

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910291733003321
Titolo	Lament in Jewish thought : philosophical, theological, and literary perspectives // edited by Ilit Ferber and Paula Schwebel
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berlin, [Germany] ; ; Boston, [Massachusetts] : , : De Gruyter, , 2014 ©2014
ISBN	3-11-039531-2 3-11-033996-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (372 p.)
Collana	Perspectives on Jewish Texts and Contexts, , 2199-6962 ; ; Volume 2
Classificazione	CC 8200
Disciplina	809/.88924
Soggetti	Laments - Philosophy Jewish mourning customs - Philosophy Jewish philosophy Laments in the Bible
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
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Sommario/riassunto

Lament, mourning, and the transmissibility of a tradition in the aftermath of destruction are prominent themes in Jewish thought. The corpus of lament literature, building upon and transforming the biblical Book of Lamentations, provides a unique lens for thinking about the relationships between destruction and renewal, mourning and remembrance, loss and redemption, expression and the inexpressible. This anthology features four texts by Gershom Scholem on lament, translated here for the first time into English. The volume also includes original essays by leading scholars, which interpret Scholem's texts and situate them in relation to other Weimar-era Jewish thinkers, including Walter Benjamin, Franz Rosenzweig, Franz Kafka, and Paul Celan, who drew on the textual traditions of lament to respond to the destruction and upheavals of the early twentieth century. Also included are studies on the textual tradition of lament in Judaism, from biblical, rabbinic, and medieval lamentations to contemporary Yemenite women's laments. This collection, unified by its strong thematic focus on lament, shows the fruitfulness of studying contemporary and modern texts alongside the traditional textual sources that informed them.
