This book examines literary analogies in Christian and Jewish sources, culminating in an in-depth analysis of striking parallels and connections between Christian monastic texts (the *Apophthegmata Patrum* or *The Sayings of the Desert Fathers*) and Babylonian Talmudic traditions. The importance of the monastic movement in the Persian Empire, during the time of the composition and redaction of the Babylonian Talmud, fostered a literary connection between the two religious populations. The shared literary elements in the literatures of these two elite religious communities shed new light on the surprisingly inclusive nature of the Talmudic corpora and on the nonpolemical nature of elite Jewish-Christian literary relations in late antique Persia.

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Early Christian Monastic Literature and the Babylonian Talmud

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This book is a product of its time. Learning rabbinic literature side by side other late antique texts has been a growing and productive academic trend, and I was fortunate enough to enjoy the fruits of this zeitgeist. The understanding that a Talmudic page does not exist in a vacuum, and one needs to look outside that page to understand its conception, evolution, and reception, rightly stands at the heart of recent studies, this one included.

In the journey that led me to write this book, I owe a tremendous debt to two women in my life. The first is my grandmother, Suzanne Daniel Nattaf. A professor of Hellenistic Judaism, my first Greek teacher, and the support beam of my life, she introduced me to the love of books. When I entered into adulthood, she took me to her study, always stuffy with the smell of old books and cigarettes, and said to me: from this day on, you can read any book you desire. Don’t let anyone tell you otherwise – this is the true meaning of adulthood, she added. Close to her passing, I was fortunate enough to meet another woman, from an entirely different generation, who taught me how to use these books to enrich my life further. My mentor and dissertation advisor, Chris Hayes, used her vast knowledge, wisdom, and great kindness to support and teach me so much more than I could ever have imagined standing there at the entrance to my grandmother’s study.

My second advisor at Yale, Steven Fraade, was, and still is, a source of inspiration in scholarship and life. I am truly grateful for all he has done for me over the years.

The religious studies department at Yale, and the students and professors of its program in ancient Judaism, supplied a rare atmosphere of support and collegiality for which I am indebted. I want to thank especially Bentley Layton, Diana Swancutt, Dale Martin, Adela Yarbro Collins, and John Collins for their valuable advice and support during the writing process.
Acknowledgments

Outside of Yale, I am especially indebted to two scholars whose groundbreaking work stands in the background of this book. Richard Kalmin was always very generous to me with his time and offered priceless advice and resources for the improvement of this manuscript. Jeffery Rubenstein’s remarkable scholarship and his willingness to encourage and comment on my work were incalculable to the writing of this book.


I want to thank the production team at Cambridge University Press, especially Lewis Bateman, senior editor of political science and history, and Shaun Vigil, his editorial assistant, for their efficient help. And I also thank the editing team at Newgen Knowledge Works – Bhavani Ganesh, copy editor Ami Naramor, and indexer Adam Parker.

A special thanks to my colleague and friend Sara Offenberg for her help with the cover art and to my new friends and colleagues at The Goldstein-Goren Department of Jewish Thought at Ben-Gurion University.

I want to thank my in-laws, Nechama and Moshe Bar-Asher, for their support, and my parents, Annette and Bruno Siegal, for their great love and encouragement.

And finally to my other half, my love, my constant advisor, Elitzur, and our boys, the joy of my life, Nattaf and Yadid, who I hope one day to bring into my study and introduce the riches it has to offer.