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Mary and the Jews: Story, Controversy, and Testimony

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F>:GBG@Â:G=Â:J>Â MK>=Â BGÂ FfJ>Â LA:GÂ fG>Â
O:Q Â "GÂ:Â G:JJfOÂ K>GK>Â =BKHML:LBfGKÂ :J>Â
HM;EB<Â>N>GLKÂBGÂOAB<AÂHJfL:@fGBKlKÂf?ÂLOfÂ
J>EB@BfGKÂ=BK<MKK>=ÂLA>BJÂ=B??>J>G<>K Â-A>J>Â
:EKfÂ>PBKLÂEBL>J:JQÂ=BKHML:LBfGKÂ œÂLJ>:LBK>KÂ
LA:LÂ O>J>Â OJBLl>GÂ LfÂ J>?ML>Â :GfLA>JÂ J>EB

KfJlKÂf?Â<MELMJ:EÂ>PHJ>KKBfGK Â;fLAÂEBL>J:JQÂ
:G=ÂNBKM:E Â:G=ÂBGÂ:Â;Jf:=>JÂK>GK>ÂfG>Â<:GÂ
:EKfÂK:QÂLA:LÂBGÂ%:L>Â GLBIMBLQÂ:G=ÂLA>Â&B=
=E>Â @>K Â#>OKÂ:G=Â AJBKLB:GKÂO>J>ÂEBNBG@ÂBGÂ
:ÂHfE>FB<:EÂFf=> Â&fJ>fN>J ÂHfE>FB<KÂOBLAÂ
LA>ÂžfLA>JÿÂA:=ÂFfJ>ÂLA:GÂfG>Â:BF Â+:LA>JÂ

LA>ÂH>J<>HLBfGÂf?Â#>OKÂBGÂ AJBKLB:GÂLafM@AL Â
LA>Â<fFHE>PÂO>;Âf?ÂJ>E:LBfGKABHKÂ;>LO>>GÂ
#>OKÂ:G=Â AJBKLB:GK Â:G=Â:EKfÂBGL>JG:EÂ AJBK
LB:GÂ=fM;LKÂOBLAÂJ>@:J=ÂLfÂ&:JB:GÂ;>EB>?K Â
>?fJ>Â@fBG@ÂfGÂLfÂLA>ÂKLfJB>KÂLA>FK>EN>K Â
BLÂBKÂG><>KK:JQÂLfÂfMLEBG>ÂLA>Â?B@MJ>Âf?Â&:JQ Â
?BJKLÂBGÂLA>Â AJBKLB:GÂ?:BLAÂ:G=ÂLA>GÂ:KÂK>>GÂ
;QÂ#>OBKAÂ>Q>K Â-ABKÂfMLEBG>ÂOBEEÂK>JN>Â:KÂ:Â
::<D@JfMG=Â:G=ÂHJ>EM=>ÂLfÂLA>ÂKLfJB>K

>P<MJKBfGÂLfÂ @QHLÂ:G=Â;:<D Â!fO>N>J ÂLA>Â#>OK B:
LfÂLA>Â#>OKÂO:KÂA>JÂKfGÂ#>KMK ÂLA>QÂ@>G>J:EEQ J:
BG@ÂABKÂL>:<ABG@KÂ:G=Â=>HEfJBG@ÂABKÂF>KKB:G Á:
<fG<>JG>= ÂAfO>N>J ÂLA>QÂ@:N>Â?J>>ÂJ>B@GÂLfÂL B:
Of MDZÂhon Vetus ÂOJBL>GÂBGÂ >JF:GQÂ:JfMG=ÂLA>ÂQ>:JÂ

Consequently, how could this man be God, for he entered a woman with a stomach full of
faeces who frequently sat him down in the privy during the nine months, and when he was
born he came out dirty and filthy, wrapped in a placenta and defiled by the blood of childbirth
and impure issue. The Torah, on the other hand, warns against approaching a menstruant
woman, a woman who has had an impure issue, and one who has just given birth, as it is
written, "And shall continue in the blood of purification three and thirty days; she shall touch no
hallowed thing until the day of her purification be fulfilled" (Lev. 12:4). Hence he was not worthy
of association with anything sacred.

