

Jewish Aramaic Curse Texts from Late-Antique Mesopotamia

“May These Curses Go Out and Flee”

The corpus of Aramaic incantation bowls from Sasanian Mesopotamia is perhaps the most important source we have for studying the everyday beliefs and practices of the Jewish, Christian, Mandaean, Manichaean, Zoroastrian and Pagan communities on the eve of the Islamic conquests.

In *Jewish Aramaic Curse Texts from Late-Antique Mesopotamia*, Dan Levene collects and analyses a selection of Jewish Babylonian Aramaic incantation bowls. While such texts are usually apotropaic or healing in purpose, those collected here are distinctive in that their purpose was to curse or return curses against human adversaries. This book presents new editions of thirty texts, of which fourteen are edited here for the first time, with an introduction, commentary, analysis and glossaries, as well as photographs.

Dan Levene, Ph.D. (2000) in Jewish Aramaic magic, University College London, is Reader in Jewish History and Culture at the University of Southampton. His research interests include late antique Jewish magic, Semitic languages, oriental Christianity and archaeometallurgy.