

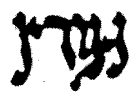
Talmud Ha-Igud

edited by
Shamma Friedman

BT *BERAKHOT*
CHAPTER VI

With Comprehensive Commentary

by
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The Society for the Interpretation of the Talmud
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Shoah Memorial

טוב איש חונן ומלֵוה יבֵלֵל דְּבָרָיו בְּמִשְׁפָּט
כי לעולם לא ימוט לזכר עולם יהיה צדיק

This volume commemorates Rabbi Dr. Siegfried Behrens (1876–1942) who was born in Rethem, Germany in 1876. In the beginning of the 20th century, Behrens was ordained at the Jewish Theological Seminary of Breslau and in 1901 received his PhD from the University of Breslau. The topic of his dissertation was: "A Critical Edition of Maimonides Commentary on *Mishna* Tractate *Megilla* with Ibn Fawwal's Translation.

Beginning in 1908, Behrens served as rabbi in Göttingen, and in 1922 was appointed as the district rabbi of Fürth. During these years, he helped found the Fürth Historical Society, still active today, and published a series of monographs on the concept of Jewish martyrdom in various German language journals. Behrens also published a series of articles in the German liberal movement's periodical pertaining to the movement's relationship to Orthodoxy (1921), Zionism (1922) and the preservation of Judaism (1928).

In March of 1942, Rabbi Dr. Behrens was sent, together with his wife Ida and his daughter Margot, to the Izbica ghetto, where they were murdered, most likely during November of that year.

יהי זכרו ברוך



This volume is lovingly dedicated to Leah and Harry Cabakoff, may they rest in peace, who lived quiet lives of simplicity, humility and dignity. Though their lives were marked by struggle and hard work, they managed to reserve significant portions for what they held most dear, Torah values and Talmudic scholarship.

These volumes, in which scholars immerse themselves in an ambitious project to apply the disciplines of academic scholarship to the Talmud Bavli, extend and perhaps deepen Talmudic inquiry begun more than 1,000 years ago. Yet, their work springs from the same source that informed the lives of the Cabakoffs: the love of learning.

Thus, it is fitting to dedicate such volumes to the Cabakoffs, born in Russia, who married and started a family there but were forced to flee its persecutions and pogroms. Forced to uproot their lives and seek refuge elsewhere, they arrived on American shores just after the turn of the 20th Century to settle in Columbus, Ohio. There they would remain and there raise their children. There they would join Agudas Achim Synagogue, the city's Orthodox *shul*, and remain active for a lifetime.

Herschel Cabakoff rarely let a day go by without immersing himself in Talmud study. Talmudic study was at the core of his life and his value system. Leah Cabakoff also liked to study about Torah, about Judaism and its practice and pass the lessons she learned to her children.

One of them, daughter Bella, married Harry Wexner, himself a Russian émigré. Late in life they embarked on a business venture, starting a small women's clothing store in Columbus, a family business that would eventually include their children. After years of devotion to their business, enormous perseverance and unrelenting hard work, they achieved late in life their dream of creating one of the major retail conglomerates in the world.

This success made possible the funding to perpetuate the legacies of scholarship, historical inquiry and research that meant so much to both of them and which they hoped to inspire in future generations. In order to carry forth their legacies, a foundation was established to continue the work they had begun in their lifetimes, the Legacy Heritage Fund of New York and Jerusalem. The generous support of Legacy Heritage Fund made this volume possible.

Eventually, these volumes exploring the teachings of ancient scholarship through the lens of modern scholarship, will do more than promote learning. In marrying the ancient and medieval to the modern they will reach farther than their forefathers ever dreamed possible – by arraying their scholarship on the Internet and giving access to it to all the world.

In this way, the old will inspire the young as the old inspires the new, breathing life into the words that drove the Cabakoffs, the Wexners and their forebearers and which drives Legacy Heritage Fund to carry forth their yearnings and aspirations: "The light of the past will illuminate the future."

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Talmud Ha-Igud series

The following books have been published

Berakhot	Chapter One, with commentary by Moshe Benovitz, 2006
Shabbat	Chapter Seven, with commentary by Steven G. Wald, 2007
Eruvin	Chapter Ten, with commentary by Aviad A. Stollman, 2008
Pesahim	Chapter Four, with commentary by Aaron Amit, 2009
Sanhedrin	Chapter Five, with commentary by Netanel Ba'adani, 2012
Sukkah	Chapter Four & Five, with commentary by Moshe Benovitz, 2013

Editor's Preface

This volume is the eighth publication by the Society for the Interpretation of the Talmud. It was preceded by *Five Sugyot*, Jerusalem 2002, and six volumes with commentary on seven chapters of the Babylonian Talmud, as detailed on the preceding page.

