

PASSOVER OF THE MARRANOS

WHY THIS SUBJECT?

רמב"ם הלכות חמץ ומצה
מצוה להודיע לבנים ואפילו לא שאלו .. לפי
דעתו של בן אביו מלמדו, כיצד אם היה קטן או
טיפש אומר לו בני כולנו היינו עבדים כמו **שפחה**
זו או כמו עבד זה במצרים

IT IS A MITZVAH TO INFORM ONE'S SONS
EVEN THOUGH THEY DO NOT ASK,...."A
FATHER SHOULD TEACH HIS SON
ACCORDING TO THE SON'S KNOWLEDGE:
HOW SO? IF THE SON IS YOUNG OR
FOOLISH, HE SHOULD TELL HIM: "MY SON,
IN EGYPT, WE WERE ALL SLAVES **LIKE THIS**
MAIDSERVANT OR THIS SLAVE.

בבית בין התורים שנאמר ויאמר לאברהם ודע הידע
כיצד יהיה דרך בארץ לא להם ועבדים ועמו אורחם
ארבע מאות שנה וגם את אשר יעבדו דן אנכי ו
ואחרי כן יתאו ברכוש גדול
(פרק להנביא חסום) כס הקורא לו



וזה עינו וזה וקנה שלמה קטנה נכס עליה

יעבד חסידים במצרים

שעבדו לאבותינו ולנו שלא אהר
בלבד עומד עלינו לפלונית אלא
טובל דוד דוד עומדים עלינו לפלונית
והקדוש ברוך הוא מצילנו מידים

זהו

ולמה מה בקש לבן הארמי לעשות לעקב
אביו שפדוה לא גזר אלא על חסדו
ולבן בקש לעקור את הכל שנאמר ארמי אבד אביו

זהו

פסיקתא זוטרתא פרשת תבא

דבר אחר ויהי שם לגוי. מלמד שהיו ישראל מצויינים שם. שהיה מלבושם ומאכלם ולשונם משונים מן המצריים. מסומנין היו וידועין שהם גוי לבדם חלוק מן המצריים

ANOTHER OPINION: THAT THEY WERE DISTINCT THERE, THEIR CLOTHING, THEIR FOOD AND THEIR LANGUAGE WAS DISTINCT FROM THE EGYPTIANS. THEY WERE SIGNIFIED AS A SEPARATE NATION, ON THEIR OWN, DISTINCT FROM THE EGYPTIANS .





ACTIONS OF DISTINCTION IN PESACH MITZRAYIM & BEYOND



Calendar: החדש הזה לכם ראש חדשים

This time metric made them distinct from Egyptians and from other majority cultures throughout history



Passover offering: One-off solutions

An Egyptian Holy Symbol that must be roasted whole for all to see



Blood on Door Post / Mezzuah:

A feature the distinguished Jewish homes eternally



Chametz/ Matzah/ Kosher

Food distinction has been a key driver of identity and isolation

THE CHALLENGE OF CONVERSO LIFE

Metzuyananim on the inside only

Rituals of separation were a death Sentence

Mezuzah, Brit Milah

Shlomo Molcho discovers when he encounters David HaReuveni

Christian Polemic against the Talmud

Rituals dictated by the Talmud brought unique risk.

Practice centred almost exclusively on the the Bible

e.g. Fast of Esther for the Conversos lasted 3 days



Uriel De Costa-- Crypto Jew who refused to accept Torah She B'al Peh after life as Converso and then freedom in Amsterdam(Imaginary Portrait 1897)



BREIF (AND SELECT) HISTORY OF THE CONVERSO JOURNEY

THE TRAGIC YEAR: 1391

Antisemitic riots swept across Spain, June in Seville, July in Valencia, August in Barcelona

Fueled fervent preaching, these pogroms led to massacres and forced conversion of up to 100,000 Jews.

THE CHURCH WENT FROM THE PROBLEM OF **INFIDELS** OUTSIDE THE CHURCH, TO **HERETICS** WITHIN THE CHURCH



Vincent Ferrer

THE STAGES OF CELEBRATION

1391-1478

Celebrated by invitation to
the house of an open Jew

1478 Under the
Inquisition

After the expulsion
in 1492

A converse named Papudo from Burgos (Castile) In the home of Yudá Rabinuça "Eating with him the celery and bitter herbs that they eat on the first evening of that festival and of the unleavened bread ...along with everyone else who was at the Jew's house and recited the prayers with him which he knew by heart

THE STAGES OF CELEBRATION



According to Cecil Roth Jews held their Seder's after the first two nights of Pesach to throw of the Inquisitorial attention.

