	
Stupor"	143	3.32, 34, 36	158	
Acute Diseases II, book	XIII, "Pleurisy"			
87	144	Qumran		
Chronic Diseases I, boo	k IV, "Epilepsy"	Damascus Document		
	142	4Q270 7 I	93, 102, 120	
		40415 9	111	
Empedocles		4Q416 2 IV	111	
A 81	138	4Q418 10	111	
Colon		Camana		
Galen		Soranus		
On the Generating Seed		Gynaecology	127	
the Child 6–7	141 Port 641	1.10.39	137	
On the Usefulness of th		1.39.2	140	
Body 14.6–7	128, 133	9.1.16	133	

New Testament

Luke 2:22–35	236	1 Thessalonians	110
Romans	155	1 Peter	100, 108–12
1:22–32		1:15–16	109
1 Corinthians	155	1:18-22	109
6:9–11		2:12	110

_	1	1
7	1	n

2:2

2:14

4:1

Index of Sources

2:18ff. 3:1-7 3:14ff.	109 109 111	4:12–16	111
	N	Iishnah	
Berakhot 9:5	366	5:20 6 6:6	36 179, 197 36
Kila'im 7:4	95	Zevaḥim 8:1	167
Shabbat 3:6	295	Ḥullin 8:4	4
Megillah 3:3 4:4	108 15	Bekhorot 6:12	134
Ketubbot 7:10	404	Keritot 6:9	4
Nedarim 1:2	90	Tamid 1:1	295
Sotah 3:4	369	Middot 1:5	295
Makkot 1:6	4	Ahilot 7:6	161, 293
'Avodah Zarah 5:6	361, 455	Miqva'ot 10:6	366
Avot 1:5	79	Niddah 2:1	350, 360, 451

Tosefta

5:2

6:1

452

105

Berakhot 1:15 6:13	4 117	Dema'i 2:7 2:17	4 382
Peah 1:4	388–99	Shabbat 15:16	4

121

196

123

6:10	295		
6:2	295	Qiddushin	
		3:9	11, 15
Yoma'			
2:15	4	Bava' Qamma'	
2:3	295	6:26	295
Rosh ha-Shanah		Bava' Metzi'a'	
2:1	4	2:30	28-31, 36, 84
2:2	4		, ,
		Bava' Batra'	
Megillah		10:8	431
1:5	167		
3:17	15	Sanhedrin	
		12:10	387
Mo'ed Qatan			
1:5	39, 306	Ḥullin	
		8:15–16	79
Ḥagigah			
2:2	400	Niddah	
		2:8	351–53, 357,
Ketubbot			359, 368
1:4	382, 431		
7:11	344, 404		

Yerushalmi

Berakhot		14d (14:4)	297
5b (2:6)	36, 37, 120	, ,	
14a (9:3/4)	117	Yoma'	
` ,		41a (3:8)	295
Peah		41d (4:5)	366
16b (1:1)	388-99	` /	
` /		Megillah	
Kila'im		72a-b (1:12)	187, 217, 287,
29c (4:6/8)	65	, ,	320, 321
31c (8:3)	161	75a (4:1 end)	55, 126
Sheviʻit		Mo'ed Qatan	
35b (4:2)	36, 163, 164	80a (1:1)	203, 273
` ,		80c (1:4)	39, 306
Ḥallah		80d (1:7)	413
58c (2:4)	36, 41, 52–66,	80d (1:8)	217
	86, 125	82a (3:2)	367
		83b (3:7)	11, 17
Shabbat		83c (3:7)	60
5b (2:6)	36		
6c (3:8)	295	Ḥagigah	
8b (6:4)	36, 37, 41, 52– 66, 83	77b–c (2:1)	112

Yevamot		Sanhedrin	
5d (4:2)	129	23b-c (6:5-6)	156
		26c (8:9)	292
Ketubbot		, ,	
25a (1:1)	36, 81	'Avodah Zarah	
31b (7:5)	36	39c (1:2)	327
, .		40d (2:2)	297
Sotah		42a (2:9)	292, 295, 296,
18a (2:2)	295		384, 412
, ,		45b (5:15)	292, 294, 295
Bava' Metzi'a'		` /	
8d (2:8)	28–31, 36, 37, 84	Niddah	
, ,		49d (2:1)	352, 353, 360,
		, ,	368

Bavli

Berakhot		21a	205
6a	389, 391, 397,	22a	498
	494, 497	26a	203
12a	66	28a	58, 191
14b	190, 413	30a	322
16a	382	32b	82
17a	380, 494	35b	66
18a	205	41a	361, 367
23b	295	42b	295
24a	47, 55, 61, 126,	43a	295
	127, 134	44a	500
25a	205	46a	204
25a-b	367	47a	500
26a	206	47b	295
27a-b	322	54a	204
27b	31	55b	204
28a	58, 59	62b	204
35a	205	63a	389, 391, 397,
35a-b	97		494, 497
40a	214, 249, 322-	63b	54, 57, 203
	26, 357, 377, 429	64a	191
51a	189	64a-b	35, 37, 41, 52-
52b	295		66, 82, 83, 86,
53b	498		125, 171
59a	204	66a	204
60a	141	69a	205
61a	82, 431	71a	339
		75a	205
Shabbat		88b	295
4a	204	91a	204
12b	340	92b	407, 498
20a	39, 500	94b	66

102a	204	108a	313–18, 494, 495
108b	495	108b	205
108b–109a	160	112b	82, 144, 210,
113a	204		264, 268–73,
11 4 a	11–19, 81		285, 322, 382
119b	39, 214, 408–15,		
	495	Yoma'	
124b	66	14a	190
125b	500	22b	204
126a	500	27b	204
126b	339, 500	28a	204
127a	500	29b	295
129a	190	30a	295, 364
132a	205	32b	58, 59, 204
132b	205	37b	295
134b	205	38b	191
137b	117	59a	506
139b	295	66b	235
143b	507	77b	58, 59
150a	66	78b	205
152b	235	84a	297-99, 322
Eruvin		Sukkah	
100b	71	32b	204
104a	205	37b	440
11b	191	52a	322, 382, 494
12a	500	56b	506
12b	500		
15a	205	Beitza	
37b	205	22a	214
43b	204		
47b	205	Rosh ha-Shanah	
52a	205	12b	339
53a	219	27b	190
88a	190	270	170
93b	191	Ta'anit	
750	171	4b	339
Pesaḥim		10b	10, 12, 17, 20
9a	203	22a	508
11a	205	24a	508
24b	339	27a	500
30a-b	299, 301	Megillah	
32b	235	3a	58
37b	205	8b	204
49b	382, 494	12a	204
52a	287	14a	203
58a	205	14a 15a	82 82
68a	58, 59, 203	15a 16a	508
69a		19a	204
71a	190, 413	19a 27b	20 4 295
	205		
80b	205	28b	217
100a	500	29a	365

Mo'ed Qatan		14a	205
3b	273, 339	24a	205
4a	203, 273	40b	340
6b	39, 66, 306	43b	204
8b	66	59a	203
10a	217	61a	204
14b	205	62b	400
17a	282	65a	184, 210, 213,
26a	58, 59		220, 221, 261,
28b	58		302–12, 314,
			318, 319, 322,
Ḥagigah			361, 374, 442,
14b	400, 440		443, 495
15a-b	112	66b	304, 372, 467
		66b-67a	288-99
Yevamot		72a	381, 491, 494
15a	506	72b	405
35b	287	77a	209, 214, 217,
37b	507		322, 343–45,
47b	276, 502		353, 403-8, 476,
48a	205		495, 497, 498,
53a	205		500
60b	319–22, 494	77b	38, 82, 243, 322,
62a	277, 500, 501		323, 333
63b	277, 295	96a	204
64a	204	105a	498
67b	339		
68a	204	Nedarim	
69b	204, 322, 326–	7b	282
	27, 344, 381, 494	8a	13
70a	204	11b	205
76b	381, 495	12a	204
78a	190	14a	204
78b	78	20a	34, 62, 127, 484,
90b	191		495
91b	205	20a-b	21, 41, 60, 61,
92a	190		65, 67–80, 82,
112a	205		83, 86, 114, 115,
114b	205		129–32, 137,
115a			
115b	205		138, 146, 171,
1130	205 205		214, 260, 322,
			214, 260, 322, 328–34
Ketubbot	205	20b	214, 260, 322, 328–34 369
Ketubbot 6b	205	21b	214, 260, 322, 328–34 369 498
Ketubbot 6b 7b	205 204 261, 381	21b 23a	214, 260, 322, 328–34 369 498 191
Ketubbot 6b	204 261, 381 213, 214, 322,	21b 23a 24b	214, 260, 322, 328–34 369 498 191 204
Ketubbot 6b 7b	204 261, 381 213, 214, 322, 370–74, 461–66,	21b 23a 24b 30b	214, 260, 322, 328–34 369 498 191 204 146
Ketubbot 6b 7b 7b–8a	204 261, 381 213, 214, 322, 370–74, 461–66, 467, 494	21b 23a 24b 30b 36b	214, 260, 322, 328–34 369 498 191 204 146 204
Ketubbot 6b 7b 7b–8a	204 261, 381 213, 214, 322, 370–74, 461–66, 467, 494 201	21b 23a 24b 30b 36b 38a	214, 260, 322, 328–34 369 498 191 204 146 204 58, 59
Ketubbot 6b 7b 7b–8a	204 261, 381 213, 214, 322, 370–74, 461–66, 467, 494 201 299	21b 23a 24b 30b 36b 38a 40b-41a	214, 260, 322, 328–34 369 498 191 204 146 204 58, 59 339
Ketubbot 6b 7b 7b–8a	204 261, 381 213, 214, 322, 370–74, 461–66, 467, 494 201	21b 23a 24b 30b 36b 38a	214, 260, 322, 328–34 369 498 191 204 146 204 58, 59

