

The Jewish Problem, The Jewish State –  
Four Poetic Explorations

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<i>Literally, spills its rays on the ground, echoing Onan's spilling his seed; Gen. 28:9.</i>	The earth is as it was, the sun still shines. <sup>o</sup> It is a day like any other day. Descend then, to the cellars of the town, There where the virginal daughters of thy folk were fouled, Where seven heathen flung a woman down, The daughter in the presence of her mother, The mother in the presence of her daughter, <sup>o</sup> Before slaughter, during slaughter, and after slaughter! Touch with thy hand the cushion stained; Touch the pillow incarnadined:	80
<i>Based on midrash on Hos. 10:14: "When mothers and babes were dashed to death together."</i>	This is the place the wild ones of the wood, the beasts of the field With bloody axes in their paws compelled thy daughters yield: Beasted and swined!	85
<i>1 Sam. 24:11.</i>	Note also do not fail to note, <sup>o</sup> In that dark corner, and behind that cask Crouched husbands, bridegrooms, brothers, peering from the cracks, Watching the sacred bodies struggling underneath The bestial breath, Stuffed in filth, and swallowing their blood!	90
<i>Jer. 3:25. Esther 5:9. Judg. 16:21, Samson's story.</i>	Watching from the darkness and its mesh The lecherous rabble portioning for booty Their kindred and their flesh! Crushed in their shame, <sup>o</sup> they saw it all; They did not stir nor move; <sup>o</sup> They did not pluck their eyes out; <sup>o</sup> they Beat not their brains against the wall! Perhaps, perhaps, each watcher had it in his heart to pray: <i>A miracle, O Lord,—and spare my skin this day!</i> <sup>o</sup>	95
<i>Jer. 5:12.</i>	Those who survived this foulness, who from their blood awoke, Beheld their life polluted, the light of their world gone out— How did their menfolk bear it, how did they bear this yoke? They crawled forth from their holes, they fled to the house of the Lord, They offered thanks to Him, the sweet benedictory word. The <i>Kohanim</i> sallied forth, to the Rabbi's house they flitted: <i>Tell me, O Rabbi, tell, is my own wife permitted?</i> <sup>o</sup>	100
<i>According to rabbinic law, the wife of a Kohen (descendant of the priesthood) must abrogate relations with her husband</i>	The matter ends; and nothing more. And all is as it was before. Come, now, and I will bring thee to their lairs	105
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