1391-1478

Celebrated by invitation to the house of an open Jew

1478 Under the Inquisition

After the expulsion in 1492

Seal for the Tribunal in Spain

the sword, symbolising the punishment of heretics; olive branch, symbolising reconciliation with the repentant. In Latin, the inscription "Psalm 73." "Arise, Lord, and judge your cause"

SECRET PLACES OF WORSHIP



1391-1478

Celebrated by invitation
to the house of an open
Jew

1478-1492

in Secret

After the
inquisition in
1492-1834

In March of 1500 in Valencia a clandestine synagogue was discovered in the home of Merchant Miquel Vivies a group was found there observing a seder

Our Lord in the
Attic Amsterdam

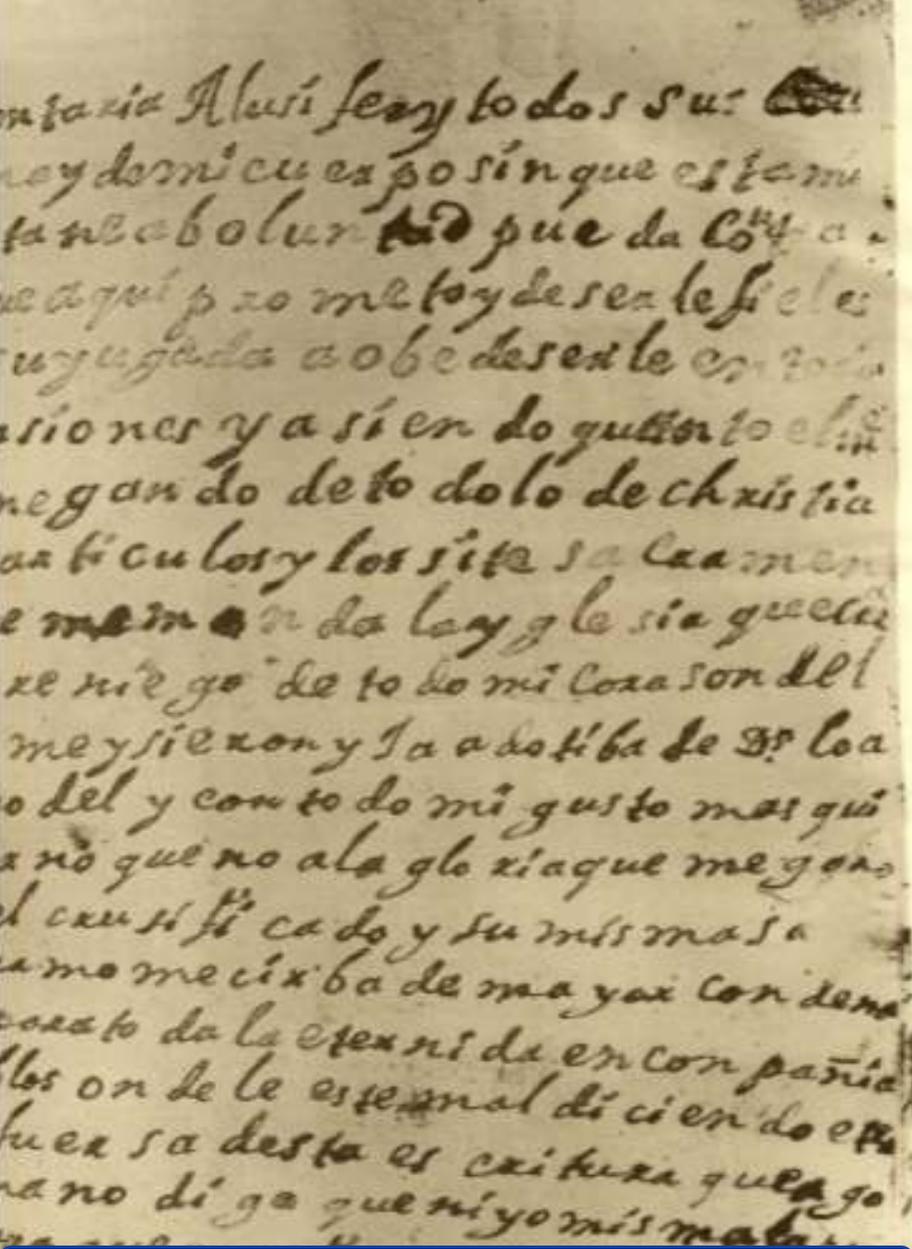
A WINDOW INTO THE CHOICES OF THE MOMENT

HE SAID THAT THE YEAR THAT THEIR MAJESTIES ORDERED THE JEWS TO LEAVE CASTILE, HE SPENT PASSOVER WITH THE JEWS AT THE HOME OF ISAAC THE PORTUGUESE... TEACHING ONE OF ISAAC'S SONS TO READ [THE HOLY BOOKS]. WHILE THEY WERE READING, OLD FERNANDO DE GUERNICA, THE POT MAKER..., WHO WAS A GREAT FRIEND OF ISAAC, CAME IN AND SAID: "WHAT ARE YOU DOING? MISFORTUNE TAKE YOU! YOU ARE WASTING TIME. YOU READ, YOU READ! AND EVEN THIS FELLOW, ALAS, THINKS HE IS DOING SOMETHING USEFUL!" HE WAS REFERRING TO ME. "YOU WOULD DO BETTER, FESTIVAL OR NOT, [TO SPEND YOUR TIME! THINKING HOW YOU ARE GOING TO LIQUIDATE YOUR PROPERTY, AND HOW YOU ARE GOING TO DEPART. SOME PEOPLE SAY THAT YOU SHOULD BECOME CHRISTIAN, BUT MAY GOD RUIN MY HOLIDAY IF I ADVISE IT. THE REASON IS THAT ONCE YOU HAVE BECOME CHRISTIAN THEY WILL FIGURE OUT A WAY TO SHOVE YOUR FACE IN THE FIRE...