66b	111 112	Bava' Qamma'	
000	111, 112	3b	58
Nazir		11a	204
11b	203, 498	17b	206
39a	58, 191	28a	505
44b	204	32b	295
61b	203	33b	190
010	203	38a	58
Sotah		39a	498
4b	205	40b	190
8a	205	55a	190
oa 17a		92b	204
1 / a	214, 230, 354,	926 111a	204
22a	399–403, 494 217	111a 115a	204
		113a	204
48a 49b	386	Daniel Martini	
490	161	Bava' Metzi'a'	204
Otat.		8a	204
Gittin	202	7b	204
8b	203	15a	204
20a	204	33a	28–31, 82, 214,
46b	205	40	322, 382, 494
57a	431, 498	43a	498
64b	498	49a	204
68a	191	66b	191
69b–70a	140	77b	206
70a	31, 38, 82, 114–	84–86	236
	16, 140, 142,	84a	137, 155
	243, 253, 255,	85a	236
	322, 323, 333,		
	345–47, 353,	Bava' Batra'	
	494, 495	8a	322
79a	339	9a	214, 382, 496
		10b	82, 322
Qiddushin		16b	65
2aff.	367	25a	204
2b	91, 172, 174	36a	66
11a	498	37b	204
13a	58, 59	42a	299
30b	382	74b	66
40a	388–99, 416,	91b	209, 332, 337,
	494, 497		381, 408–15, 494
49b	10–16, 20	110b	339
50a	190	140b	204
50b	204	142a	205
6 4 a	205	143a	203
65a	204		
70b	276, 277, 502	Sanhedrin	
72b	58, 59	7a	505
75a	326–27	21a	133
81b	498	24a	203
		27b	204
		30b	235

32b	187	Horayot	
34a	295	10b	13
39b	508	14a	191
46b	205		
48b	204	Zevaḥim	
54b	94	5b–6a	273
63b	205	7b	204
72b	292	8b	272
74a	154, 286	23b	206
76a	203	52a	205
81a	190, 413	69b	498
91b	161	95a	366
92a	41-52		
98b	204	Menahot	
100b	295	21a	205
101a	24–28, 66, 82,	35a	204
	386	45a	235
		68a	205
Makkot		70b	205
6a-7a	259	100a	235
8a-b	287	109a	204
22b	259	109b	191
28a	106	110a	58, 59, 205
			, ,
Shevu'ot		Ḥullin	
20a	204	8b	498
26a	406, 498	26b	498
26b	214, 322	49b	190, 413
37a	204	51a	65
41a	498	69b	498
41b	498	70a	65
45b	191	74a	406
		104b	82
'Avodah Zarah		105b	432
2a	219, 327	106a	204
5a	277, 500	107b	203
17b	204	111b	273
18a	165, 166, 246,	125b	204
	263, 382	128b	498
20b	214, 472, 495	1200	.,,
28a	297, 322	Bekhorot	
33b	383, 500	25b	205
35b	296	30b	382
39a	263, 382	34b	205
39b	292, 295, 296,	41a	134
370	384, 412	41b	204
44a	58, 59, 159	42b	134
54b	191	44b	366
60a	187	50b	498
75b-76b	292, 294, 295	55b	340
/30-/00	272, 274, 273	330	340

4a 9b 10b 11b 22a 22b	204 205 203 190 498 190, 413	13a	60, 476, 494 41–52, 83, 86, 113, 171, 209, 213, 261, 266, 278, 280, 295,
10b 11b 22a 22b	203 190 498	13a	113, 171, 209, 213, 261, 266,
11b 22a 22b	190 498		213, 261, 266,
22a 22b	498		, , ,
22b			278, 280, 295,
	190, 413		
Temurah	•		339, 348–54,
Temurah			476, 492, 494,
			495
25b	190	13b	45, 214, 263,
27a	204		, , ,
			335–43, 353,
Keritot			375, 380, 382,
6a	366		404, 415, 472,
10a	206		479, 494, 495,
27a	204		501
		16b-17a	144, 363
Tamid		17a	38, 82, 99, 144,
27a	498		172, 243, 322
29a	205	21b	191, 205
		25b	65, 141
Niddah		28a	141
3a	65	31a	133, 141, 159–61
13a-b	41, 80–83, 114,	36b	498
	171, 210, 212,	43a	351, 360, 368
	213, 261, 266,	58a	127
	273, 278, 280,	62b	191
	339, 355–70,		
Keritot 6a 10a 27a Tamid 27a 29a Niddah	204 366 206 204 498 205 65 41, 80–83, 114, 171, 210, 212, 213, 261, 266, 273, 278, 280, 306, 322, 335,	17a 21b 25b 28a 31a 36b 43a 58a	476, 492, 494, 495 45, 214, 263, 265, 273–88, 335–43, 353, 375, 380, 382, 404, 415, 472, 479, 494, 495, 501 144, 363 38, 82, 99, 144, 172, 243, 322 191, 205 65, 141 141 133, 141, 159–61 498 351, 360, 368 127

Minor Tractates

Avot de-R. Nathan, Ve		MK 1-17	89, 90, 106, 113,
chapter 6	146		122, 164
		MK 1-19	88
Avot de-R. Nathan, Ve	ersion B	MK 1	X, 36, 106, 170,
chapter 18	393–98		260, 261, 422,
-			490
Soferim		MK 2	37, 332, 423, 490
10-21	179	MK 2-3	36
		MK 3	25, 37, 120, 121,
Semahot (Evel Rabbat	i)		123, 130, 175,
8:12	165		332, 423, 484,
			490
Massekhet Kallah		MK 3-8	88
MK 1-2	88, 119, 120	MK 4	24–28, 66, 82,
MK 1-3	121		90, 107, 120,
MK 1-7	171		121-24, 142,
MK 1-15	89		170, 175, 260,

