

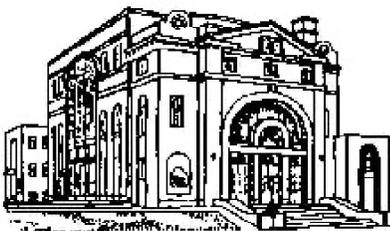
JAVA AND JEWISH HISTORY

Rabbi Daniel Yolkut

Tribes / Idolatry

Tehillim 78

59. God heard and was enraged, and He was utterly disgusted with Israel; 60. And He abandoned the Tabernacle of Shilo, the Tent where He had dwelled among men. 61. He put His might into captivity, and His glory into the hand of the oppressor. 62. He delivered His nation to the sword, and was enraged with His inheritance. 63. Fire consumed His young men, and His maidens had no marriage song. 64. His priests fell by the sword, and their widows did not weep.⁵ 65. And the Lord awoke like one who had been asleep, like a warrior shouting [to sober himself] from wine. 66. He beat His enemies into retreat, and dealt them eternal disgrace. 67. He was disgusted with the tent of Joseph, and did not choose the tribe of Ephraim. 68. He chose the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion which He loves. 69. And He built His Sanctuary [permanent as] the heavens; like the earth, He established it forever. 70. And He chose David His servant, and took him from the sheep corrals. 71. From following the nursing ewes, He brought Him to shepherd His nation Jacob, Israel His inheritance. 72. And he tended them with the integrity of his heart, and led them with the skill of his hands.



Talmud Sanhedrin 102b

In the Yeshiva of R. Ashi the lecture [one day] terminated at 'Three Kings.'¹ 'To-morrow, said he, 'we will commence with our colleagues.'² [That night] Menashe came and appeared to him in a dream. 'Thou hast called us thy colleagues and the colleagues of thy father; now, from what part [of the bread] is [the piece for reciting] the ha-motzi to be taken?' 'I do not know,' he answered. 'Thou hast not learned this,' he jibed, 'yet thou callest us thy colleagues!' 'Teach it me,' he begged, 'and to-morrow I will teach it in thy name at the session.' He answered, 'From the part that is baked into a crust.' He then questioned him, 'Since thou art so wise, why didst thou worship idols?' He replied, 'Wert thou there, thou wouldst have caught up the skirt of thy garment and sped after me.'

Talmud Sanhedrin 63b

R' Yehudah said in the name of Rav: The Israelites knew that the idols were nonentities, but they engaged in idolatry only that they might openly satisfy their forbidden lusts. R. Mesharshia objected: "As those who remember their children, so they longed for their altars, and their graves by the green trees etc;" which R. Eleazar interpreted. As one who yearns for his son [so they yearned]? — That was after they became addicted thereto.