JUAN DE SALAZEDO IN REPORT TO INQUISITION IN 1502 ABOUT THE SPRING OF 1492.

Los años de aquella vez en buenas horas
a se de poner uno en lugar de Juana, y otro
en el de messia, pa el otro se pone
Al Sr. D. Pedro, y pa el otro al Sr. D. Pedro
Carvajal y Vega de Arco, y que se de
Inq. de Sevilla — lo q se de servir al Rey de Aragon
Madrid — lo q se de servir al Rey de Aragon
hacer ala vez y cada cosa por lo del apuesto
de l Cony, hasta de Rey de Aragon

Official
inquisition
record
Madrid
Archive



Records of the Inquisition of the Canary Islands

THE INTERNALIZATION OF METZUYANIM

- **Beat his Chest at the time of Communion**
Records of the Canary Islands
- **Prohibition of idol worship is only if you believe in your heart at time of worship--letter attributed to "Baruch Ben Neriah"**
שבט יהודה
- **Recite Shema as they walked into Church**

HOW DID CONVERSOS RECOGNIZE EACH OTHER HOW WERE THEY METZUYANIM WITHOUT GETTING NOTICED?



Marranos: A secret [Passover Seder](#) in Spain during the times of Inquisition. An 1893 painting by [Moshe Maimon](#).

- ☞ **Apprentice Children to Jewish Master Artisan**
- ☞ **Business Networks**
- ☞ **Endogamy**
- ☞ **Secure Procedures for indoctrinating Children**
- ☞ **Women played the strongest role**

