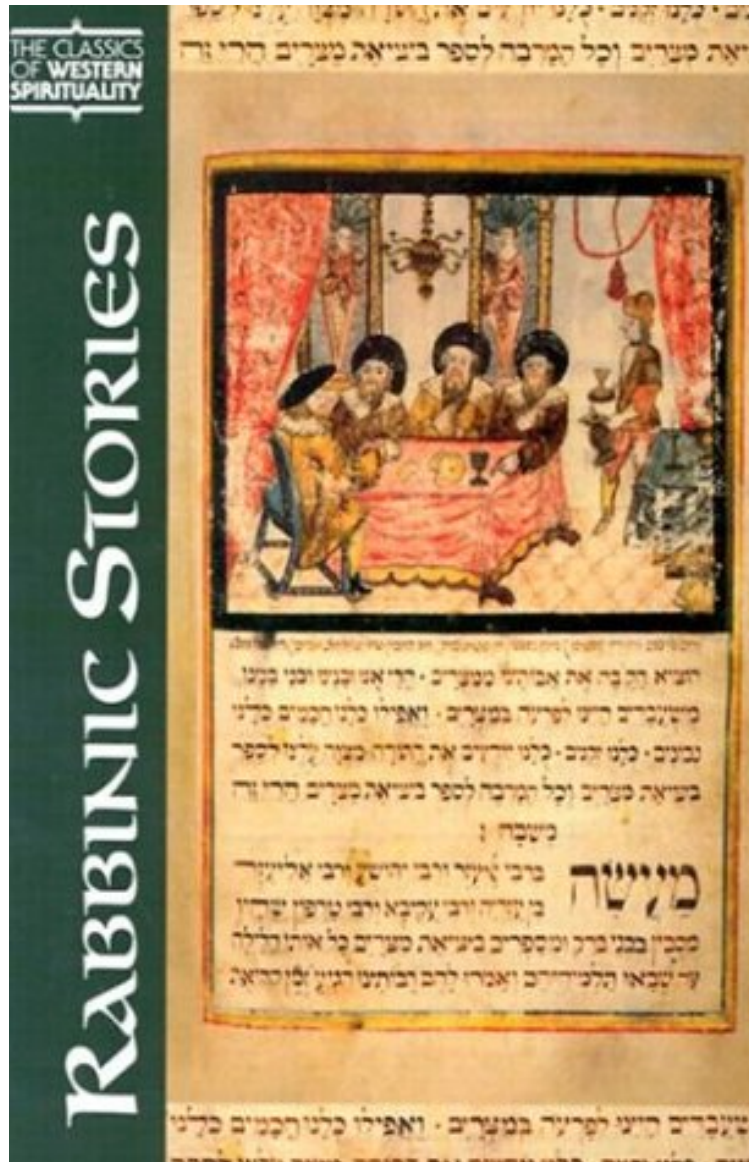


(Library ebook) Rabbinic Stories (Classics of Western Spirituality) (Classics of Western Spirituality (Paperback))

## Rabbinic Stories (Classics of Western Spirituality) (Classics of Western Spirituality (Paperback))

Jeffrey L. Rubenstein, Shaye J. D. Cohen  
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Jeffrey L. Rubenstein, Shaye J. D. Cohen : Rabbinic Stories (Classics of Western Spirituality) (Classics of Western Spirituality (Paperback)) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rabbinic Stories (Classics of Western Spirituality) (Classics of Western Spirituality (Paperback)):

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Skimming Through It, Seems LegitBy Matthew Purchased this to add to my Classics of Western Spirituality collection. When I get around to reading it, probably years from now, I'll probably review it then.

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Service!By Bentsion BovermanThe book arrived sooner than expected. In excellent condition. I hope to do more business with you in the future.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Stories that Provide an Insight into the World of the Early RabbisBy Stefano NikolaouI have an interest in post-Biblical Jewish history. The language barrier (Hebrew and Aramaic), the massive amount of actual material (Talmud, Tosefta, Midrash) and the terse nature of the narratives make it nearly impenetrable. Thus, I jumped at the chance to read this nice collection of stories of the Rabbis, which is reasonably priced and translated into a readable English idiom. I didn't find the preface or the introduction particularly helpful. The division of the material into broadly chronological (and then thematic) sections was a nice move. As a rule the further back you go from the date of the Mishnah (2nd Century) and the Talmud (5th century) the less reliable and the more sparse the stories. For example, the Rabbis seem to know very little about the Hasmoneans or Herod. I found Part VI on 'Romans, Gentiles and Others' and Part VIII on 'Suffering, Martyrdom and Theodicy' to be the most interesting as insights into the world of the Rabbis. I came to a number of conclusions from reading this book. The Rabbinic sources are not history. If anything historical is mentioned only to illustrate some point of law. Rabbinic culture was very insular as they tended to ignore Greco-Roman culture. Finally, the Rabbis firmly believed in the supernatural - some of their stories are so outlandish that no one could have actually believed them. The notes are really helpful in understanding the extracts. Further investigation has made me realise this volume contains the best selection of stories. They are referred to in many histories of Judaism and early Christianity. I have re-read this book a number of times and each time I get more from it.

Stories from the main works of classical rabbinic literature, which were produced by Jewish sages in either Hebrew or Aramaic, between 200 and 600 CE.

About the Author Jeffrey L. Rubenstein, who holds a Ph.D. from the department of religion, Columbia University, is associate professor in the department of Hebrew and Judaic studies, New York University. He is the author of numerous scholarly articles and two other books.