

# **GEMS FROM THE TALMUD**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649741311

Gems from the Talmud by Isidore Myers

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**ISIDORE MYERS**

**GEMS FROM  
THE TALMUD**



G E M S  
FROM  
THE TALMUD,

Translated into English Verse,

BY

REV. ISIDORE MYERS, B.A.

. . . . . in the Talmud told,  
That book of gems, that book of gold,  
Of wonders many and manifold.

*Longfellow.*



NEW YORK : G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS.  
LONDON : SIMPKIN, MARSHALL & CO., LTD.

1894.

[*All Rights Reserved.*]

~~700 P~~  
~~1894 m~~

BM499

.5

E5

M8

1894

MAIN

REVERENTLY AND AFFECTIONATELY

**Dedicated**

TO

MY DEAR FATHER.

442817

## P R E F A C E.

---

THE Hebrew passages, selected, with few exceptions, from the *Babylonian* Talmud, have been carefully pointed, and the references are given both in Hebrew and in English characters.

As regards the metrical translations, which constitute the chief *novel* feature of this book, many of them first appeared some years ago in the *Melbourne Jewish Herald*, some in the same, some in a modified form; all the others were composed more recently in England, at various times and in different places. The idea of having these verses published was frequently suggested to me by many who were present at my lectures on the Talmud, a course of which I have had the honour to deliver in London and in the Provinces.

It has been my endeavour, as far as possible to make the translations *literal*, and, where it

has been necessary to paraphrase, I have tried to preserve the full sense of the original.

The sentences have been arranged in some order according to the subjects they treat of, and an Alphabetical Index at the end of the book should be found useful.

My best thanks are due and are hereby conveyed to all friends, Jewish and Christian, who have kindly given me useful hints and suggestions, or have in other ways encouraged me in my work. More especially am I indebted to a gentleman whose extreme modesty forbids me to name him here openly, but whose valuable services impel me to thank him most cordially.

In offering to the public as specimens a few out of the numerous jewels of Rabbinic thought found in the vast Talmudic store-house, not to mention the other rich treasuries of Rabbinical Literature, it is my sincere hope that these "Gems from the Talmud," though differing in beauty and lustre, will all prove valuable and acceptable.

I. M.

LONDON, *December*, 1893.



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALIFORNIA

”דִּבְרוֹי חֲכָמִים כְּדֹרְבָנוֹת \*  
וּכְמִשְׁמֵרוֹת נְטוּעִים  
כַּעֲלֵי אֲסֵפֹת :— לַ”ק  
(קהלת י”ג י”ח)

“The words of the Wise are as goads,  
And as nails that are firmly fastened  
Are the words of Collectors of Sayings.”

(*Ecclesiastes* xii. 11).

(1) תורה תחלתה גמילות חסדים  
וסופה גמילות חסדים:

(סוטה י"ד')

---

(2) גדול העושה צדקה  
יותר מכל-הקרבנות:

(סוכה מ"ט')

---

(3) כל-צדקה וחסד  
ש'ישראל עושים בעולם הזה  
ש'לום גדול ופרקליטין גדולים  
בין ישראל לאביהם שבשמים:

(ב"ב י')

---

(4) כ'שם ש'החטאת מכפרת על-ישראל  
כ' צדקה מכפרת על-אומות העולם:

(ב"ב י')

*The Essence of Religion.*

- (1) All virtues doth beneficence transcend,—  
With it the Torah doth begin and end.

(*Sotah 14a*).

---

*Charity Superior to Sacrifices.*

- (2) An act of charity's of greater worth  
Than all the sacrificial rites on earth.

(*Succah 49b*).

---

*Charity and Benevolence our Advocates.*

- (3) The kindly deeds that we increase,  
And all the generous gifts we've given,  
Ascend as messengers of peace,—  
To plead for us they never cease  
Before our Father that's in heaven.

(*Baba Bathra 10a*).

---

*Charity Atones for the Gentiles.*

- (4) As Israel's sacrifices once atoned  
For sins which were with true repentance owned,  
So is the charity of Gentiles sure  
For all their sins atonement to procure.

(*Baba Bathra 10b*).