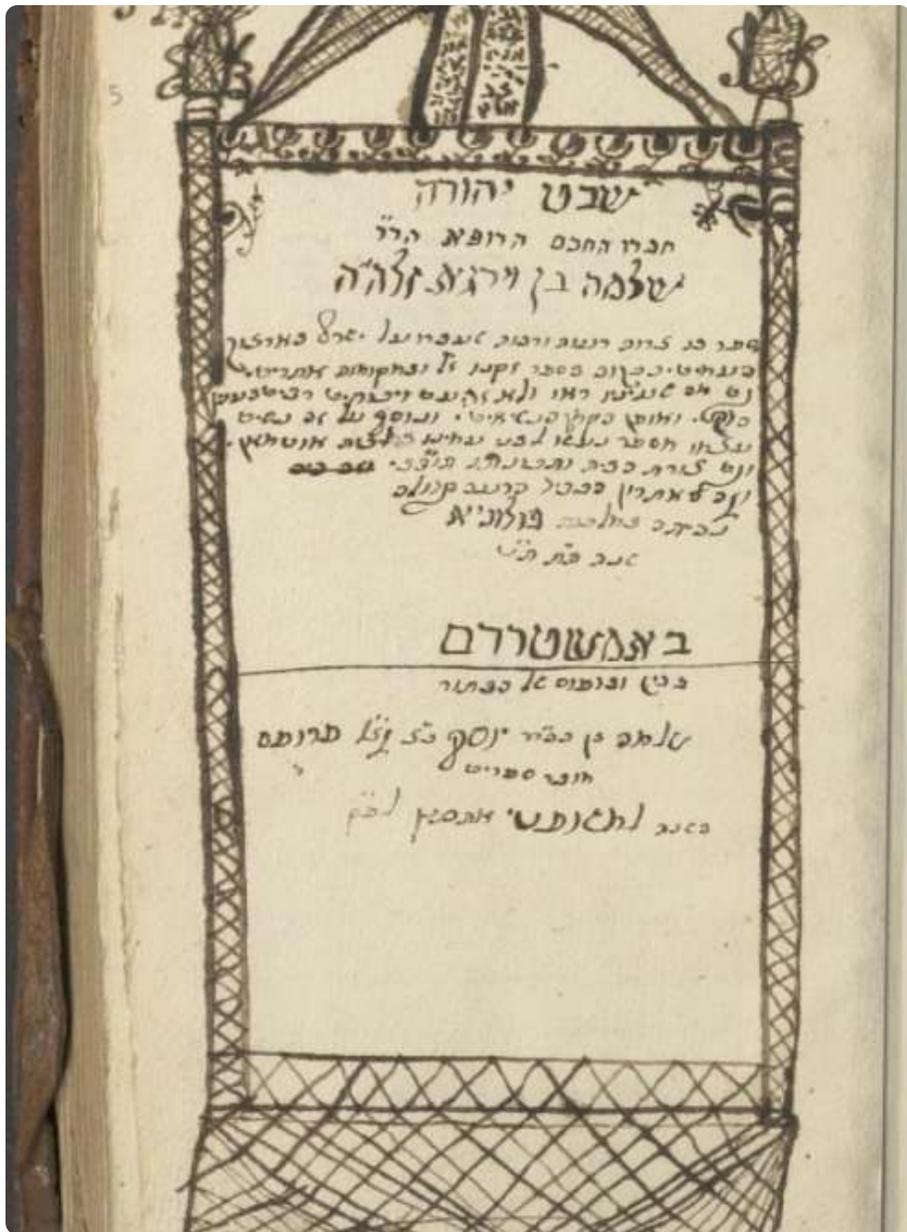
KNOW WAYS OF REMEMBERING JEWISH PRACTICE AFTER THE EXPULSION

- 1 Portugal they were allowed to keep their books for 25 years
- 2 Oral Tradition, most repeated prayers: Shema, Amida Kiddush.
- 3 Old Testament, particularly the Vulgate
- 4 Edicts of Grace (next slide)





חשד קל שבקלים על שמירת
מצות או מנהג יהודי היה יכול
לגורו את תוצאות הקשות
ביותר, אולם למרות כל
הסכנה הכרוכה בדבר
השתדלו האנוסים לשמור על
יהדותם וללמדה לבניהם
אחריהם



תדע אדונינו כי האנוסים
יותר יעבדו את דתם
הראשונה לאחר האנוס
ממה שהיה קודם האנוס

שבט יהודה שלמה אבן ווירגא

THE CONVERSO WHO REFUSED MILAH

HE WAS AFRAID THAT HE MIGHT HAVE TO RETURN TO AN AREA WHERE HE WOULD HAVE TO PROTECT HIS IDENTITY

RABBI OF PISA

ALLOWED TO WEAR
TEFILIN, OPEN THE ARK
AND HOLD TORAH

RABBIS OF LEVORNO

Forbade, for the hour no longer demands
this behavior. כל עוד שלא נמולו... כי
יתעצלו מהכנס בבריתו של אברהם אבינו
בראותם שעם היום ערלים אין מונעים מהם
דבר ומשתמשים בכל דברי קדושה
כישראלים גמורים

ADVICE TO JEWS KEEPING PESACH IN SPAIN

- Eat Matzah all year round
- Make Matzah with milk
- Scald the flour in boiling water first -- even though the Gaonim forbade.
- Make Matzah months early and then grind and make bread.

