

FESTIVAL STUDIES

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Festival studies by Israel Abrahams

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ISRAEL ABRAHAMS

**FESTIVAL
STUDIES**

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Festival studies

FESTIVAL STUDIES

DEDICATED
IN GRATEFUL AFFECTION
To the Memory of
ASHER I. MYERS
(1848-1992)



PREFACE

MOST of the contents of this volume have been published over a long series of years in the London *Jewish Chronicle*. The earliest appeared in 1887, the latest in 1905. Chapters IV., V., XX. and XXII. have not been printed before; the others (which have been in some cases revised) are now reproduced by kind permission of the editor of the periodical named.

These papers were mainly written with no other intention than to provide momentary entertainment or to provoke passing thought as the festivals of the Jewish year occurred. Though the volume has been entitled "Studies," there is nothing formal or systematic about it. But the aspects of Jewish life which these papers express are not very often presented in English, and it has seemed worth while to collect some of the papers into a little volume.

One charm the volume must possess. Some beautiful renderings of medieval Hebrew poems

will be found in various chapters. The translations on pages 12, 29-31, 98, 99, 100-101 and 102 are the work of Mrs. H. Lucas; those on pages 58 and 82-3 are by Mrs. R. N. Salaman.

The volume is dedicated to the memory of a dear friend, Mr. Asher I. Myers, the "only begetter" of most of the book. It was due to his suggestion that the series of papers was undertaken, and it was his warm encouragement that induced the writer to persevere.

CAMBRIDGE, August 1905.

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