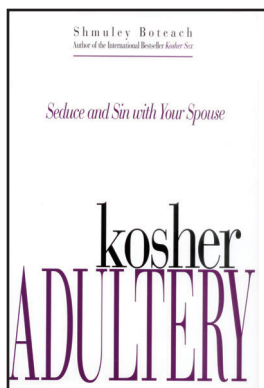




Recent Books

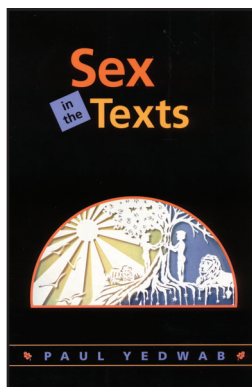


Kosher Adultery

Shmuley Boteach
Adams Media Corporation,
2002

361 pp., \$23.95

The subtitle “Seduce and Sin with Your Spouse” says it all. Boteach asserts that “love and lust are truly obtainable in marriage today and that sinfulness may be brought into a legitimate union” (p. 4) so that no one actually is unfaithful. In the four parts of the book, Boteach passionately argues his case. In Part 1 he elaborates on trust, lovehood, and curiosity in marriage. In Part 2 he outlines the dynamics of infidelity. The heart of *Kosher Adultery* is certainly Part 3. Here Boteach puts forth and illustrates ten commandments on how to create erotic desire among spouses by incorporating dynamics of adultery into marriage life. In the final Part 4 he again challenges the readers to revolutionize their marriages. Whether Boteach is convincing is up to the reader to decide. In any case, prepare for stimulating, yet without doubt highly controversial, reading.



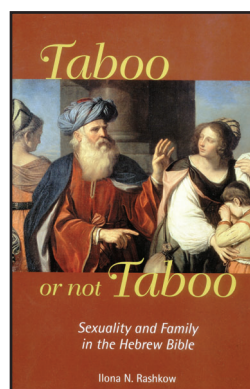
Sex in the Texts

Paul Yedwab
UAHC Press, 2001

112 pp., \$12.00

Rabbi Paul Yedwab introduces in an innovative way teenagers and adults to what Jewish texts have to say about sexual issues. He draws from the entire Jewish tradition and presents selective texts from the Torah, the midrash, the Talmud, the commentaries, and the responsa literature, often using texts less frequently read in the

classroom or heard in the pulpit. Yedwab’s focus is on the texts themselves. Each text is given in its original Hebrew with an English translation before Yedwab adds brief comments and questions that will certainly stimulate discussion. Yedwab understands to present the astonishing breadth of the Jewish tradition in its perceptions on every aspect of our sexual lives. Topics covered include sexuality, love, dating, marriage, sexual pleasure, sexism in the texts, adultery, abortion, and rape. In exploring Jewish texts with the reader, Yedwab has created a study guide through the ethics of sexuality that will be helpful for teachers as well as for students of the Jewish attitude towards sexuality.

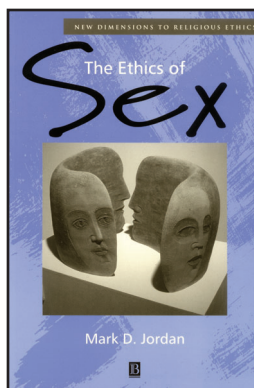


Taboo or not Taboo: Sexuality and Family in the Hebrew Bible

Ilona N. Rashkow
Fortress Press, 2000

195 pp., \$22.00

In this thought-provoking book, Rashkow reads the Bible and psychoanalytic theory concurrently. She explores the positive and negative aspects of family life in ancient Israel’s stories, examining the relationships between husbands and wives, parents and children, and siblings. Among other narratives, Rashkow throws light on the stories of Adam and Eve, Noah and Ham, Lot and his daughters, sibling rivalry (Jacob and Esau), and brother-sister relationship (Dinah and her brothers, Cain and Abel), and analyzes a variety of conflicts that emerged, like hatred, incest, adultery, prostitution, homosexuality, rape, abuse, and murder. Though Rashkow uses a literary theory of reading deeply influenced by psychoanalytic theory, her book is nevertheless readily accessible to all interested readers since she attempts to avoid technical language. If you like original and ingenious thinking you will love this book.

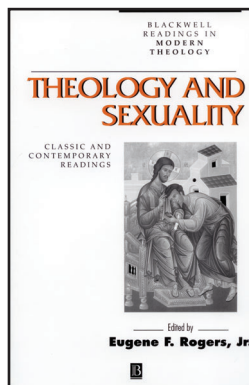


The Ethics of Sex

Mark D. Jordan
Blackwell Publishers, 2002
198 pp., \$24.95

In *The Ethics of Sex* Jordan introduces the main topics of Christian sexual ethics by engaging a variety of particular texts of the Christian Bible and of the history of Christian theological thinking, in particular early and medieval texts. Jordan arranges his discussion in three parts. First, he covers problems in principles of ethics. Next, several chapters deal with the difficulties in the history of Christian ethics that center around three topics central to sexual morality: (1) virginity and celibacy, (2) marriage, divorce, adultery, and remarriage, and (3) the so-called crimes against nature or unnatural acts. Finally, Jordan proposes some reformulations of Christian speech about sexuality which he summarizes under the appropriate title "redeeming pleasure." The major thrust of Jordan's analysis is best summarized on the back cover: "The discussion throughout the volume shows the distinctive power of Christian rhetoric to create, develop, and impose moral identities for which sex is central." The impor-

tant challenge of *The Ethics of Sex* is to rethink how we today speak theologically about sex.



Theology and Sexuality

Eugene F. Rogers, Jr., Editor
Blackwell Publishers, 2002
422 pp., \$29.95

In this anthology of essays Rogers carefully selected liturgical and classical theological resources as well as contemporary essays, both centering on discussions about theology and sexuality. Classical resources include the Bible, the liturgy, Augustine, Chrysostom, and never-before-translated selections from Aquinas and Karl Barth. Contemporary contributors include Marilyn Adams, Stanley Hauerwas, Mark Jordan, Andrew Sullivan, and Rowan Williams. Rogers furnishes this Reader with an introductory essay that provides an overview of the theology and sexuality debate. He also introduces each essay briefly, summarizing the main points and setting it in context. Specifically noteworthy is that *Theology and Sexuality* features the voices of theologians and ethicists from both sides of the debate.

From Israel

Continued from page 31

37 volumes. The documents date from 250 B.C.E. to 70 C.E. and provide an insight into the transformation of Judaism to a rabbinical-led religion as well as the origins of Christianity.

Mediaeval moat uncovered in Jerusalem

Infrastructure work on the sewage line near the entrance to the Rockefeller Museum east of the Damascus Gate has uncovered a moat dating back to the Middle Ages. The moat served as a defense around the most vulnerable,

northern part of the city walls. The moat is 10 meters wide, 8 meters deep, and lies six meters below the present street level.

Treasure trove uncovered

A casual stroll behind a grader leveling the beach at Caesarea led to the discovery of a hoard of 79 gold coins dating from 1086. The coins had been in soil removed from the Crusader section of the city forty years ago which had been dumped on the beach and lain undisturbed since then. The coins were identified as having been

minted in Cairo, Alexandria, Palestine, Acre, Tripoli, and Tyre during the Caliphates of Hakim and Mustansir. It seems that the coins had been hidden just before the Crusaders came in 1095 in a Chinese porcelain pot found in pieces next to some of the coins. Unfortunately the coins were not found in situ so more could have been learned about them.