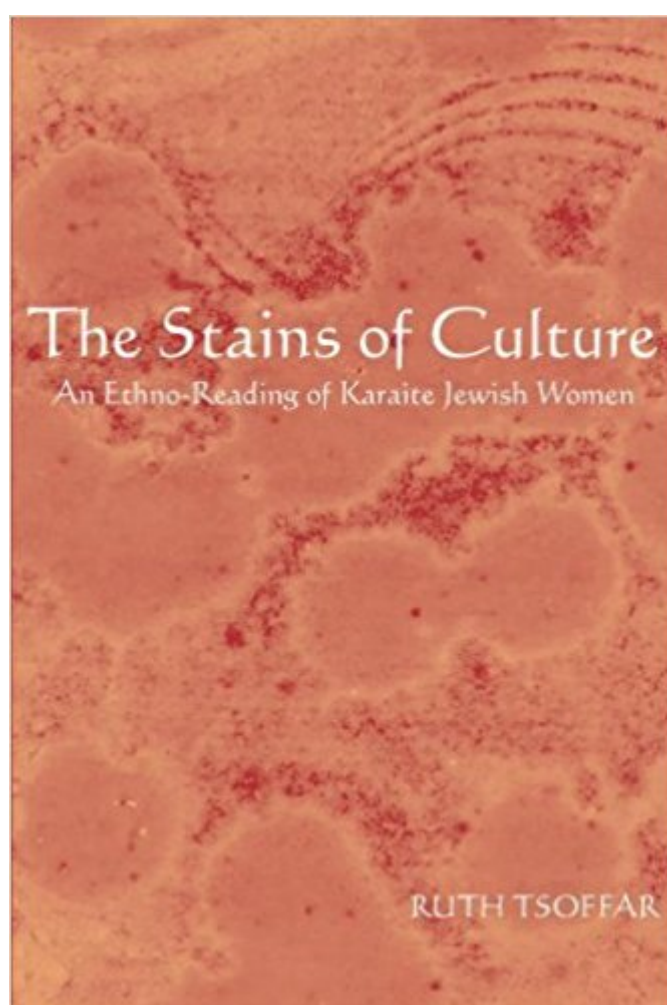


The book was found

# The Stains Of Culture: An Ethno-Reading Of Karaite Jewish Women (Raphael Patai Series In Jewish Folklore And Anthropology)



## Synopsis

A minority within Judaism, the Karaites are known as a 'reading community'-one that looks to the Bible as the authority in all areas of life, including intimate relations and hygiene. Here Ruth Tsoffar considers how Egyptian Kariates of the San Francisco Bay Area define themselves, within both California culture and Judaism, in terms of the Bible and its bearing on their bodies. Women's perspectives play a large role in this ethnography; it is their bodies that are especially regulated by rules of cleanliness and purity to the point where their biological cycles-menstruation, procreation, childbirth, lactation-determine their place in the community. As Tsoffar notes, the female body itself becomes a richly encoded text that reveals much about the Karaites' attitudes toward the interrelated issues of gender, sex, food, procreation, sacred traditions, time and space, as well as identity. The author illuminates the cultural strategies used by Karaite women to sustain their religious ideologies yet find personally meaningful ways of reading. The Karaites have survived since at least the 8th century by continually contemporizing their culture. Through a study of the rich, animated ritual experience of niddah (menstruation and purity codes in Leviticus), we see how the Karaite women seek to imagine and narrate a new history of purity through their bodies. The Stains of Culture presents issues of meaning and interpretation in a way valuable to students of women's studies, anthropology, minority cultural production, scholars of religion and Judaism, especially to those interested in exploring Judaism's diversity.

## Book Information

Series: Raphael Patai Series in Jewish Folklore and Anthropology

Paperback: 264 pages

Publisher: Wayne State University Press (December 19, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0814332234

ISBN-13: 978-0814332238

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: Be the first to review this item

Best Sellers Rank: #917,605 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #143 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism > Women & Judaism](#) #446 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Mythology & Folk Tales > Mythology](#) #594 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Religious Studies > Gender & Sexuality](#)

## Customer Reviews

Portrays the experiences of Egyptian Karaites in the San Francisco Bay Area as it explores the relationship between text and everyday life, between literal reading and its translation into bodily practices-especially as related to the female body.

