

PREFACE

I offer this study in homage to Professor Saul Lieberman, in whose classroom I was privileged to sit between 1958 and 1960, for in my studies about Yoḥanan b. Zakkai, the rabbinic traditions about the Pharisees before 70, and now about Eliezer b. Hyrcanus, scarcely a day has passed without some reference to his *Tosefta Kifshuṭah* and *Tosefet Rishonim*. It is not my place to praise his work, but by dedicating these volumes to him, I hope to pay respect and express gratitude to the man who has given so much. I deem it a privilege and an honor that he has permitted me to do so.

My teacher Morton Smith continues to provide gracious criticism. Conversations and correspondence throughout the composition of this work were a source not only of improvement, but of inspiration. While he bears no responsibility whatever for the limitations of his student, such clarity of thought and of expression as I have been able to achieve is to his credit. If I have been able to formulate and solve significant problems, it was because of his counsel, but, even more, because of his example.

I take pleasure, too, in frequent conversations with Professor Abraham Sachs, whose keen and probing questions show me not only the inadequacy of my conceptions, but the way to reconsider fundamental issues. My dear colleagues, Professor Horst R. Moehring and Ernest S. Frerichs, kindly read and criticized the manuscript at each stage in its development. My students at Brown University have also read the manuscript and provided valuable criticism. Dr. David Goodblatt, Rabbi Baruch Bokser, Rabbi Shamaï Kanter, Dr. Robert Goldenberg, Dr. Gary G. Porton, Mr. William Scott Green, Mr. Joel Gereboff, Mr. Charles Primus, all won their teacher's gratitude. Mr. Green generously helped with the proofs.

Brown University paid the formidable costs of typing the manuscript and preparing the indices. Mrs. Marion Craven carefully typed the book in several drafts. Mr. Arthur Woodman prepared the indices. To all I express sincere thanks. To Brown University I am especially grateful for a summer research stipend in 1972. My publisher, E. J. Brill, and its director, Dr. F. C. Wiedner, Jr., make possible the presentation of scholarly results in elegant form. Without Brill I could not contemplate such an undertaking as this.

My wife, Suzanne, and our sons, Samuel Aaron, Eli Ephraim, and Noam Mordecai Menahem, share in the pleasure of my work. Now that the newest generation is progressing in its Judaic studies, I may express the hope that in time to come they will read these books and know that, when I was writing them, they made each day a happy one.

The work is completed on my fortieth birthday.

J. N.

Providence, Rhode Island

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ערב שבת עקב