RABBI SHLOMO DORAN AV BEIT DIN IN ALGIERS ,1400-1467

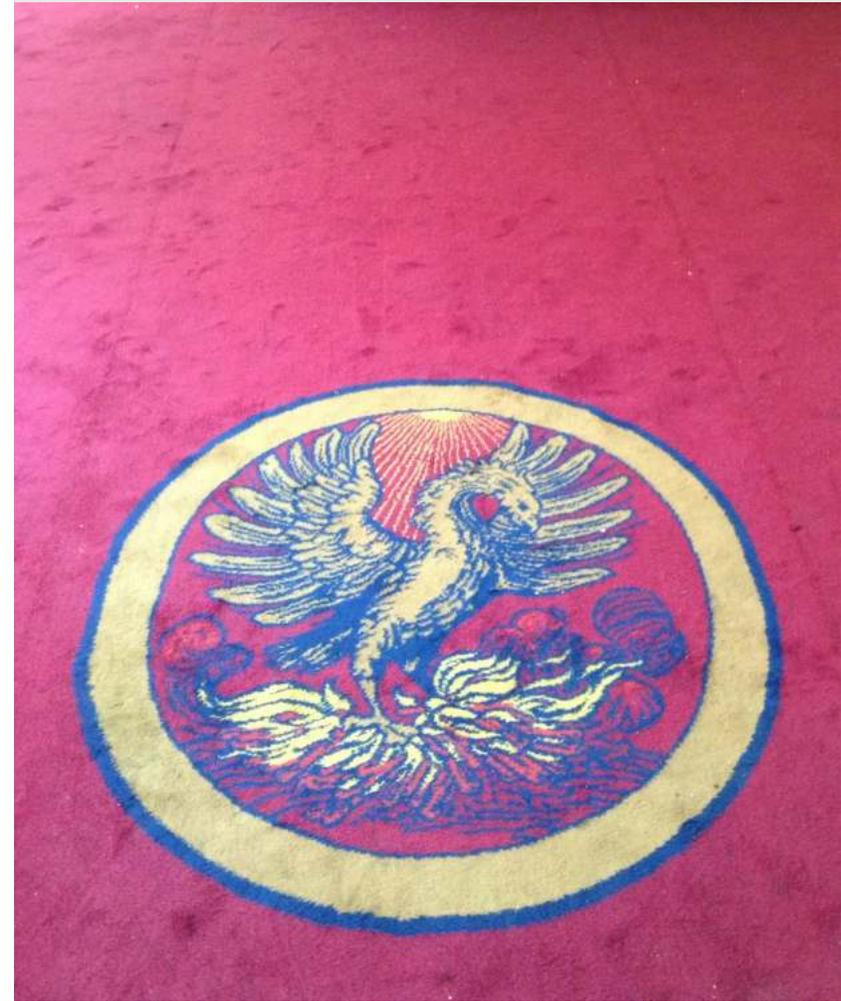


IRREPRESSABLE HOPE



JEWS REBORN IN AMSTERDAM

JEW
REBORN IN
AMSTERDAM



A JUDAIZING FAMILY--THE PATH OF RETURN

FERNÃO ALVARES MELO



A judaizing Family



Mor Dias died in auto-de-fe in Évora 1584



Father Arrested by the Évora inquisition 1542



Fernão Alvares Melo



Mother Died a professing Jew In Tzfat



Antonio Rodrigues Melo



Henrique De Melo Arrested in 1581 f

Entretenimiento primero.

Reformado.

Con todo lo mucho y bueno que avemos discutido, poco ostendamos negociado. Contado por lo que ami metoca, digo, que mucho de lo que crehia bueno, lo era malo, y mucho de lo que crehia malo, lo era Santo y bueno.

Catholico

Con Judios, Hereges, y Infieles, no ay que hablar. Son prejudicial a las sus conversaciones. Confieso que me ha turbado las cosas que aqui he visto, los castigos los hacen callar, para que sus Griegos herrenes no infuieren nuestras Catholicas infalibles verdades.

Turco

Para con los Esquitas, nada ay como la Ley, los Prophetas, ni el mismo Evangelio, como a trañas convierten en veneno las flores. Yo al abeja la he convertido en miel, en nuestras pasadas controversias mucho bueno he aprendido, y ayo desfiado.

Judio.

Sin Confesir, ninguno puede desasnar, ni pñedcalabor. Nuestro Catholico bapante ha visto, es por que ay de su preocupacion a su buen entendimiento.