	332, 386, 423, 436, 490	MK 13	9, 39, 82, 89, 99, 115, 140, 171,
MK 4–8 MK 5	124 123, 124, 130, 260, 261, 332, 424, 490		242, 243, 247– 58, 262, 323, 345–47, 418, 428, 485
MK 5–17	121	MK 13-15	141–45
MK 6	82, 260, 332, 424, 490	MK 14	82, 99, 144, 261, 269, 270, 429
MK 6-7	124–29, 160	MK 15	82, 99, 124, 132,
MK 7	4, 35–37, 41, 82,		135, 140, 141,
	83, 86, 95, 97,		144, 261, 269,
	134, 150, 170–		270, 323, 430,
	72, 261, 297, 424		486, 491
MK 7–8	52-66	MK 16	31, 76, 88, 89,
MK 7–9	47, 146		145–48, 163,
MK 8	21, 36, 41, 82,		164, 174, 297,
	89, 124, 125,		426, 430, 484,
	129–31, 145,	N/I/ 17	491, 492
	150, 164, 170,	MK 17	63, 89, 94, 98,
	260, 329, 332,		106, 119, 145,
MK 8-10	425, 484, 491 21, 41, 61, 67–		149–51, 150, 153, 164, 174,
IVIK 0-10	84, 86, 114, 115,		431, 492
	129, 132, 146,	MK 18	41, 44, 46, 84,
	328–34	WIK 10	89, 153–60, 431,
MK 8-15	114		478, 487, 493
MK 8-16	89	MK 18-19	41–52, 80, 83,
MK 8-17	126		86, 90, 172, 210,
MK 8-9	160		212, 261, 278,
MK 9	34, 82, 104, 114,		338, 355–70,
	115, 119, 130-		478, 493
	36, 153, 170,	MK 18-24	89, 164
	172, 260, 332,	MK 19	107, 154, 160–
	426, 437–42,		63, 259, 260,
	484, 491, 492		281, 340, 342,
MK 9–19	88		427, 432, 487,
MK 10	82, 89, 98, 99,		492
	135, 137–40,	MK 20	36, 89, 90, 107,
	144, 160, 228,		261, 426, 433,
	244–45, 332,	MV 20 21	487, 491–93, 503
	369, 390, 426, 485, 491	MK 20–21 MK 20–22	88 162–65
MK 11	31, 82, 115, 140,	MK 20–22 MK 20–24	88, 171
MIK 11	428, 485	MK 20=24 MK 21	36, 82, 89, 90,
MK 11–12	140–42	WIK 21	107, 163, 166,
MK 11–15	31, 140, 143,		247, 261, 433,
	255, 323		488, 492
MK 12	36, 38, 39, 82,	MK 21-23	89, 162, 163
	99, 115, 140,	MK 22	77, 82, 89, 90,
	243, 257, 428,		162, 246, 260,
	485		434, 488, 492

MK 23	10, 82, 107, 163,	KR 1:14	190, 205, 322,
	165–68, 245,		332
	246, 435, 488,	KR 1:15	190, 205, 322,
	493		332, 491
MK 24	28–31, 36, 37,	KR 1:16	191, 228, 259,
	60, 82, 84, 88–		322, 326, 327,
	90, 107, 118,		332, 381, 390,
	119, 166, 168,		427, 491, 494
	171–75, 261,	KR 1:17	322
	379, 435, 488,	KR 1:17-23	323
	492	KR 1:18	345–47, 353,
			494, 495
Kallah Rabbati 1-2		KR 1:18-21	243
KR 1:1	170, 190, 191,	KR 1:19	494
	201, 202, 205,	KR 1:19-21	247–58
	260, 261, 297,	KR 1:20	190, 204, 205,
	299, 322, 370–	KK 1.20	322–26, 377
	74, 381, 390,	KR 1:21	205
	461–67, 490,	KR 1:22	190, 205, 261,
	494, 506	KK 1.22	269, 322, 494
KR 1:2	190, 204, 259,	KR 1:23	190, 202, 204,
KK 1.2	263, 490	KK 1.23	210, 261, 264,
KR 1:3	190, 191, 205,		268–73, 279,
KK 1.3	490		285, 322, 382,
KR 1:4	191, 332, 490,		491
KK 1.4	507	KR 2:1	190, 205, 259,
KR 1:5	190, 202, 204–6,	KK 2.1	381, 491, 495
KK 1.J		VD 2.2	146, 147, 190,
	297, 332, 382, 388–99, 490, 494	KR 2:2	191, 200, 205,
KR 1:6	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
KK 1.0	170, 190, 202,		259, 263, 297–
	204, 260, 332,		99, 322, 382,
VD 1.7	490	KD 2-2	430, 491
KR 1:7	202, 230, 261,	KR 2:3	190, 204, 205,
VD 1.0	399–403, 494		261, 322, 380,
KR 1:8	190, 204, 205,		381, 492, 494,
VD 10	332, 506	KD 2.4	506
KR 1:9	190, 204, 260,	KR 2:4	190, 203, 205,
VD 1 10	332, 506		263, 273–88,
KR 1:10	191, 261, 319–		322, 380, 415,
17 D 1 1 1	22, 494	KD 2 4 3	494, 495
KR 1:11	170, 190, 191,	KR 2:4–8	210, 212, 261,
	202, 204, 205,		355–70, 445–57,
	260, 322, 332,	WD 0.5	492
VD 1.11 17	491, 495, 507	KR 2:5	190, 200, 205,
KR 1:11–16	79, 328–34		209, 259, 322,
KR 1:12	190, 191, 203,		343–45, 348–54,
	332, 381, 491,		375, 403–8, 495,
VD 1.12	494, 506	VD 2.7	497, 500
KR 1:13	131, 132, 170,	KR 2:6	239, 259, 322,
	202, 260, 332,		341, 382, 492,
	491		494, 495

KR 2:7	190, 204, 507,	KR 4:1	505
VD A O	508	KR 4:2	505, 506
KR 2:8	184, 190, 205,	KR 4:4	186, 188, 505
	220, 259, 279,	KR 4:6	506
	297, 302–12,	KR 4:7	187, 188, 198,
	318, 322, 335-	**************************************	505
	43, 353, 374,	KR 4:8	505
	375, 382, 442,	KR 4:11	505
	443, 487, 494,	KR 4:12	188, 505
	495, 497	KR 4:14	188, 505, 506
KR 2:9	39, 190, 200,	KR 4:15	188, 505
	205, 209, 231–	KR 4:18	505, 506
	38, 261, 332,	KR 4:19	505
	337, 381, 408-	KR 4:26	505
	15, 493–95, 497,	KR 4:30	506
	508	KR 4:31	188
KR 2:10	190, 191, 200,	KR 5:1	187, 188, 505
	204, 205, 259,	KR 5:2	187, 188, 505
	491, 492	KR 5:3	187, 505
KR 2:11	190, 204, 322,	KR 5:4	187, 188, 505,
	492		506
KR 2:12	245, 263, 382,	KR 5:5	506
	493	KR 5:6	505
KR 2:13	259, 279, 288–	KR 5:7	188, 505
	99, 372, 382,	KR 5:9	188
	467, 492	KR 6:1	187, 188, 505,
KR 2:14	190, 205, 259,		506
	261, 322, 492,	KR 6:4	188, 505
	494	KR 7	199
KR 2:15	261, 322	KR 7:1	505
KR 2:16	190, 205, 261,	KR 7:2	505
	279, 313–18,	KR 7:3	505
	322, 382, 492,	KR 7:4	505, 506
	494, 495	KR 8:1	505
		KR 8:2	187, 505
Kallah Rabbati 3-9		KR 9:1	187, 505
KR 3:1	187, 188, 505	KR 9:2	505
KR 3:5	188, 505	KR 9:4	505
KR 3:6	505	KR 9:5	505
KR 3:7	505	KR 9:6	506
KR 3:8	196, 505	KR 9:10	505
KR 3:9	505	KR 9:12	187
KR 3:10	187, 188, 505	KR 9:13	186, 505
KR 3:12	188, 505	KR 9:15	186, 505
KR 3:13	187, 188	KR 9:17	505
KR 3:14	505, 506	KR 9:18	506
KR 3:15	505, 506	KR 9:19	505
KR 3:16	505	KR 9:20	188, 505
KR 3:19	505	KR 9:22	505
KR 3:20	505	KR 9:23	505
KR 3:21	188, 505		

Targumim and Midrashim

Mekhilta de-R. Simeon 20:1 20:17	b. Yoḥai 295 36	Ecclesiastes Rabbah 5:10	133, 161
Sifra Emor, parashat 8, chapt	er 9,	Targum to Song of Song 3:8	gs 117
halakha 5 Qedoshim, chapter 10, halakha 11	167 94	Pesiqta de-Rav Kahana parasha 12	360
Sifre Deuteronomy	165	Pesiqta Rabbati	126
307	103	parasha 21	136
Midrash Tannaim 23:22	36	Seder Eliyahu Rabbah 15	196
Genesis Rabbah		Tanḥuma (Buber edition)	
14:2 34:10	129 161	parashat Jethro §10	200
65:18	298	Tanhuma (printed edition	on)
68:11	136	parashat Vayigash §11	
95	368	parashat Vayigash §2	200
Leviticus Rabbah		Ma'aseh 'Asarah	
16	36	Harugei Malkhut	165
21:8	368, 400		
34	36	Midrash 'Aseret	22.5
34:16	163	ha-Dibrot	235
Numbers Rabbah		Midrash 'Eleh	
18:21	3	'Azkarah	165
Midrash Psalms 62:4	393–98	Yalkut Shimoni 1 Samuel, <i>Remez 77</i>	220, 302–12, 442–43
Ruth Rabbah 7:8	81		774-73

