

JEWISH MAGIC AND SUPERSTITION

A Study in Folk Religion

JOSHUA TRACHTENBERG

Foreword by Moshe Idel

PENN

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA PRESS

Philadelphia

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
FOREWORD, Moshe Idel	ix
PREFACE	xxvii
 CHAPTER	
I. THE LEGEND OF JEWISH SORCERY	1
II. THE TRUTH BEHIND THE LEGEND	11
Jewish Magic . The Magician . Forbidden And Permitted . "It Is Best To Be Heedful"	
III. THE POWERS OF EVIL	25
The Middle World . Terminology . The Genesis Of Demons . Attributes And Functions . "Jewish" Demons . "Foreign" Demons	
IV. MAN AND THE DEMONS	44
Attack . Crises . Spirit Possession . Incubus And Succubus . The Evil Eye . Words And Curses	
V. THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD	61
VI. THE POWERS OF GOOD	69
Deputy Angels . Attributes And Functions	
VII. "IN THE NAME OF"	78
The Potency Of The Name . Abracadabra . The Golem . The Evolution Of Name-Magic . The Names Of God . Angel Names . Borrowed Names	
VIII. THE BIBLE IN MAGIC	104
The Word Of God . The Use Of The Word	
IX. THE MAGICAL PROCEDURE	114
Incantations . Numbers . The Magic Act . Sympathetic Magic	
X. AMULETS	132
Material Objects . Gems . Written Amulets . Preparation Of Amulets . <i>Tefillin</i> And <i>Mezuzot</i>	

CHAPTER	PAGE
XI. THE WAR WITH THE SPIRITS	153
Religious Defenses . Magical Defenses . Stratagem . Birth, Marriage And Death	
XII. NATURE AND MAN	181
The Wonders Of Nature . Folk Biology—Procrea- tion . Forgetting And Remembering	
XIII. MEDICINE	193
Magic And The Doctor . The Causes Of Disease . Treatment . Some Sovereign Remedies . Herbs	
XIV. DIVINATION	208
Determinism <i>vs.</i> Free Will . Omens . The Prog- nostic Arts . The Divining Princes . Necromancy . Buried Treasure . Trial By Ordeal	
XV. DREAMS	230
The Dream In Human Affairs . Where Dreams Come From . "Dreams Follow Their Interpreta- tion" . The Technique Of Interpretation . Dream Divination . Neutralizing Ominous Dreams	
XVI. ASTROLOGY	249
APPENDIX I—THE FORMATION OF MAGICAL NAMES	260
APPENDIX II— <i>Ms. Sefer Gematriaot</i> ON GEMS	265
ABBREVIATIONS AND HEBREW TITLES	269
NOTES	271
BIBLIOGRAPHY A.—A NOTE ABOUT THE SOURCES	315
B.—HEBREW SOURCES, PRINTED	318
C.—HEBREW SOURCES IN MANU- SCRIPT	322
D.—MODERN LITERATURE	322
GLOSSARY OF HEBREW TERMS	333
INDEX	335