Reformado

Cada uno de nos otros deve considerar, y distinguir lo que dizen los hombres, y lo que dice Dios, haato es he dicho. miradlo.

agora

“

YOU CAME TO SEARCH FOR ME, FOR I WAS FLEEING FROM YOU, KNOWING I OWED YOU A DEBT I CANNOT PAY. MANY TIMES YOU HAVE CALLED ME WITH OVERWHELMING INDULGENCE, AT TIMES BY DRAWING BLOOD FROM MY SOUL, WHICH NOW I FEEL. ALL BECAUSE I DID NOT FOLLOW THAT WHICH MY ANCESTORS GAVE ME, THE EVERLASTING HERITAGE WHICH LEADS TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF YOU.... THEN YOU, SEEING I WAS TO BE LOST TO YOU, CAME TO MY RESCUE, AND IN THE HOLY INQUISITION PLACED ME IN OBEISANCE... FROM THERE, O LORD, I CALLED YOU, THE EYES OF MY SOUL HAVING OPENED, FOR THEN I KNEW THE SOUL. I HAD THOUGHT THAT ALL WAS BODY.”

Poem of David Abenatar Melo

Entertaining dialogues, or burlesque dialogues between a Jew, Turk, Reformed and Catholic a Polemic work written for Jews

החודש הזה יהיה לכם ראש חדשים

First of April (Mexican María de Zárate)
1656

In Month of March

Gonçalo Váez
Portuguese student to the Granada inquisition 1573

Portuguese New Christians

Santa Festa on 14th day of the new moon of March (till this day)

Holy Thursday till the following Thursday (of the Easter Calendar)

Most common e.g. Bernadina de San Juan 1572

Two Days after the Jewish Calendar indicates Seder

As described by Cecil Roth



An *auto de fe* in New Spain, 18th century



“[HIS GRANDMOTHER]” SHE TOLD HIM TO
REMAIN RECLINING AND TO KEEP HIS
HEAD COVERED AND NOT TO EAT ANY
OTHER BREAD DURING THOSE DAYS