Geonic Literature

Halakhot Pesuqot		Sheilta 142	214, 408, 410,
Sassoon, p. 109	370, 373, 465		412
_		Sheilta 16	214, 370, 371,
Sheiltot			373, 461–66
Sheilta 131	31, 214	Sheilta 63	214

Halakhot Gedolot		Synopse zur Hekhalo	ot-Literatur
1:376	214	§102	438
2:141	214, 399, 400,	§§117–20	165
	401	§§346–48	440
2:221	214, 371, 373,	§§408–9	440
	466	§§673–74	440
2:271	214, 407		
2:298	214	Teshuvot Ge'onei Mizrah u-Ma'arav	
2:307-9	214, 329	siman 187	286
2:371	31, 214		
3:46	214	Pirqei R. Eliezer	
3:353	214, 350, 356-	chapter 11	401
	58, 362, 445-57	-	
3:380	214		

Medieval Rabbinic Literature

Aboab's Menorat ha-Ma'or		on bBer40a	429
§21	247	on bRH24b	365
§78	389	on bMeg29a	365
§178	246	on bSot17a	400, 401
§189	247	on bAZ18a	166
§337	247	on bNid13a	365
Al-Nakawa's Menorat	ha-Ma'or	scholion on Megilat Ta	'anit
4:79–81	389	on "the twelfth of Adar" 167	
Pseudo-Rashi		Sefer ha-'lttim	
on bNed20b	427	siman 168	20
R. Gershom		Toledoth Yeshu	148,149
on bBB10b	166		,
		Tosafot	
R. Nissim b. Reuven		on bKet 65a	467
on bNid13a	366		
		Zohar	
Rashi		I, 6a	135
on bBer24a	425		

Church Fathers and Other Early Christian Texts

Aphrahat "Against the Jews," §9	278	Clement of Alexandria Stromateis 3.6.45	277
Augustine De bono coniugali §11	93, 102, 114	Gospel of Philip 3:78	138

158

Irenaeus Shute of Atripe
Adversus Haereses De vita monachorum
1.1–8 150 25

Persian Literature

Pahlavi Rivâyat Accompanying the		11.4	158
Dâdestân î Dênî	îg	39b1-2	112
11.3	365		

Index of Names

Abaye, 39, 83, 184, 190, 191, 202-5, 253, 255, 303, 304, 306, 313, 315, 322, 323, 344, 346, 359, 361, 367, 404–15, 443, 451, 452, 455, 471, 494, 496, 497, 500, 506, 507 Abaye's mother, 253, 255, 346 Abba bereih de-R. Binyamin bar Hiyya, 362 Aboab, R. Isaac, 197, 246 combines parallel passages, 389 use of his Menorat ha-Ma'or in the critical edition of KR, 226 Abravanel, R. Isaac, 197 Adam creation of, 372 Albeck, Chanokh, 11, 15, 17, 22, 66, 78, 217, 272, 405, 466, 474 Al-Nakawa, Israel ibn, 222, 316 combines parallel passages, 389 use of his Menorat ha-Ma'or in the critical edition of KR, 226 Ameimar, 70, 74, 76, 115, 201, 322, 331-33, 418, 499 when lived, 201 Amnon, 133 Anisfeld, Rachel, 66 on tannaitic vs. amoraic names for God. 395 Aptowitzer, Victor, 12, 15, 20-22, 229, 238, 387, 392, 402, 405 theory that Rava in KR is not Rava of Mahoza, 230, 388, 399, 401 Aristotle, 158, 159, 161 one-seed model, 159 Avner b. Ner, 15

Bar Hebreus, 129 Barzilai, Shuli, 439 Bava ben Buta, 112, 113 Ben Azai, 15, 17, 82, 379, 436, 488 Ben Zoma, 15, 17, 123 Berkovits, Eliezer, 92, 163 Biale, David, 138 Boaz, 422 Böhl, Felix, 239
Bokser, Baruch, 97, 172
Boswell, John, 155
Boyarin, Daniel, 79, 278
Brody, Robert,

on the relationship between the Sheiltot and the Bavli, 211, 212
Brooks, Roger, 395
Brooten, Bernadette, 155
Brown, Peter, 138
Butler, Judith, 87, 100, 103, 121, 134, 151, 152, 441

Caesar, 165 Cohen, Avinoam, 78 Coronel, Naḥman, 228 Courbet, Gustave, 439

Danzig, Neil, 371 David, King, 156 De Vries, Benjamin, 11, 22, 191, 213, 231, 238, 239, 319, 344, 402

- on the relationship between KR and the Bavli, 208
- on the "extraordinary" tractates, 328
- on the linguistic similarity between KR and the "extraordinary" tractates of the Bavli, 184, 328
- privileging of Coronel's edition over the Parma MS, 227

Dover, Kenneth

on intercrural intercourse, 278

Durkheim, Emile, 96

Eilberg-Schwartz, Howard, 47, 107, 134 Eliade, Mercea, 96 Elisha b. Abuya, 112 Elkanah, 309, 443, 469 Elman, Yaakov, 39, 196, 216, 218, 367, 500 – on attribution variants, 413

Epstein, J. N., 184, 304

on the "extraordinary" tractates, 328

 on the relationship between the Sheiltot and the Bavli, 211
 Epstein, Yachin, 242, 414
 Esau, 298
 Ezra, 126

Fenton, Patricia, 39, 83
Fine, Steven, 108
Fiorenza, Elisabeth Schüssler, 110
Flusser, David, 117
Foucault, Michel, 136
Fränkel, David (Qorban ha-'Edah), 372
Freud, Sigmund, 100, 438

- castration anxiety, 133, 437
- pleasure principle, 100

Friedman, Shamma, 194, 234

- on methodology, 48, 336
- on the orthographic distinction between the names Rabbah and Rava, 183, 202

Friedmann, Meir, 11, 38, 231, 238, 239, 379, 402

- on attribution variants, 386, 406
- on relationship between KR and Bavli, 208, 229

Gafni, Isaiah, 22
Galen and Galenic Medicine, 127, 128, 133, 141, 160
Gallop, Jane, 118, 152
Gikatilia, 169, 183
Golan, Ruth, 7, 100
Goldfarb, Bob, 440
Goodblatt, David, 15, 16, 19, 22
Goux, Jean-Joseph, 100, 104
Gray, Alyssa, 83, 203, 265, 376
– on early stam, 384
Gruber, Mayer, 94

Halberstam, Shelomo Zalman, 242, 314
Halivni, David Weiss, 16, 75, 189, 194, 272, 279, 285, 310, 318, 319, 344, 377, 415, 419, 436
Halperin, David J., 125
Hammer, Jill, 125, 151, 153, 159, 162
Hannah, 220, 221, 308–11, 443, 457, 468, 469
Harrington, Hannah K., 90
Hauptman, Judith, 38, 75, 384
ha-Yarḥi, R. Abraham b. Natan, 99, 139, 197, 202, 227, 251, 346, 389–91, 479

- use of his commentary in the critical edition of KR, 226
 Higger, Michael, 21, 22, 182, 197, 200, 238, 239, 289, 314, 392, 402, 405,
- critical edition of KR, 226–28

414, 501

- critical edition of Massekhet Soferim,
 226
- critical edition of MK, 9–10, 241, 429
- division of MK into sections, 60, 119, 422
- explanation of the variants between Al-Nakawa and the Bavli, 222, 308
- explanation of the variants between
 KR and the Bavli, 208, 222, 223, 308, 332, 341, 355, 357, 358, 362, 371, 374, 375, 377, 387
- MSS of KR he had access to, 227
- on the linguistic similarity between KR 3-9 and the "extraordinary" tractates of the Bavli, 183, 328
- privileging of the Parma MS over Coronel's edition, 227
- theory of the redaction of KR, 230, 296, 317
- theory of the redaction of MK, 32–34, 56, 75, 84
- theory that some gemara of KR 1-2 was incorporated into MK, 243-58, 261

Hippocrates and Hippocratic Medicine, 127-29, 138, 141, 142

two-seed model, 159, 160Hizqiyah, 217Hyman, Aaron, 339

Imma Shalom

modesty during intercourse, 70, 73–75, 82, 132, 137, 140, 330, 426
Ish Shalom, Meir. See Friedmann, Meir Issachar, 72

