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Nota di contenuto	Contents; Acknowledgments; Introduction: Aggadic Midrash in Babylonia; 1 A Chamber on the Wall; 2 A Holy Man of God; 3 Two Faces; 4 Daughters of Zion; 5 Cave of Machpelah; 6 Amraphel and Nimrod; 7 A New King; 8 The Fish; 9 Sevenfold; 10 "From India Even unto Ethiopia"; 11 Ahasuerus, a Clever King or a Stupid King?; 12 "The Court of the Garden..."; 13 Treasure Cities; 14 Pithom and Raamses; 15 Shiphrah and Puah; 16 Coats of Skins; 17 To Do His Business; 18 Orpah and Harafah; 19 Shobach and Shophach; 20 Elishah and the Children; 21 Staff or Goblet; 22 King and Commoner; 23 Ezekiel's Cry 24 Mahlon and Chilion 25 His Eldest Son; 26 Achan and Zimri; 27 Ham and Noah; 28 Sennacherib, Clever or Stupid?; 29 Copper Precious as Gold; 30 Non-Babylonian Examples; Conclusions; Works Cited; Indexes
Sommario/riassunto	The Bible has always been vital to Jewish religious life, and it has been expounded in diverse ways. Perhaps the most influential body of Jewish biblical interpretation is the Midrash that was produced by expositors

during the first five centuries CE. Many such teachings are collected in the Babylonian Talmud, the monumental compendium of Jewish law and lore that was accepted as the definitive statement of Jewish oral tradition for subsequent generations. However, many of the Talmud's interpretations of biblical passages appear bizarre or pointless. From Sermon to Commentary: E

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