A minority within Judaism, the Karaites are known as a 'reading community'; one that looks to the Bible as the authority in all areas of life, including intimate relations and hygiene. Here Ruth Tsoffar considers how Egyptian Karaites of the San Francisco Bay Area define themselves, within both California culture and Judaism, in terms of the Bible and its bearing on their bodies. Women's perspectives play a large role in this ethnography; it is their bodies that are especially regulated by rules of cleanliness and purity to the point where their biological cycles; menstruation, procreation, childbirth, lactation; determine their place in the community. As Tsoffar notes, the female body itself becomes a richly encoded text that reveals much about the Karaites' attitudes toward the interrelated issues of gender, sex, food, procreation, sacred traditions, time and space, as well as identity. The author illuminates the cultural strategies used by Karaite women to sustain their religious ideologies yet find personally meaningful ways of reading. The Karaites have survived since at least the 8th century by continually contemporizing their culture. Through a study of the rich, animated ritual experience of niddah (menstruation and purity codes in Leviticus), we see how the Karaite women seek to imagine and narrate a new history of purity through their bodies. The Stains of Culture presents issues of meaning and interpretation in a way valuable to students of women's studies, anthropology, minority cultural production, scholars of religion and Judaism, especially to those interested in exploring Judaism's diversity.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Stains of Culture: An Ethno-Reading of Karaite Jewish Women (Raphael Patai Series in Jewish Folklore and Anthropology) Seeing Israeli and Jewish Dance (Raphael Patai Series in Jewish Folklore and Anthropology) The Hebrew Goddess (Raphael Patai Series in Jewish Folklore and Anthropology) Patai's 1992 Guide to the Chemistry of Functional Groups (Patai's Chemistry of Functional Groups) IncrediBuilds: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Raphael 3D Wood Model: Build and Color Your Very Own Raphael Mexican-American Folklore (American Folklore Series) Becoming Black Political Subjects: Movements and Ethno-Racial Rights in Colombia and Brazil The Complete Guide to Wood Finishes: How to Apply and Restore Lacquers, Polishes, Stains and

Varnishes Furniture Makeovers: Simple Techniques for Transforming Furniture with Paint, Stains, Paper, Stencils, and More  
Fijian Politics: Pacific Ethno-Nationalism - The Fiji Experience  
Folklore Rules: A Fun, Quick, and Useful Introduction to the Field of Academic Folklore Studies  
Small Places, Large Issues: An Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology, Third Edition (Anthropology, Culture and Society)  
Culture Sketches: Case Studies in Anthropology (B&B Anthropology)  
Marriage and Divorce in the Jewish State: Israel's Civil War (Brandeis Series on Gender, Culture, Religion, and Law & HBI Series on Jewish Women)  
Stephen King Series Reading Order: Series List - In Order: The Dark Tower series, Shining series, Talisman series, The Green Mile series, stand-alone novels, ... (Listastik Series Reading Order Book 30)  
W.E.B. Griffin Series Reading Order: Series List - In Order: Presidential Agent series, Badge of Honor series, The Corps series, Honor Bound series, Brotherhood ... (Listastik Series Reading Order Book 14)  
Dale Brown Series Reading Order: Series List - In Order: Patrick McLanahan series, Acts of War series, Independent series, Dreamland series (Listastik Series Reading Order Book 24)  
J.A. Jance Series Reading Order: Series List - In Order: J.P. Beaumont series, Joana Brady Mysteries series, Ali Reynolds series, Walker Family series (Listastik Series Reading Order Book 13)  
Tattooing in the Marquesas (Dover Books on Anthropology and Folklore)  
SERIES READING ORDER: DIANA GABALDON: Reading Order of Entire Outlander universe in reading order, Outlander series only, Lord John Grey series, short stories, novellas

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)