

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910813073303321
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Titolo	The meanings of death in Rabbinic Judaism // David Kraemer
Pubbl/distr/stampa	London, : Routledge, 2001
ISBN	1-134-61653-8 1-280-46374-0 9780203171020 9786610463749 0-203-01010-8 0-203-17102-0
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xi, 170 pages) : illustrations
Disciplina	296.44509015
Soggetti	Death in rabbinical literature Jewish mourning customs - History Death - Religious aspects - Judaism
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Preliminaries; CONTENTS; List of illustrations; Preface and Acknowledgments; Glossary; List of abbreviations; 1 The presence of death; 2 Jewish death customs before the rabbis; 3 Early rabbinic death-practices; 4 Early expansions and commentaries; 5 Jewish death-practices in reality; 6 Jewish death-practices in early Byzantine Palestine; 7 Law as commentary: The Bavli on death and burial; 8 The Bavli interprets the mourner; 9 Post-Talmudic developments in Jewish death-practice; 10 A personal theological postscript; Notes; References; Index
Sommario/riassunto	This is the first study of the death and mourning practices of the founders of Judaism - the Rabbis of late antiquity. The author outlines the rituals described in early texts and interprets them to uncover the beliefs which caused their foundation.