

# **THE SPIRIT OF JUDAISM**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649710546

The Spirit of Judaism by Josephine Lazarus

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)

**JOSEPHINE LAZARUS**

**THE SPIRIT  
OF JUDAISM**



THE  
SPIRIT OF JUDAISM.

BY  
JOSEPHINE LAZARUS.



NEW YORK:  
DODD, MEAD AND COMPANY.

1895.

## CONTENTS.



	PAGE
THE JEWISH QUESTION . . . . .	7
THE OUTLOOK OF JUDAISM . . . . .	28
JUDAISM, OLD AND NEW . . . . .	70
THE CLAIM OF JUDAISM . . . . .	101
THE TASK OF JUDAISM . . . . .	133
EPILOGUE . . . . .	192



## THE SPIRIT OF JUDAISM.



### THE JEWISH QUESTION.

TO approach the Jewish question is to be confronted with every great question of the day,—social, political, financial, humanitarian, national, and religious. Each phase should be treated by an expert and specialist, for in each lies a deep, urgent, practical problem which requires the wisest and most skilled handling; but, however discussed or dealt with, there is one point of view which should never be lost sight of,—namely, the point of view of humanity. All other



standpoints must be merged or held in abeyance. First and foremost, we must be human if we would raise our voice on so human a theme, involving the lives and destinies of so many unhappy human beings.

It is a sorry spectacle that the world presents at the end of our emancipated nineteenth century, — hundreds and thousands of our fellow-creatures, men, women, and innocent children, driven from their homes, helpless, destitute, and distracted, flying where? whither? No one knows, for in turn each nation threatens to shut them out as outcasts and pariahs.

Who, then, are these alien wretches, with speech unlike our own, with ways and customs peculiar to themselves; and what is their crime? we ask. There are those who will tell us that they are usurers, eating the flesh and grinding the faces of the poor; others will say that

they are traitors, plotting against their sovereign rulers; others will call them enemies of the Christ; and again others will lay at their door nameless cruel charges of ignorant fanaticism. Their crime is legion, and yet one word sums it up, — they are Jews. “Hep! Hep!” It is an old battle-cry, old as Christendom, but it rings to-day fresh from the nations. Russia leads with brute violence, sweeping them from the soil; Germany follows with lofty phrases, pulpit and paper warfare; even liberal France takes the alarm; and occasionally a small British voice pipes in the chorus, “Christians, beware! The Jew is richer, is sharper than you. Look to your interest and your purse. Royalty is at his feet, the stock exchange belongs to him, and the press is his organ.”

But in justice to humanity let us hasten to add that there is another side.

In all the countries we have named, Russia perhaps alone excepted, all earnest and right-minded Christians, no less than Jews, are aghast at the sinister revelations, and are doing what they can to stem the current and to enter their protest against so barbarous a reaction. But this new outbreak of hatred and antagonism, after centuries of progress and enlightenment, is a phenomenon so startling that it calls for examination more searching, and deeper comprehension, than it generally receives.

Whether the tragic history of the Jews redounds more to their glory and martyrdom than to the honour of the Christians, is not the point which will throw any special light upon the subject just now ; but both Jews and Christians alike — whoever studies with impartiality the annals of the past — must be struck with the ever-recurring features, the mask, of