Jacob, 72 Jaffee, Martin, 4, 219 Jesus, 109–11, 148, 149, 155 Job, 130 Judah, 423 Judah b. Barzilai, 3, 15, 20, 21, 329

Kalmin, Richard, 66, 189, 299, 319, 344, 405, 507 Kanievsky, Ḥayyim, 310, 372 Klein, Hyman, 189, 319, 343, 353, See also Stam, questions preceding meimrot in the Subject Index Kosman, Admiel, 7, 100 Kraemer, David, 202, 337, 343, 368 Kristeva, Julia, 118, 145 Kutscher, E. Y., 219

Lacan, Jacques, 7, 97, 99–105, 135, 151, 173, 175, 437, 439

- concept of the "Name-of-the-Father,"105
- notion of mysticism, 103
- phallus. See "Phallus, Lacanian concept of" in the Subject Index

Leah, 72

Lerner, M. B., 3, 22–32, 88, 182, 239, 392, 402, 405

 KR 2:9 and his theory of the redaction of KR, 231–38

Leslie, Julia, 131

Lev, Sarra, 346

Levi, 371-74, 464, 483

Levine, Baruch, 91, 96

Lieberman, Saul, 129, 231, 232, 239

 critique of Higger's critical editions, 226, 243

Lord, A. B., 28, 174, 218, 220–23, 359 Luzzatto, S. D., 228, 238

Maimonides, 304
Mar bar Rav Ashi

— wedding of, 201, 418, 464
Mar Qeshisha bereih de-Rav Ḥisda, 191
Mar Zutra bereih de-Rav Naḥman, 204
Mareimar, 190
Margolies, Moshe (Penei Moshe), 293, 294, 321, 372
Mary, 148, 149
McGuire, Anne, 150
Meiri, Menaḥem b. Solomon, 17
Melamed, E. Z., 229

Milgrom, Jacob, 154

Moreshet, Menahem, 64

Moscovitz, Leib, 368

Moses, 424, 425

Nakedimon b. Gorion, 289, 290, 297, 304, 443, 468

Neusner, Jacob, 84, 105

on the reliability of attributions, 385

Onan, 336, 341, 455, 478

Parker, Holt, 133 Parry, Millman, 218

Paul, the apostle, 110

Penei Moshe. *See* Margolies, Moshe Peretz, 423

Peskowitz, Miriam, 123

Philo, 100, 108, 113, 158

Qorban ha-'Edah. See Fränkel, David

R. Abba, 494, 507

R. Abbahu, 296, 361, 362, 443, 457, 464, 474, 491, 495, 496, 500

R. Aḥa/Aḥai b. R. Josiah, 34, 37, 62-64, 66, 69, 149, 170, 431

R. Akiva, 15, 31, 34, 73, 149, 162, 163, 202, 230, 236, 289–91, 297, 329, 354, 387, 399–402, 423, 426, 430–34, 440, 491, 492, 496

- besting his teachers, 145-48, 163, 431
- false oath of, 297, 431
- trickster, 145-48, 163
- R. Ammi, 43, 45, 50, 80, 136, 187, 217, 260, 320–22, 336–41, 363, 364, 375, 392–95, 415, 419, 453, 457, 477, 478, 497, 499
- comment on MK, 259, 260
- student of Rav?, 339
- R. Assi, 49, 80, 217, 259, 277, 337–40, 392, 393, 415, 419, 477, 495, 497, 498, 500, 501
- transmits in name of R. Johanan, 339, 383, 415, 500, 501
- R. Avin, 340
- R. Ba, 294
- R. Eleazar (b. Pedat), 44, 46, 47, 55, 57, 59, 80, 347, 494
- as possible transmitter of MK to Palestine, 60
- student of Rav and Samuel, 59
- R. Eleazar b. Azariah, 15, 121, 423
- R. Eleazar b. Harsum, 15
- R. Eleazar b. R. Yose, 81
- R. Eleazar b. Shamua, 55
- R. Eliezer b. Dahabai, 488
- R. Eliezer b. Hyrcanus, 32–34, 42, 70–77, 82, 120, 121, 130, 131, 146, 164, 358, 364, 368, 423, 425, 426, 430, 433, 434, 436, 451–53, 490, 492, 495

- modesty during intercourse, 75, 137-40
- R. Eliezer b. Jacob, 43, 82, 84, 158, 165, 166, 432, 435
- R. Elijah b. Solomon of Vilna (Vilna Gaon), 10, 61, 145
- R. Elijah de Vidas, 182
- R. Gamaliel, 73, 426
- R. Hananiah, 296
- R. Ḥananiah b. Ḥakhinai, student of R. Akiva, 400
- R. Ḥanina, 202, 399, 402
- R. Hanina b. Gamaliel, 296
- R. Ḥanina b. Teradion, 165–68, 245, 246, 435
- R. Helbo, 276, 277, 361, 457, 494, 501
- R. Hiyya, 54, 320
- R. Ḥiyya bar Ba, 217
- R. Isaac, 43, 47, 80, 127, 133, 453, 478, 494
- R. Ishmael, 56, 94, 457
- R. Jacob bar Aha, 294
- R. Jeremiah, 191, 293, 325, 326, 507
- R. Jeremiah's mother, 325
- R. Joḥanan, 11, 18, 19, 43, 46, 54, 60, 70, 76, 137, 155, 187, 191, 217, 222, 273, 281–87, 294, 298, 320–22, 331, 332, 337, 339, 361, 362, 381, 383, 411, 412, 415, 440, 451, 453, 457, 478, 494, 500, 501
- false oath of, 297
- quoted in MK?, 34
- referencing R. Johanan b. Dahabai's statement, 74
- school of, 6, 37, 40–52, 57, 63, 74–76, 78, 80–84, 86, 170, 171, 338, 339, 475, 478
- R. Johanan b. Dahabai
- on the causes of lame, blind, mute, and deaf children, 34, 69–76, 82, 84, 114, 131, 132, 136, 330–34, 426, 427, 491
- R. Johanan b. Zakkai, 238
- R. Jonah, 187, 217, 320, 321
- R. Jonathan
- on a man whose wife requests to have sex with him, 71
- R. Joshua (b. Ḥananiah), 34, 73, 76, 82, 130, 131, 146, 162, 423, 425, 430, 433, 488, 490, 492
- R. Joshua b. Levi, 253, 322, 472, 496
- R. Joshua b. Qarha, 401
- R. Judah b. (R. Simeon b.) Pazi, 81, 157

- R. Judah b. Ilai, 29, 30, 34
- R. Judah bar Ilai, 82, 393, 396, 397, 430, 434, 436, 488
- R. Judah ha-Nasi, 37, 45, 50, 71, 76, 78, 161, 170, 236, 333, 424, 432, 464, 482, 492
- R. Judah Nessiah, 408, 410, 412, 495, 496
- R. Judah of the village of Naviraya, 220, 443
- R. Levi, 71–74, 78–80, 371–74, 463, 464, 494, 496
- R. Meir, 29, 30, 82, 84, 436
- R. Muna, 495
- R. Nathan, 78
- R. Nehemiah, 73, 82, 131, 393, 396, 397, 426, 491
- R. Nehorai, 73, 74, 131, 426, 484
- R. Nehuna b. ha-Kaneh, 165
- R. Nissim (Ran), 79, 132
- R. Samuel bar Naḥmani, 71
- R. Simeon (b. Yoḥai), 424
- R. Simeon b. Eleazar, 27
- R. Simeon b. Gamaliel, 248, 249, 324, 325, 429
- R. Simeon b. Ḥananiah, 27
- R. Simeon b. R. Judah ha-Nasi, wedding of, 464
- R. Simeon Hasida, 494
- R. Solomon b. Abraham Adret (Rashba), 366
- R. Solomon b. Isaac of Troyes. See Rashi
- R. Tarfon, 163, 289–91, 297, 351, 364, 368, 434, 457, 488, 492
- R. Yom Tov b. Avraham of Seville (Ritva), 15
- R. Yose b. R. Halafta, 82, 136
- R. Yosi b. Ḥalafta, 281, 284, 285, 361, 436, 457, 495
- R. Yosi b. R. Bon, 293
- R. Yosi b. R. Halafta, 30
- R. Yosi son of R. Judah, 344, 404
- R. Zeira, 191, 205, 507
- Rabbah, 55, 190, 202, 203, 286, 400, 413, 494
- Rabbah bar Abuha, 55, 57, 294
- Rabbah bar Mari, 204
- Rabbah bar Rav Adda, 462, 494
- Rabbah bar Rav Shila, 506
- Rabbeinu Asher b. R. Yehiel, 132

