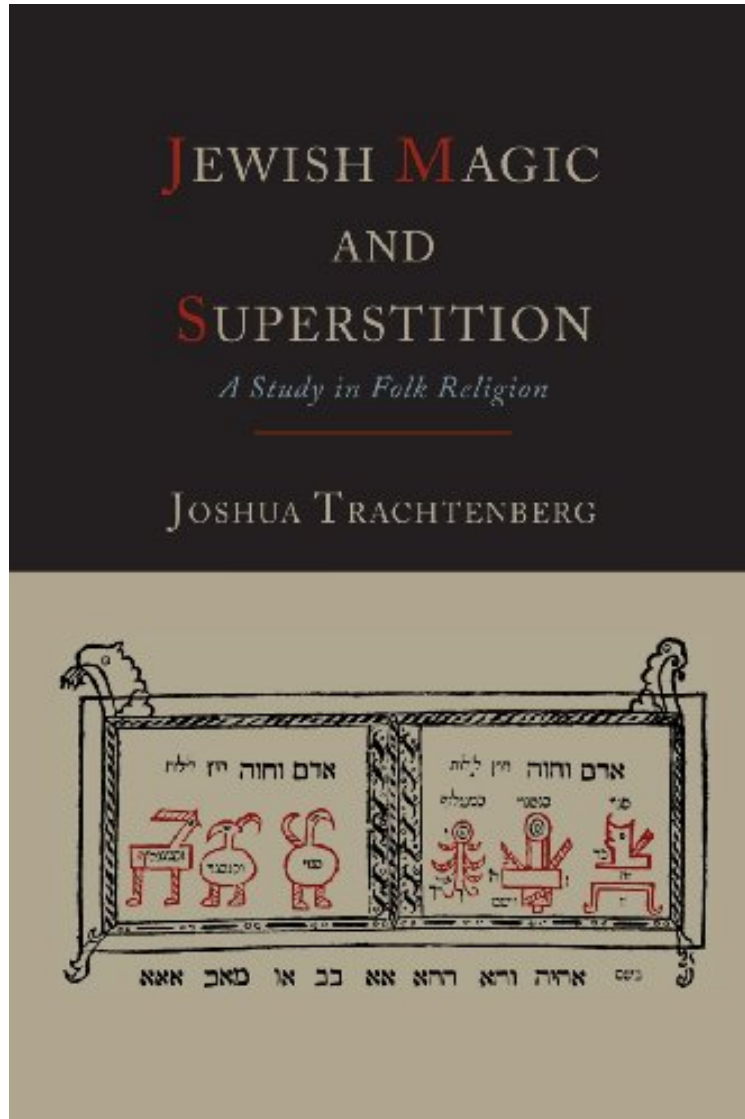


(Get free) Jewish Magic and Superstition: A Study in Folk Religion

Jewish Magic and Superstition: A Study in Folk Religion

Joshua Trachtenberg

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Joshua Trachtenberg : Jewish Magic and Superstition: A Study in Folk Religion before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Jewish Magic and Superstition: A Study in Folk Religion:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Interesting View Point For Religion StudiesBy thirdtwinInteresting glimpse into practices not usually spelled out in the major books but that many people were doing on their own regardless. A study of things that aren't usually talked about on the high holidays in public or in the standard history.s.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. [Review by Alan McLemore] Well-written, comprehensive. If Jewish

...By Marianne Martin[Review by Alan McLemore] Well-written, comprehensive. If Jewish magic and superstition are topics of interest to you, you need this book!4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Do you believe in magic?By LenThis book is the author's doctoral thesis from Hebrew Union College and was first published in 1939. Yet it is accessible to the general reader. It is fascinating to see the probable origins of so many traditional Jewish practices. The need for what is described as magical interventions was so strong the the Rabbis of old could not always disallow them. The question of the divide between what constitutes faith versus what is magic and superstition will likely arise in the reader but it is not the intention of this book to speak to this. There are a few frustration with this book. The author makes many assertions without being referenced, despite the plethora of other scholarly citations. Also there are frequent quotations in German, a language that scholarly readers of that day would know, but they are left untranslated in this edition. Finally, there is no index, though there is a glossary and othre supporting material.

2013 Reprint of 1939 Edition. Exact facsimile of the original edition, not reproduced with Optical Recognition Software. In the background of what has become known as ceremonial magic is medieval Jewish magic. In turn this was based on the Kabbalah, the Jewish traditions known as Haggadah, and other esoteric beliefs. This is a comprehensive review of Jewish magic from the 10th to the 15th century, including a rich lode of folklore. Many well-known Jewish traditions are explained, such as why a glass is broken at a wedding, and how the expression mazel tov is related to a belief in Astrology. Trachtenberg deals extensively with Golems, Succubi, the Lillim, (from Lilith-- Adam's first wife), and other magical creatures, some well known such as werewolves, and others not so well, such as estrie, mare and broxa. There are detailed descriptions of talismans, amulets, charms, and other curious magical objects. There are chapters dealing with dream interpretation, medical beliefs, necromancy, and other forms of divination. There is also a short glossary, so if you are having trouble telling the difference between a Kaddish and a Kiddush, you're in luck. The author, Joshua Trachtenberg (b. 1904, d. 1959) was a reform rabbi on the east coast of the US. This is an elaboration of his Columbia University Ph.D. thesis. Trachtenberg's appreciation of the role of folk-magic in Jewish culture is important for the study of Judaism, and also the roots of modern Pagan beliefs and practices.

Of all the charges against the Jewish people the one that has enjoyed the hardest tenacity and the utmost notoriety, and has produced the direct consequences, is the ritual murder accusation. In its popular version it foists upon Jewish ritual the requirement of Christian blood at the Passover service. The subject of much study and infinitely more polemics, its absurdity has been conclusively established, but the true nature of the accusation has never been made sufficiently clear. The legend as we know it has experienced several redactions - and of the idea of the Jew as sorcerer. --excerpt from 'Jewish Magic and Superstition'About the AuthorRabbi Joshua Trachtenberg was born in London in 1904 and died in 1959, having devoted nearly three decades of service in the American rabbinate. He is the author of 'The Devil and the Jews' (1943); 'Consider the Years' (1944); and the present work.