Recorded in the Mexican Auto De fe 1649

NO HAGGADAH? - RECITE THE SONG OF MOSESS

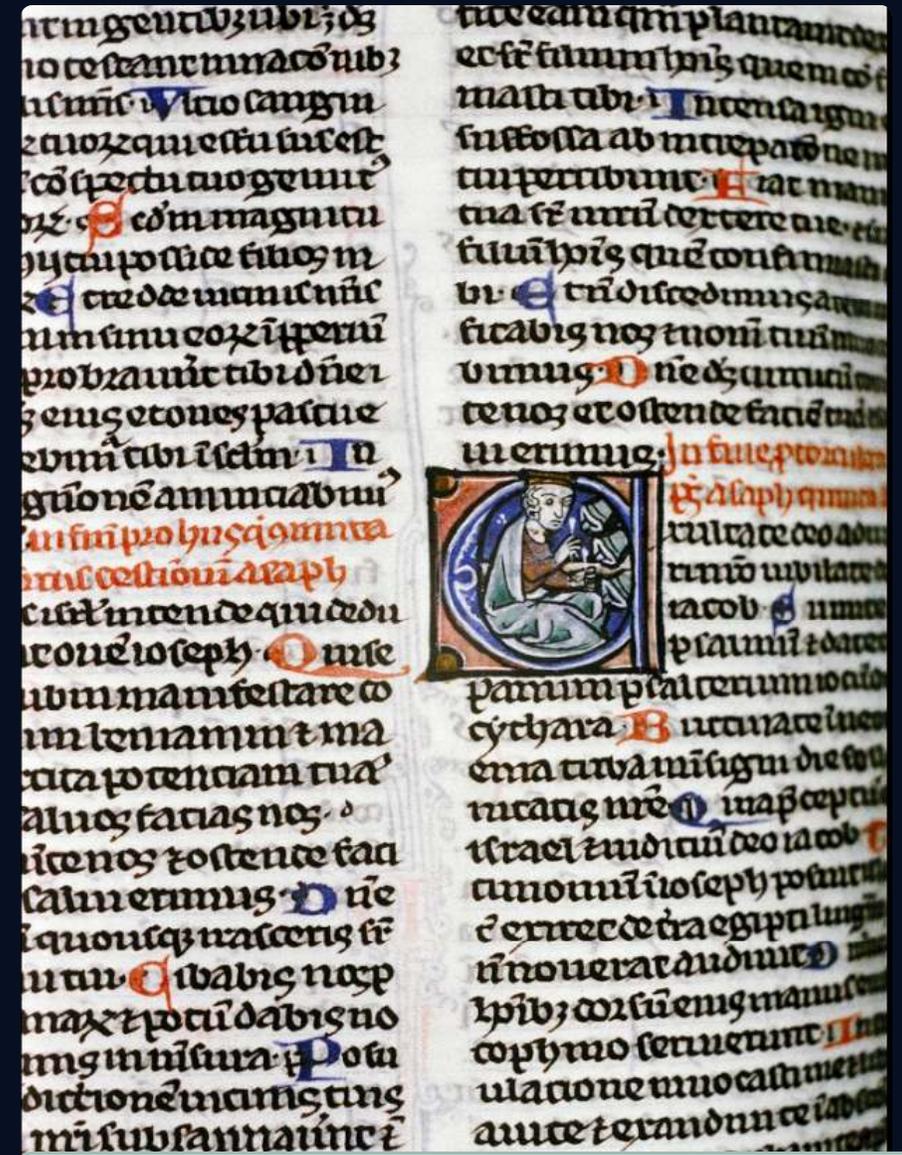
Mexico Luis de Carvajal

REENACT THE EXODUS STORY

Mexico Luis de Carvajal

READ EXODUS FROM THE VULGATE

Mexico



13th century Vulgate Bible Bodleian Library
MS. Auct. D. 5.13



DIEGO MORA OF QUINTANAR DE LA ORDEN 1589 ACCUSED OF RECITING SEDER IN BOOTS AND A STAFF STANDING

וככה תאכלו אתו מתניכם חגרים נעליכם
ברגליכם ומקלכם בידכם ואכלתם אתו בחפזון
פסח הוא ליהוה.

EXODUS 12:11



IN MEXICO LUIS DE CARVAJAL THE YOUNGER ENACTED THE EXODUS STORY AT HIS SEDER " THE READER WORE A WHITE GARMENT OVER HIS CLOTHES WITH A BELT TIGHTENED OVER HIS WAIST. HE PACED BACK AND FORTH AND READ ALOUD WITH HIS STAFF IN HIS LEFT HAND AND THE BIBLE IN THE OTHER



SOME ACCOUNTS
IN THE MEXICAN
INQUISITION
SPOKE OF THE
JEWS PAINTING
BLOOD ON THE
DOOR POSTS

EVER HOPEFUL OF REVIVAL

Professor Jonathan Schorsch of Potsdam University found a Seder Plate in Monestary in Mallorca brought there in 17th century from Italy, then connected when it was discovered they celerated Yom Kippur



חזקת כל האנוסים אין נושאים גויות, ודבר
זה מפורסם לנו שהם מתנהגים בכך דור
אחר דור מזמן הגזרה עד היום

וכל אנוס הבא לעשות תשובה כשם שמחזיקים אותו שאביו מישראל כך מחזיקים אותו
שאמו מישראל ואינה גויה,,, לא חששו להצריכם טבילה בחזיתם אל היהדות מפני שסמכו
על חזקתם שאמם מישראל

RABBI SHIMON DORAN GRANDSON OF TASHBETZ ,1400-1467



שהאולם הנושא נכרית הוא אצלם מרוחק
ומתועב ושוב אינם מתערבים בזרעו כי
אותו הזרע נחשב אצלם כעכו"ם