Rabbeinu Hananel, 11, 12, 16, 17, 21, Rabbeinu Isaac the elder, Tosafist, 12 Rabbinowitz, J., 427 Rabin bar Rav Adda, 462 Rashi, X, 12, 15, 16, 19, 21, 38, 47, 55, 70, 94, 95, 126, 134, 479 on wind and humidity, 429 Pseudo-Rashi on bNed, 71, 111, 132 Ray, 13, 45, 50, 66, 76, 219, 259, 299-301, 326, 329, 333, 336, 339, 344, 345, 371, 380, 381, 405-7, 494, 497, Rav Adda bar Ahava, 190, 296, 413 Rav Aha bar Abaye, 204 Rav Aha bar Rav Huna, 494 Rav Aha bereih de-Rava, 462, 494 Rav Aha of Difti, 191 Rav Akaviah, 295 Ray Ashi, 45, 49, 189-91, 201, 204, 211, 301, 337–39, 375, 393, 403, 413, 457, 464, 487, 494, 497, 499, comments on MK, 259, 260 Ray Assi, 42, 44, 49, 217, 337–39, 344, 372, 392, 393, 403-7, 415, 416, 419, 452, 453, 464, 495, 497–99 Rav Ati. See Rav Assi Rav Dimi, 217 Rav Gidal, 13 Rav Haviva, 190 Rav Ḥisda, 190, 191, 293, 322 Rav Huna, 99, 144, 172, 293, 295, 309-11, 322, 443, 479, 501, 505 Rav Huna bar Bizna, 494 Rav Huna bereih de-Rav Joshua, 13 Ray Isaac, 190 Ray Isaac bar Joseph, 322 Rav Ivya, 190 Rav Jacob of Nehar Pekod, 272 Ray Joseph, 55, 58, 63, 64, 69, 95, 189-91, 249, 313–16, 329, 330, 405, 494, 496, 500, 507 penchant for quoting Onqelos, 58 Rav Josiah, 495 Ray Judah, 54, 57, 58, 66, 97, 113, 170-72, 217, 294, 335, 340, 344, 345, 358, 361–67, 370, 371, 404–7, 415, 443, 453, 457, 462–65, 472, 474, 477, 482, 483, 494, 498, 500 Rav Kahana, 65, 395, 406, 498 Rav Moshe Gaon, 211

Rav Nahman, 55, 294, 306, 362, 457, 474, 491, 494 Rav Naḥman bar Isaac, 217, 298 Ray Natronai Gaon, 211, 329 Rav Papa, 13, 82, 187, 190, 202, 203, 273-75, 408-16, 495-97 statement by, found in MK?, 38, 39, 243 Rav Samuel, 190 Ray Sherira Gaon, 230, 367, 498 Ray Sheshet, 56, 57, 60-64, 83, 126, 191, 494 Rav Shizvi, 190 Rav Ukva bar Ḥama, 295 Rav Yehudai Gaon, 230, 329 Rav Yeymar bar Shelamia, 306 Rav Zevid, 495 Rava, 13, 66, 83, 86, 132, 183, 187, 190, 211, 229–31, 274, 275, 286, 295, 307, 308, 322, 329, 354, 359, 360, 367, 388, 390, 393, 399, 400-3, 413, 443, 452, 491, 495 comments on MK, 259, 260, 490 connection to Kallah Rabbati 1-2, 202-6, 264 from the geonic period, 202, 401, 402 Gaon of Pumbedita, 231 - prominence in KR, 183 school of, 230, 231 student of Rav Yehudai Gaon, 229 Rava bar Ahilai, 300, 301 Ravin, 191, 217 Ravin bar Rav Adda, 494 Ravina, 71, 78, 190, 191, 300, 301 Rebecca, 422 Resh Lakish, 63, 69, 74, 76, 80, 126, 127, 155, 222, 322, 329, 330, 405, 408, 410, 412, 495, 496 Rogson, Michal, 94 Rosenthal, E. S., 184, 272, 282, 405 Rosh. See Rabbeinu Asher b. R. Yehiel Rubenstein, Jeffrey, 19 Rubin, Gayle, 169

Safrai, Shmuel, 117, 121 Safrai, Ze'ev, 108 Safru Dedajni, Chaim Mendel, 310, 312 Salome, 277 Samuel, 113, 172, 204, 217, 219, 221, 252–55, 291, 304, 326, 327, 344, 345, 358, 361–67, 404–7, 415, 443, 453, 457, 472, 474, 476, 477, 494, 498, 500
Sapor I, 129
Satlow, Michael, 285, 359, 370, 376
Schäfer, Peter, 439
Schremer, Adiel, 218
Simeon b. Shetaḥ, 156
Simeon bar Ba, 294
Sperber, Daniel, 115, 232
Sperling, David, 111
Stemberger, Günter, 22, 196, 229, 238

Tamar (daughter of King David), 133 Tamar (wife of Er), 423 Ta-Shma, Israel, 234, 237, 238 Temkin, Owsei, 138, 160 Tosafot, 12, 14, 16, 132 Tryambakayajvan, 131, 138 Ulla, 204, 322 Uriah the Hittite, 157

Valler, Shulamit, 302-4

Weiss, Abraham

- on the "extraordinary" tractates, 328

 that sugyot accrued over time, 261, 375

Weiss, I. H., 11, 38, 379 Wolfson, Elliot, 125

Yehudai Gaon, 22, 229, 231 Yoav b. Tzeruyah, 15

Zeuslin, Alexandri, 10, 484 Zunz, Leopold, 37

Subject Index

berit milah. See Circumcision 'ahilu, 31, 251, 253, 255, 257, 258, 345 - 47Bestiality, 156, 157 Alcohol, consumption by women, 302bi-shelama'...'ella', 187, 190, 202, 203, 12, 309, 311 206, 272-75, 282, 288, 356, 491, 506 Amoraic Hebrew. See Mishnaic Black cumin, 142, 248, 249, 323-25, Hebrew, Amoraic 429 Amoraim Blessings early generations, authority of, 66, 405 hatima, 370, 479 Angels, 69, 70, 73, 76, 98, 106, 119, wedding. See sheva' berakhot 132, 149, 150, 235, 237, 330, 331, Blindness, causes of, 70, 72, 73, 89, 426, 431, 439, 440, 491 112, 130-32, 425, 426, 436, 438 "Anti-holy," 92, 94, 96, 98, 99, 106, Blood, 43, 45, 115, 120, 127, 138, 140, 107, 120, 121, 135, 139, 143, 145, 141, 154, 160, 243, 248, 249, 254, 146, 150, 153 274, 325, 401, 428, 429, 432, 435, Aramaic, Palestinian and Babylonian 438, 452, 453, 457, 471, 476, 478 dialectical differences, 111, 273, 337, menstrual, 348 prohibition against consumption of, 274 Aufhebung, 101, 103 'avit, 31, 254, 255 Bloodletting, 323 sex after, 140–42 Babylonia Breath, bad. See polipos oral culture of, 219 Bride, 12, 14, 20, 87, 88, 91, 94, 98, 106, 119-23, 137, 147, 150, 172, pronunciation of Hebrew/Aramaic, 219 Babylonian Hebrew. See Mishnaic 304, 305, 422, 423, 443, 463, 468 Hebrew, Amoraic, Babylonian barkhu, 233, 236, 237 Castration, 118, 133-35, 146, 437-39 Bathrooms, sex after using, 140-42 Charity, 4, 90, 102, 104, 107, 108, 116, 117, 162-66, 171, 173, 289, 290, 435 "extraordinary" tractates, 184, 191, money set aside for Purim, 166 230, 231, 239, 328 Chastity belt, 55, 126, 424 Nedarim, not studied after Rav anal, 126 Yehudai Gaon, 329 Circumcision, 90, 92, 116, 117, 172, oral vs. written transmission of, 216 Consecration, 7, 88, 90-96, 99, 100, Persian context of, 112 102, 105-9, 116-20, 130, 139, 142, relationship to Yerushalmi. See Yerushalmi, relationship to Bavli 144, 149, 151-54, 162, 165, 168, - relationship to MK. See Massekhet 171-75 See also godesh, hegdesh, Holiness, and "anti-holy" Kallah, relationship to Bavli simple sugyot, 259 Conversion, 155 Bavli baraitot Converts, 277, 278, 281, 286, 451, 457 anonymous, amoraic origin of, 66 Covenant, 90-94, 98 beit ha-rehem, 55, 62, 65, 84, 124, 126, Crossing gender boundaries, 124, 133, 425 144, 149, 150, 439 berit. See Covenant Cunnilingus, 69, 133

dalaria', 323 dardara'. See dalaria' de-'oraita, 278 Deafness, causes of, 69-75, 130-33, 330, 425, 426 delaria', 31 Demons, 70, 73, 101, 142, 427, 428 derekh 'eretz, 121, 175, 423 Diarrhea, 144, 430 Divorce, of the heart, 139 Domestic violence, 130, 147 MK and the Bavli on the permissibility of and consequences for, 67-84, 425 Drugs, proper administration of, 143

