

The Hakhamim #2

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Matteh Dan, Introduction

My reason for writing this work 'The Rod of Judgement,' is, that I consider it as a powerful rod with which to smite the forehead of the Karaites...a weapon embodying a sound knowledge, by which they may be convinced that all the efforts of their wise men to arrive at the import of the words of the living God, without the aid of the traditions transmitted by Moses to our learned ancestors, have been futile. Those tradition will never be forgotten: as they exist today, so will they be in all future time.

Matteh Dan, First Dialogue

1. Nevertheless, all the discourse he (Yehuda Halevi) had with my illustrious father, Joseph, referred only to the Scriptural Law; the Oral Law he touched upon but seldom, and then but slightly. Wherefore have I felt grief in my heart, as the Karaites now question the veracity of the traditions of our learned ancestors.

Dr Louis Loewe, 1842, Matteh Dan Introduction

The translator wishes it to be distinctly understood...his sole motive is to strengthen his brethren in there adherence to the ordinances of the Lord, as delivered by Moses, and expounded by Israel's revered sages.

Matteh Dan, Fifth Dialogue

Kuzar: Should you consent to stay with us here, I will give you a million golden dinars, for your departure hence would weigh heavily upon me.

Haver: Were you to offer me all the gold and silver in the world, I could not delay here longer; I must get on my way back to the great city of London to minister to the holy congregation of Sephardim, may God maintain soundly their establishment as I have done since the beginning of 5462/1701.