R A B B I N I C AUTHORITY

Michael S. Berger

New York Oxford

Oxford University Press

1998

Contents

	•
Part I: I	nstitutional Authority of the Talmudic Sages 27
TWO	"The Judge in Charge at the Time": Rabbinic Authority as Divine Command 31
THREE	The Sages as the Sanhedrin 40
FOUR	Ordination: Standing in the Sandals of Moses 52
Part II:	Personal Qualities of the Talmudic Sages 69
FIVE	The Rabbis as Experts 73
SIX	The Divinely Guided Sages 83
Part III:	Rabbinic Authority as Authority Transformed 97
SEVEN	The Authority of Publicly Accepted Practice 101
EIGHT	The Authority of Texts 114
NINE	Rethinking Authority: Interpretive Communities and Forms of Life 132
	Conclusion 153
	Notes 157
	Bibliography 205
	Index 215

ONE The Domains of Divine Revelation and Rabbinic Activity and Their Relationship 16

Introduction 3