

**THE THREEFOLD CORD; BEING  
SKETCHES OF THREE TREATISES  
OF THE TALMUD, SANHEDRIN,  
BABA METSIA, AND BABA  
BATHRA**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649537990

The Threefold Cord; Being Sketches of Three Treatises of the Talmud, Sanhedrin, Baba Metsia, and Baba Bathra by B. Spiers

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Cover @ 2017

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**B. SPIERS**

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AND BABA BATHRA**



# החוט המשולש

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## THE THREEFOLD CORD;

BEING SKETCHES OF

THREE TREATISES OF THE TALMUD,

*Sanhedrin, Baba Metsia, and Baba  
Bathra,*

WITH AN

Appendix containing a Lecture on

THE EIGHT CHAPTERS OF MAIMONIDES.

SECOND REVISED EDITION.

WITH THE ADDITION OF AN ESSAY ON

THE DIVINE ORIGIN OF THE ORAL LAW.

BY THE

REV. B. SPIERS, DAYAN,

*Author of "School System of the Talmud."*

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LONDON :

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY  
WERTHEIMER, LEA AND CO.,  
CIRCUS PLACE, LONDON WALL.

5653—1893.



THIS LITTLE VOLUME

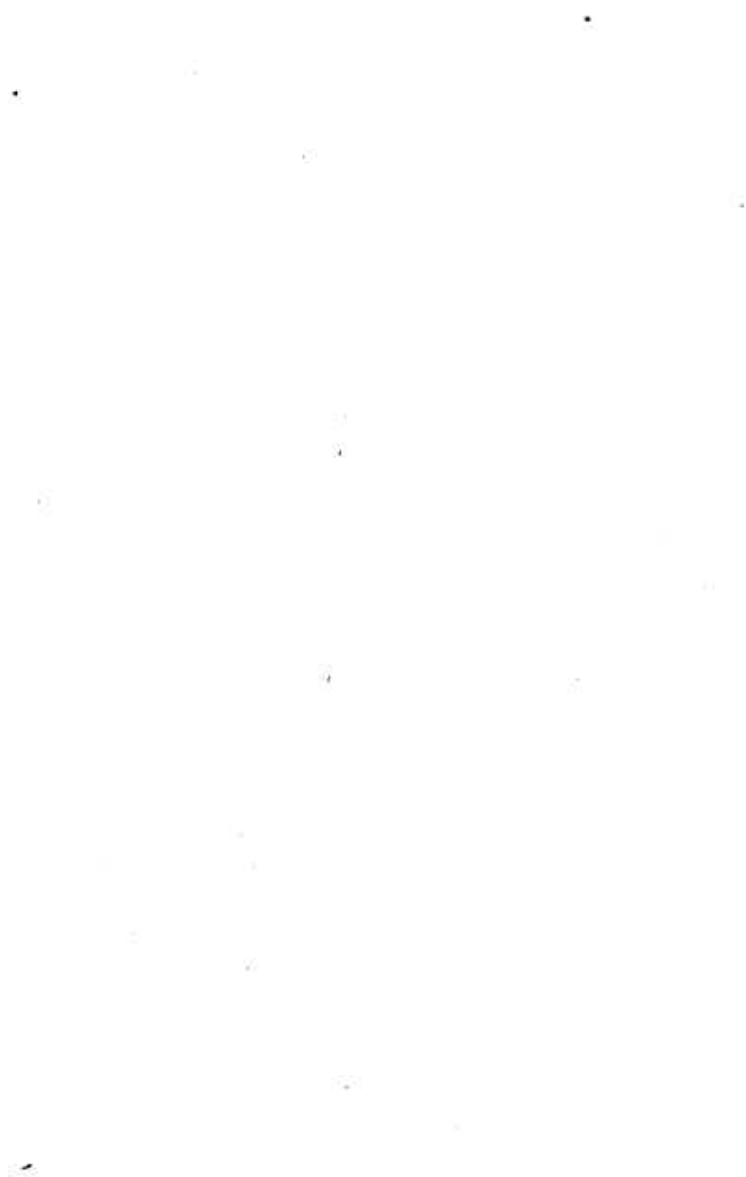
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WITH SINCERE REGARD

TO

CHARLES SAMUEL, Esq.,

CHAIRMAN OF THE בית המדרש OF THE  
UNITED SYNAGOGUE, LONDON.





## INTRODUCTION.

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THE following sketches of the three Talmudical Treatises, Sanhedrin, Baba Metsia, and Baba Bathra, are the outcome of the readings of the Talmud given by me at the Beth Hamedrash and the ש"ס חברה at the Bayswater Synagogue.

These sketches are by no means exhaustive. They are merely an outline of the contents of those treatises. Yet they will furnish the reader with some knowledge of the subjects treated therein. Of late a great deal has been written about the Talmud, and numerous lectures have been delivered on this interesting theme. Translations of extracts are published from time to time in periodicals and reviews. These articles and lectures have raised deep interest among the general public.

I have often heard the wish expressed that the whole of the Talmud should be translated into the vernacular, so that everyone should be able to read and understand it. I for one do

not believe that such an undertaking is feasible. It might almost as well be suggested that the whole of English literature should be rendered into German, French, or any other language.

It should also be remembered that it is much easier to translate from a living tongue to another. Still, as it would be idle to assert that the entire English literature could be rendered into any other language, because such a task could not be executed with fidelity; so the whole of the Talmud, that ocean of literature, could not be rendered into English in such a manner as to be intelligible to the general public. There is, further, this obvious reason that no translation in its bare simplicity could faithfully reproduce the genius of the original. It would require scores of volumes of commentaries to supplement the translation, in order to reproduce fully and clearly the ideas, trains of thought, and logical arguments so idiomatically and tersely expressed in the Talmud. To translate the discussion or *שקלא ופריא* of the Gemara, with its various commentaries, word for word, and to explain each sentence carefully and lucidly is only possible in a class of the kind carried on at the Beth Hamed-rash and the *ש"ס חברה* at Bayswater. My motive in publishing these sketches is to show that the doctors of the Talmud were actuated by a strong

desire to impress upon us the sacred duty of honest and straightforward dealings with our fellow-men, and that we should regard the laws of jurisprudence as based upon Divine and religious obligations, since they enable us to carry out the all-important precept, "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." I therefore venture to express the hope that the perusal of these sketches will induce my brethren to encourage and promote the study of the Talmud, and, indeed, of Hebrew literature in general.

B. SPIERS.