Effeminacy, 144 Eikha Rabbah, 65 'eqev, meaning "heel" and "rump," 63, 126, 330, 425 Epilepsy, 89, 142, 144, 269, 271, 428, 429 'ervah, 47 a handbreadth of a woman's body is, 127, 137 Eugenics, 89, 138, 171 Evel Rabbati (Semahot), 13

False oaths. See R. Johanan, false oath of, and R. Akiva, false oath of in the Index of Names Fetus, 70, 137, 138, 161, 293, 331, 486

Galenic Medicine, See Galen and Galenic Medicine in the Index of Names gan 'eden, 430 Gehinnom, 424, 430 Genesis Rabbah, 65 Geonic Literature - linguistic analysis of, 196

- parallels with Bavli stam, 212
- relationship to the Bavli, 211–17 gezerah shavah, 48 Gnosticism, 138, 149

God

- names of, 136, 395, 397
- stealing from. See me'ilah Gonorrhea, 348-52, 356, 451, 452

hakhi ga-'amar, 304, 505

Halakhot Gedolot, 20-22, 25, 31, 196, 211-13, 216, 286, 297, 382, 417, 480, 481 attribution variants from the Bayli, 214 relationship to the Bavli, 211–17 ha-magom, 135, 136, 397, 440 havyyan, 65, 84 Head, covering of, 146, 148 Heart attack, causes of, 249 Heaven, See gan 'eden Hell. See Gehinnom headesh, 7, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 108, 109, 134, 145, 163, 165, 174, See also Consecration Hermaphrodite, 134 Herms, 116 hesed, 96 High priest, 106, 119, 145, 320, 321,

Hippocratic Medicine, See Hippocrates and Hippocratic Medicine in the Index of Names

Holiness, 90, 94, 99, 103, 108-12, 116, 135, 144, 172, 174, 278, See also Consecration, godesh, headesh, and "anti-holy"

Holiness Code, 106 Homosexuality, 94, 144, 155, 278, 280, 284, 457

male, 155, 157, 478 "Household code," 109

Idolatry, 154-57 Iggeret ha-Qodesh, 138, 169 'ikka' de-'amrei, 187, 196, 209, 212, 217 Incest, 96, 113, See also hesed

Indian Medicine, 144 Isaiah 57:5, midrash on, 41-52, 153, 158, 160, 210, 338, 341-43, 355, 363, 370, 375, 376, 431

Islamic period, 367 'itamar, 344, 345

jouissance, 100, 103, 437

Kabbalah, 98, 169 Kallah Rabbati

 Higger's critical edition of. See Higger, Michael, critical edition of KR in the Index of Names

- Moscow MSS, corruption of, 198, 228, 390
- MSS and editions of, 197, 227, 228
- origins of the name, 182
- popularity in southern France in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, 182
- relationship to Shimmusha' Rava, 229
- relationship to the "extraordinary" tractates of the Bavli, 183
- secondary literature, 226–40

Kallah Rabbati 1-2

- agenda of, 209, 332
- Aramaic phrases in, 185, 186, 192, 202–6, 506
- attribution variance, 38, 208, 379–416, 418, 494
- average number of overlapping words of stam with Bavli, 279
- baraitot in, 264
- comparison with Geonic Literature, 35, 209, 211–17, 266, 286, 287, 355, 382, 417
- connection with Rava, 202–6, 229, 231
- date of redaction, 180–200, 194, 200– 7, 226–40, 417
- gemara incorporated into MK?, 243– 58
- Higger's critical edition of. See Higger, Michael, critical edition of KR in the Index of Names
- knew an oral transmission of MK, 219
- lack of Bavli stam, 322-54
- lacks baraitot and meimrot brought by the Bavli's stam, 208, 305, 359
- length and style of the sugya, 179, 258, 259
- linguistic affinity to Targum Onqelos,
 236
- linguistic analysis of, 180, 185, 186, 192, 202–6, 222, 417, 506
- MSS and editions of, 241
- MSS of MK most similar to its version of MK, 241
- place of redaction, 202
- pre-redacted sugyot in, 261
- relationship to KR 3–9, 182–200, 238, 417
- relationship to the Yerushalmi, 179, 258, 259, 298
- relationship to Tanḥuma, 200
- stam of, 258-61
- stam on baraitot, 263–321

- stam on individual baraitot, 267–99
- stam on pairs of baraitot or meimrot, 299–319
- version of MK, 241–63, 418, 484–89
 Kallah Rabbati 3–9
- Aramaic phrases in, 185–88, 192, 506
- date of redaction, 194, 196, 200, 226– 40, 238
- linguistic analysis of, 185–88, 192, 222, 506
- relationship to KR 1–2, 182–200, See also Kallah Rabbati 1–2, relationship to KR 3–9
- relationship to the Bavli, 199
- relationship to Tanhuma, 200

kallah session, 12, 16, 22

karet, 106, 120

Kashrut, 300

kerut shofekhah, 134, 364

Lameness, causes of, 69, 72, 73, 76, 89, 130–32, 333, 425, 426

Latin loanwords in rabbinic literature, 232

Lesbian, 144

Leviticus Rabbah, 65, 66

- dating of, 368

lishana' 'aḥarina', 184, 212, 217, 405

mamzer, 73, 77–79, 98, 99, 137, 139, 140, 148, 244, 245, 326, 327, 329,

344, 364, 365, 390, 427, 430, 431, 452, 475, 476, 485, 491

massekhet, use of the term in Amoraic Babylonia, 12–14

Massekhet Derekh Eretz, 13

- quotation in Yerushalmi, 13
- massekhet kallah
- three references in Bavli, 10-33, 81, 87
- - Rabbeinu Ḥananel's reading of, 12
- Rashi's reading of, 12

Massekhet Kallah

- absence in Palestinian texts, 82
- amoraic midrashic parallels, 36
- anonymous passages, Babylonian origin of, 66
- anti-Karaitic glosses in?, 23–32
- attribution variants, 38, 82
- Babylonian provenance of, 34–40, 58,
- careful structuring of, 105, 118

- careful transitions within, 105, 118, 120, 124, 126, 132, 139, 153, 162, 164, 166, 169, 171
- comparison with the Bavli, 111–16
- conveyance to Palestine, 35
- date of redaction, 5, 34–40, 59, 66, 170, 171
- female characters in, 122, 123, 137–40, 145–48
- known to author of Halakhot Gedolot,
 21
- known to the redactors of the Yerushalmi?, 37
- list of MSS of, 10
- loose organization of?, 88
- meimrot and baraitot commenting on, 259
- oral transmission of, 28
- phallogocentrism of, 103, 122
- place of redaction, 85
- pseudepigraphic?, 38
- R. Johanan quoted in?. See R. Johanan, quoted in MK? in the Index of Names
- redaction of, 170-71
- relationship to the Bavli, 7, 41-84
- relationship to Targum Onqelos, 59
- relationship to Toledoth Yeshu, 149
- sages quoted in, 34
- secondary literature on, 10–33
- tannaitic parallels, 36
- title, 87
- treatise on warding off evil, 116, 118 as preventive medicine, 144
- Yerushalmi parallels, 36