Five Sugyot presented samples of the work of five scholars by presenting commentary on one sugya from each of five chapters of the Talmud researched and explicated by these authors, in anticipation of the publication of these works in their entirety by the Society. Three of the above-mentioned volumes represent the fulfillment by those authors of this aim.

It is hoped that this first series will soon be further augmented to include a total of twenty volumes, representing the first phase of the Society's work, namely, original commentary on chapters of the Babylonian Talmud devoted to the methodological goals formulated in the introduction to *Five Sugyot*. Scheduled to appear among these volumes are *Gittin IX* by Shamma Friedman, *Makkot III* by Tamas Turan, *Gittin IV* by Yair Furstenburg, *Sukka III* by Avraham Schiff, *Gittin V* by David Zafrani. *Berakhot VI* by Moshe Benovitz appears in this volume.

At the same time we intend to broaden our horizons to publication of commentary on entire tractates.

The Society for the Interpretation of the Talmud was founded in 1993 with the goal of composing and publishing Talmudic commentary fulfilling the demands of an historical-philological discipline and at the same time authentically integrated with traditional Talmud studies. This determination was a direct outgrowth of earlier work done by the founders of the Society, and their fervent devotion to an intellectual approach which combines academic textual and literary disciplines with their desire to elucidate halakhic institutions and rabbinic thought according to their simple meaning and historical development. Applying this method to each sugya consecutively, we hope to produce the first attempt at a contemporary edition of the Talmud with commentary meeting scholarly standards and addressing the intellectual climate in which we function.

The participants have joined together in this extensive project after several of them had already composed and published commentary on chapters of the Talmud.¹ The first phase of the Society's work included determining procedures and guidelines, and composing the first group of commentaries. Now, as we continue to publish these first fruits, we wish to express our satisfaction and gratitude for what has been achieved, and redouble our dedication to continuing the task.

The Society's unique format includes separating the chapter into discrete *sugyot* which are numbered and named, and assigning distinguishable type-faces to each of the major formal building blocks of the sugya: dicta of Tannaim, Amoraim, and the anonymous editorial voice.

The Society's website www.TalmudHa-Igud.org.il presents updates on progress, information on how to acquire volumes, together with synopses of variant readings, Editor's comments, and background material associated with present and future volumes.

1 S. Friedman, *Talmud Arukh, BT Bava Metzi'a VI: Critical Edition with Comprehensive Commentary*, Commentary Volume, Jerusalem, 1990; Text Volume and Introduction, 1996. S.G. Wald, *BT Pesahim III, Critical Edition with Comprehensive Commentary*, New York and Jerusalem 2000. M. Benovitz, *BT Shevuot III, Critical Edition with Comprehensive Commentary*, New York and Jerusalem 2003.

Our indebtedness to learned scholars of past generations is expressed in our volumes through a page in memory of scholars who perished in the holocaust. May their memory be for a blessing.

Publication of this volume has been made possible through the generous assistance of Legacy Heritage Fund (Keren Morasha) of New York and Jerusalem. By lending its crucial support, and especially through its expression of confidence in our work, the Legacy Heritage Fund has given immeasurable encouragement in our striving to fulfill this historic mission.

The creation of the Igud, and the initial realization of its mission would also not have become a reality without the dedicated friendship and support extended by individuals and institutions, whose participation and partnership in this great vision we hold dear. Full expression of our indebtedness and gratitude are beyond what I can articulate here. None the less, the publication of this significant volume is a most pleasant opportunity to express a small part of our appreciation to the following:

Ethan and Tamar Benovitz

David and Susan Goldsmith

Alex and Vera ל"י Hornstein

The Jeselsohn family: "In memory of Shimon (Sigmund) and Lina Jeselsohn י"ע who lovingly trained us in the heritage of German Jewry, and instilled in us the spiritual values of 'Torah and Derech Eretz'".

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Jonathan Koschitzky

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David and Ina Tropper

Anonymous

We are grateful to Mordechai Cohen for the production of this volume, and to Dan Halevi for copy-editing.

May they all enjoy the fruits of our combined labors.

S.F.

Jerusalem

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