

Contents

Acknowledgements	IX
Introduction: The Formation of the Rabbinic Community	1
I. Yavneh and the Myth of Origins	4
II. The Sage Idea and the Development of a Collective	8
III. Heresy and the Formation of Community	14
IV. A Note on Style and Method	19
Chapter 1: The Meaning and End of Heresy in Rabbinic Literature	27
I. Heresy in Rabbinic Literature?	28
II. Heresy as a Category	32
III. Heresy as <i>hairesis</i>	37
IV. Heresy as Heresiological Discourse	41
V. Heresy and Boundary Rhetoric in the Ancient World	48
Chapter 2: Varieties of <i>Minim</i> in the Second Temple and Rabbinic Period	50
I. Heresy and <i>Minut</i>	51
II. <i>Minim</i> as Insiders in the Late Second Temple and Early Rabbinic Periods	57
III. <i>Minim</i> as Hybrids in the Early Christian Period	72
IV. <i>Minim</i> as Outsiders in the Late Rabbinic Period	88
Chapter 3: Co-opting the Sinners of Israel	92
I. The Sinners of Israel and the Sinners of the Nations of the World	92
II. Sinners, Pomegranates, and Good Deeds	98
III. An Israelite Who Sins	106
IV. All Israel Have a Portion in the World to Come	110
Chapter 4: <i>Meshummadim</i> Who Provoke the Rabbis	116
I. <i>Meshummadim</i> , Apostates, and “The Time of Persecutions”	117
II. Flagrant <i>Meshummadim</i>	127
III. <i>Meshummadim</i> From Appetite and To Provoke	132
IV. Provoking the Torah and the Rabbis	139

Chapter 5: <i>Apiqorsim</i> Who Disrespect the Rabbis	144
I. Epicureans, Sadducees, and Divine Providence	145
II. Disrespecting the Rabbis	152
III. <i>Apiqorsim</i> and Irreverence	156
IV. <i>Apiqorsim</i> , <i>minim</i> , and Dangerous Verses	158
V. Know How to Avoid an <i>Apiqoros</i>	162
Chapter 6: Two Powers and the Ascent of Rabbi Elisha	167
I. Elisha ben Abuyah as an Absolute Other	168
II. Elisha ben Abuyah as a Failed Rabbi	171
III. Elisha's Ascent and Divine Multiplicity	176
IV. Metatron's Transgression and Heavenly Proscriptions	185
V. Elisha's Transgression and the Heavenly Voice	187
Chapter 7: The Failed Rabbi and Those Who Cause the Public to Sin	193
I. The Mechanics of Atonement in Rabbinic Tradition	194
II. Gehazi as a Failed Rabbi	200
III. The Failed Rabbi in the Babylonian Talmud	206
Conclusion: Boundary Rhetoric, Community Formation, and Rabbinic Judaism	217
Appendix: Synoptic Presentation of b. Hagigah 15a and 3 Enoch for Chapter Six	225
Bibliography	227
Index of Primary Sources	249
Index of Modern Authors	261
Index of Subjects	266