

# **A JEWISH VIEW OF JESUS**

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A Jewish View of Jesus by H. G. Enelow

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**H. G. ENELOW**

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**BY  
H. G. ENELOW**

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## A JEWISH VIEW OF JESUS

### THE JEWISH INTEREST OF JESUS

A STUDY of the relation of Jesus to the Jews, from the Jewish point of view, is still a somewhat hazardous undertaking, exciting suspicion or fear of one kind or another. Orthodox Christians will suspect an element of irreverence in a Jew's treatment of Jesus. The old-fashioned Jew, on the other hand, may object altogether to such a discussion, as giving undue attention to a forbidden subject. Consideration of Jesus on the part of a Jew is regarded as a sign of weakness, if not disloyalty, as a leaning in the wrong direction, particularly if it shows symptoms of admiration for Jesus.

Suspicion and prejudice, however, should not keep us aloof from a subject, which, as

a matter of fact, is of vital interest to the modern Jew. Until the nineteenth century, Jews, for various reasons, maintained silence in regard to Jesus. One reason, no doubt, was that it was not safe for them to discuss him. Jews were denied political rights in the Western world, and, by implication, the privilege of free comment on the dominant religion and its chief hero. Whenever they broke the rule of silence — even when forced into religious disputations — they had to pay a heavy penalty.

A unique exception was "The Fortification of Faith," a Hebrew work issued in the year 1593 by Isaac of Troki, a Karaite. It contains a defense of Judaism and a criticism of Christian dogmas, and it resulted from the author's friendly intercourse with Christians of all schools, trinitarians as well as unitarians, the latter having just then found shelter in Poland from the persecutions of other countries. A Latin translation of this