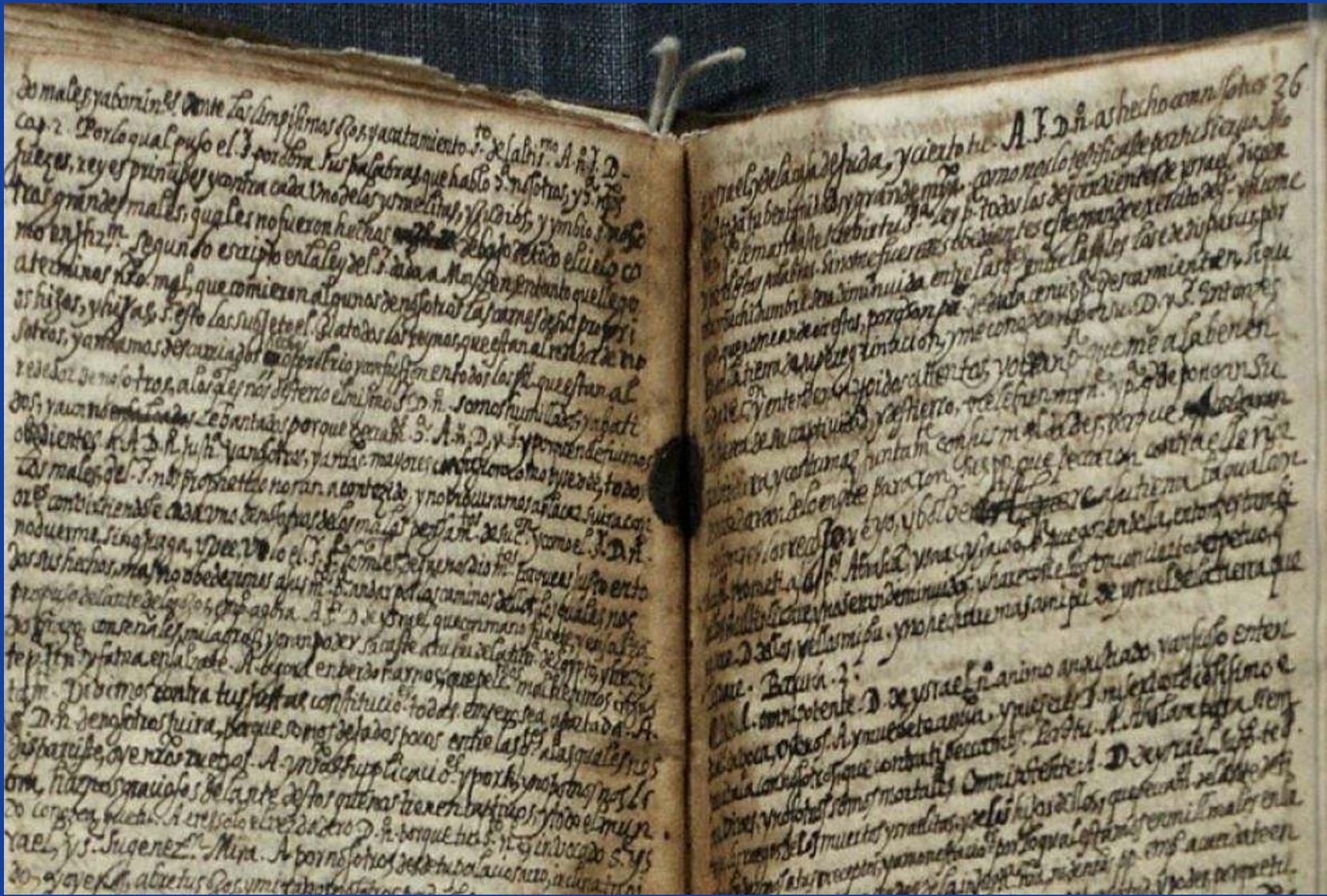
שו"ת יכין ובעז ח"ב סי' לא

RABBI SHIMON DORAN GRANDSON OF TASHBETZ ,1400-1467

Rabbi Yom Tov Tzahalon, Safed d. 1618

If it was discovered among the conversos
that a family married a non-jew this would
become well known among them and they
would be careful to separate **להבדל** from
such a family





SOURCES ARE THE OFFICIAL RECORDS OF THE INQUISITION

Autobiographical manuscripts of Luis de Carvajal the Younger, circa 1595,

SOURCES

*Secrecy and Deceit: The Religion of the
Crypto-Jews*- David Gitlitz

אנוסי ספרד ופורטוגל בספרות התשובות-
שמחה אסף

Cecil Roth--the Religion of the Marranos

A Passover in Mallorca--Jonathan Schorsch

Jonathan Israel --*Diasporas within a Diaspora:
Jews, Crypto-Jews and the World of Maritime
Empires (1540-1740*



Cecil Roth

centenyo
de los del crist
Fiesta OS los del crist
Pascua Pascua Pesach crist
Judfos La
pan NOVOS
de Cordero
Pascua

PASSOVER IN CONVERSO SONG

Songs passed down

Jonathan Schorsch "A few people of the *converse* background spoke afterward [a concert] of how the Ladino songs had brought tears to their eyes, not having heard the songs since their grandmothers sang them to them as young children.

Jonathan Schorsch, A Passover in Mallorca