Massekhet Soferim, 10, 226, 243 Masturbation, 4, 41–52, 88, 89, 107, 153, 154, 157–62, 171, 277, 278, 284, 339, 342, 356, 358, 362, 368, 369, 433, 453, 455, 476–78, 487, See

also Penis, prohibition against touching

- female, 159
- relationship to idolatry, 48

me'ilah, 8, 91–99, 109, 117, 119, 122, 129, 154, 163, 167, 172

Measure for measure, 130–32, 147, 151 Meimrot, reliability of, 222, 379–416 *meitivei*, 75, 300, 301, 351

Mekhilta de-R. Simeon bar Yohai, 65 Menstrual impurity, X, 12, 63, 69, 73, 88, 98, 106, 113, 120, 148, 158, 172, 244, 245, 329, 422, 423, 427–31

Messiah

delaying of, 277–87, 356, 375, 451, 457, 501

Metonymy, 97, 101, 102, 104

Midrash halakha style, 221, 320

Midrash Rabbah, 3

mi-ka'n 'amru, 79

Milk and meat, prohibition of, 274

Minor Tractates, 3, 4, 65, 165, 179, 243, 291

miqveh, 115, 137

Miscarriage, causes of, 131

Mishnah

oral vs. written transmission of, 219

Mishnah Horayot, length of, 17

Mishnah Mo'ed Qatan, length of, 17

Mishnah Qinim, length of, 17

Mishnah Yadaim, length of, 17

Mishnah/Tosefta style, 3, 74

Mishnaic Hebrew, 34, 35, 46, 64, 111, 424

- Amoraic, 35, 66
- Babylonian, 35, 55, 65, 84, 295
- Palestinian, 35, 295

mishnat kallah, 18

Mourner's qaddish, origins of, 238

Mt. Sinai, 424

Murder, 154-58

Muteness, causes of, 69, 72, 73, 89,

130-33, 425, 426, 438

mysterium tremendum, 98, 437–39, 441

nahotei, 217

nedarim. See Vows

Nehardea, 365, 453

niddah. See Menstrual impurity

nitzotzot, 294, 295, 364

Nose, odor of. See polipos

Orality, 28, 32, 75, 174, 215, 216, 218–25, 234, 250, 256, 271, 272, 276, 282, 283, 287, 288, 308, 314, 350, 359, 375, 377, 385, 416, 467, 468, 500, See also Parry-Lord Oral-Formulaic Theory.

variants arising from similarities in sound, 292–96, 372
'oto magom, 65, 84, 136, 441

Palestinian amoraim, quoted in Bavli in Babylonian dialect, 222, 273, 337

Parry-Lord Oral-Formulaic Theory, 32, 218, 222, 234, 271, 359, See also Orality

Passover Seder, etiquette of reclining at, 313–18

paterfamilias, 110

Pederasty, 113

Penis, 45–47, 90, 92, 97, 98, 102, 103, 107, 108, 116, 117, 127, 128, 133, 134, 151–54, 158, 162, 172, 173, 437, 452, 453, 457, 474–79

prohibition against touching, 153–62,
306–8, 335–43, 348–53, 356, 361, 363,
364, 366–68, 432, 452, 457, See also
Masturbation

pereq kallah, 20

Pesiqta de-Rav Kahana, 66

Phallogocentrism, 103

Phallus, 7, 98, 100, 103, 116, 117, 121, 127–30, 135, 136, 145, 151–54, 162, 168, 173, 437, 438, 440

- "being" vs. "having," 103, 121, 168, 175
- Lacanian concept of, 7, 99–105, 116, 118, 151
- lesbian, 441
- phallic gaze, 125, 131, 438
- relationship to penis, 152

polipos, 343-45, 404-8, 452

Prostitute, 93, 94, 99, 102, 103, 120, 139, 423, See also qadesh and qedeishah

Prostitution, cultic, 155

Pumbedita, 184, 202, 230, 231

qadash, 91–99 qaddish, 233, 236, 237 qadesh, 94, 97, 99 qadosh, 92, 95, 97, 109 qedeishah, 94, 97, 99, 139 qiddushin, 90, 91, 97, 102, 109, 135, 139, 164, 172, 174, 462 qodesh, 91, 96–98, 108, 136, 149, 172 qovetz, 47, 61, 129, 140, 165, 257, 260, 262, 374, 408, 428, 491

ra'atan, 31, 140, 243, 323, 428 Rabbis

- respect for, 313–18, 436
- sayings of, 4, 90, 107, 108, 436 Rape. *See* Domestic violence

Redemption, 118, 150, 156, 174, 379, 436 reish metivta', 19

Saboraic period, 367 Seder Eliyahu Rabbah, date of redaction, 196

Semen, 43–50, 90, 138, 141, 153, 158–62, 168, 277, 280–84, 351, 363, 366, 376, 432, 433, 451–55, 470, 475, 476

spilling of. See Masturbation
 Sex (gender), causes of, 128

Sexual intercourse

- anal, 94, 132, 278, 280, 281, 284, 285, 457
- by candlelight, 144, 269
- illicit forms of, 93, 119, 120
- inappropriate forms of, 4, 46, 67–8489, 96, 110, 114, 131, 145, 173, 244, 257, 341, 425–31
- intercrural, 278
- positions, 132–36, 142–45, 150, 428, 430
- premarital, 326-27
- while inebriated, 73, 140, 257, 427, 485
- while travelling, 309, 310
- with a barren woman, 158

Shame, 69, 73, 101, 102, 146, 426, 430 *shatoqi*, 326, 327, 344, 345

Sheiltot, 31, 196, 211, 213, 216, 265, 286, 297, 382, 386, 417, 480–83

- attribution variants from the Bavli, 214, 215
- relationship to the Bavli, 211–17
 shekhinah, 31, 98, 106, 107, 117, 119, 168, 174, 365, 379, 381, 400, 401, 431, 433, 436, 440, 493, 503

shevaʻ berakhot, 371–74, 461–66 Shimmusha' Rava, 229

Song of Songs, 20, 26, 117, 122, 142, 387, 423

Soul, levels of, 161

Sperm

- female, 141
- male. See Semen

Stam

- early, nature of, 263-378
- questions preceding meimrot, 319–21, 343–47, 353, See also Klein, Hyman in the Index of Names

- stamma'im ha-metzarfim, 265, 279, 310, 375, 419
- stamma'im ha-tanna'im, 16, 419 Sura, 184, 230

Synagogue, 14, 15, 108, 109, 233, 236, 366

de-shaf ve-yatev, 365, 453, 476

tanya' nami hakhi, 66, 383, 384
Targum Onqelos, 55, 58, 95, 191

– language of in KR 1–2, 236
Temple, 90, 91, 94, 97, 108, 119, 145, 151, 236, 365, 396, 509
terumah, 274
teshuva, 155
Testimony, false, 156

Testimony, false, 156
Torah, 4, 14, 24, 26, 29, 30, 56, 62, 71, 89, 90, 107, 108, 117, 120, 121, 124, 129, 137, 142, 162, 163, 167–69, 175, 236, 237, 278, 327, 333, 369, 387, 422–24, 433, 435, 438

- crown of, 4, 90, 107, 108, 163, 164, 434
- personified as woman, 26, 27, 121–23, 423
- women can be it, but not have it, 121 *tumtum*, 134

Urinating, 113, 356, 361–68, 452, 453, 476, 477 Urverdrängung, 97, 100

Vagina

- castrating effect of, 46, 104, 133

- divine, 437-42
- inverted penis, 128, 133
- consecutive, 381, 433
- conversive, 381, 433

ve-raminhu, 75

Verdrängung, 104

vitaqin, 31, 140, 244, 245

Vows, 69, 80, 89, 90, 171

Wedding blessing. See sheva' berakhot Wife

- adulterous, 71, 92, 93, 113, 138, 154, 156, 235, 306, 307, 427, 469, 475, 476, 478
- as sacred object, 150, 424
- obedience to husband, 109-12
- sanctity of, 89, 130

Wind patterns in the Middle East, 429

Yalkut Shimoni, 314, 319

- nature of variants with the Bavli, 224
 Yerushalmi
- date of redaction, 258
- relationship to the Bavli, 259, 292–96, 377
- relationship to KR 1–2. See Kallah Rabbati 1–2, relationship to the Yerushalmi
- terminology of, 273

Zohar, 135, 194, 267 zonah. See Prostitute Zoroastrianism, 113, 143, 158, 365, 367

Texts and Studies in Ancient Judaism Alphabetical Index

Albani, M., J. Frey, and A. Lange (Ed.): Studies in the Book of Jubilees. 1997. Volume 65.

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