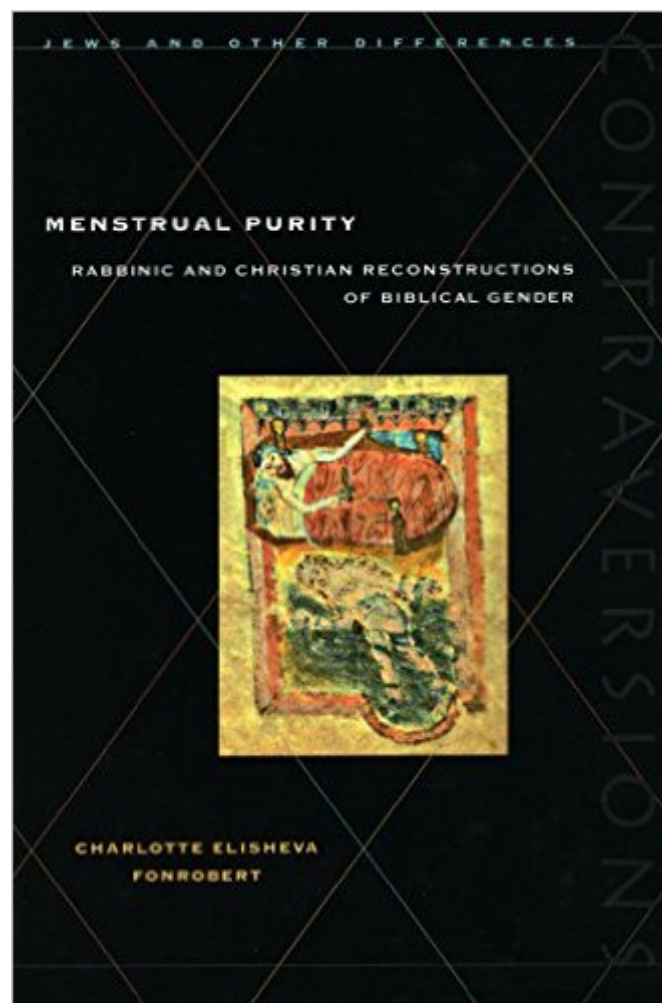


The book was found

Menstrual Purity: Rabbinic And Christian Reconstructions Of Biblical Gender (Contraversions: Jews And Other Differences)



Synopsis

Perhaps more than any other aspect of rabbinic literature, the laws about and discussions of menstruation have polarized current discussions of gender relations in Jewish culture. Is the designated impurity of menstruation sexist? Or does ritual absence from sex during menstruation encourage a rhythmic reaffirmation of conjugal intimacy? This book offers a new perspective on the extensive rabbinic discussions of menstrual impurity, female physiology, and anatomy, and on the social and religious institutions those discussions engendered. It analyzes the functions of these discussions within the larger textual world of rabbinic literature and in the context of Jewish and Christian culture in late antiquity. How did gender work—and how was it made to work—in rabbinic literature? How did that literature dictate the place of women in Jewish culture? In search of answers to these questions, the author analyzes the architectural metaphors deployed to describe female anatomy, arguing that this discursive construction operated culturally to associate women with the home and exclude them from rabbinic study halls. The author shows that rabbinic discourse is not completely controlled by rabbinic ideology, however. She analyzes talmudic discussions that allow alternative gender perspectives to emerge, indicating that women and their bodies were not completely objectified. This suggests that the Babylonian Talmud does not present a completely homogeneous gender structure, but contains a number of different, sometimes contradictory, possibilities. The book concludes with a study of early Christian texts that relate to the same biblical laws on menstrual impurity as rabbinic texts, focusing in particular on a Jewish-Christian text in which the anonymous author polemicizes against Jewish women converts who remain attached to the biblical laws. This text allows us to reconstruct women's perspectives on the inscription of religious meaning onto their bodies and physiological processes.

Book Information

Series: Contraversions: Jews and Other Differences

Paperback: 344 pages

Publisher: Stanford University Press; 1 edition (January 2, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0804745536

ISBN-13: 978-0804745536

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: Be the first to review this item

Best Sellers Rank: #1,772,744 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Women's Health > Menstruation #4616 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Religious Studies > Comparative Religion #8739 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Menstrual Purity: Rabbinic and Christian Reconstructions of Biblical Gender (Contraversions: Jews and Other Differences) Holman QuickSource Bible Atlas with Charts and Biblical Reconstructions (Holman Quicksources Guides) Gender Born, Gender Made: Raising Healthy

Gender-Nonconforming Children Menstrual Cramps Self Help Book: Effective Solutions for Pain and Discomfort Due to Menstrual Cramps and PMS Dr. Susan M. Lark's The Menstrual Cramps Self Help Book: Effective Solutions for Pain & Discomfort Due to Menstrual Cramps & PMS Your Ideal Cat: Insights into Breed and Gender Differences in Cat Behavior (New Directions in the Human-Animal Bond) O Sisters Ain't You Happy?: Gender, Family, and Community Among the Harvard and Shirley Shakers, 1781-1918 (Women and Gender in Religion) Gender and Jim Crow: Women and the Politics of White Supremacy in North Carolina, 1896-1920 (Gender and American Culture) Ambiguous Images: Gender and Rock Art (Gender and Archaeology) Gender and the Social Construction of Illness (Gender Lens) The Gender Quest Workbook: A Guide for Teens and Young Adults Exploring Gender Identity French Gender Drill: Learn the Gender of French Words Without Any Memorization The Sages Speak: Rabbinic Wisdom and Jewish Values A Restatement of Rabbinic Civil Law Volume 1 Laws of Judges and Laws of Evidence From Text to Tradition, A History of Second Temple and Rabbinic Judaism Personal Theology: Essays in Honor of Neil Gillman (New Perspectives in Post-Rabbinic Judaism) Men and Women, Equal Yet Different: A Brief Study of the Biblical Passages on Gender Crisis and Renewal: The Era of the Reformations (Westminster History of Christian Thought) (Westminster Histories of Christian Thought) (The Westminster History of Christian Thought) Differences That Matter: Social Policy and the Working Poor in the United States and Canada Common Experience and the Accommodation of Differences: The Foundation for Unity in Rowan Williams' View of the Church

[Dmca](#)