'fLÂ:EEÂ#>OBKAÂ:GLB AJBKL B:GÂHfE>FB<:EÂONJZD KÂJ>Kf
hon Vetus Â;MLÂBGÂ?:<LÂLA>Â:MLAfJÂf?ÂLA:LÂOfJDÂKBFHEQÂ
OA:LÂ#>OKÂA:=Â;>>GÂK:QBÂ@Â?ÂJ>Â?MGGJ>KÂKfÂ&Q>QÂK>?
=BK<fMJK> ÂHJBF:JBEQÂLA>ÂfMLJ:@>Â?>ELÂ;QÂ#>OBKAÂ
LO>>GÂ:ÂOfF:GÂfGÂLA>ÂfG>ÂA:G= ÂA>JÂKLfF:<AÂ?MEEÂf
LfÂ:Â?BELAQ ÂKEBFQ ÂJ>HMEKBN>Â<ABE= Â:G=ÂLA>Â=>B
BFHMJBLQÂ:G=ÂK:G<LBLQ Â(G>ÂO:QÂf?Â:KKM:@BG@ÂLAB
f?ÂNBj@BGÂ;BJLAÂ:G=ÂLfÂKM@@>KLÂfLA>JÂ>PHE:G:LBfO
O:KÂGfLÂA>JÂAMK;:G=;K Â-A>Â-:EFM=Â:G=ÂLA>Â&B=J:KÂÂ:
&:JQ;KÂ=M;BfMÂAG->ÂIKfG:EBLQÂ:Â<:MKLB<ÂG:JJ:LBN>ÂKMF
f?Â&:JQÂBSÂfÂToledotÂYeshu DÂ:ÂDBG=Âf?Â#>OBKAÂ;Bf@J:HAQÂf
BLKÂ<fFHfKBLBfGÂ=:L>ÂBKÂ=>;:L>= ÂLA>J>Â:J>Â@ff=Â@
IMBL>Â>:JEQ ÂH>JA:HKÂBGÂLÂA>Â?Â?MUGDÂG:KÂL>BTOÂB:KLA-ÂEE
Yeshu Âž<fMGL>JABKLfJQÿ ÂOAB<AÂA>Â:HLEQÂ=>?BG>KÂ:KÂ:
OAB<AÂKQKL>F:LB<:EEQÂ>PHEfBLKÂLA>ÂfLA>JÂH:JLQ;KÂF
:G=ÂKHBjBL Â:KÂB?Âž<ff;BG@ÂABKLfJQÂ:@:BGKLÂLA>Â@J
<fMGL>JABKLfJQÿ ÂOJBL>KÂ MGD>GKL>BG ÂžBKÂLfÂ=BKL
BG@ÂABKÂ<fEEÂ-ÂBKÂ-ÂKÂ-ÂHfJfQ&K&YeshuÂQ&L&B&KÂLfÂ=f Â"LÂ
L:E>KÂf?ÂLA>Â fKH>EKÂ:G=Â=BKLfJLKÂLA>BJÂ>GLBJ>Â<fO
#>KMK ÂHfJLJ:QBG@ÂABFÂBGÂ<:JB<:LMJ>

Sefer Toledot Yeshu ÂBKÂGfLÂ<fG<>JG>=ÂOBLAÂ&:JQ;KÂ;Bf@J:HAQÂ
A>JÂKfG;KÂEB?>ÂKLfJQ Â'>N>JLA>E>KK ÂKA>Â=f>KÂ?>:LM
LJ>:L>=Â:LÂH:JLB<MESefer Toledot Yeshu ÂMOA-fK>ÂBCEG ÂÂOÂKÂ?:FBEE
=BN>JK>ÂN>JKBfGK Â;>BG@Â<fFFMGB<:L>=ÂfJ:EEQÂ?JfFÂ
L>=ÂLfÂOJBLBG@ Â&:JQÂO:KÂ:ÂQfMG@Â#>O>KK ÂLA>Â=:M
;>LJfLA>=ÂLfÂ:ÂAMF;E> Â@f=?>:JBG@ÂQfMLAÂG:F>=Â#fA
#fK>HAÂ):G=>J: Â:GÂ>NBE Â=BKJ>HML:;E>ÂF:GÂ:G=Â:ÂO:JÂ
AfF>Â=MJBG@ÂA>JÂF>GKLJM:EÂH>JBf= Â=fBG@ÂKfÂLOB<
LA:LÂLA>ÂJ:HBKLÂO:KÂA>JÂ?B:G<cÂ#fA:G:G Â:G=ÂKA>Â:<<J

&:JQÂ:G=ÂLA>Â#>OK Â,LfJQ Â fGLJfN>JKG

KA>ÂO:KÂF>GKLJM:LBG@ Â.HfGÂA>:JBG@ÂLA:LÂ&:JQÂA:=
OfME=Â;>ÂA>E=ÂJ>KHfGKB;E> Â?E>=ÂLfÂ :;QEfGB: ÂOA
#fKAM: Â:?L>JÂA>JÂF:L>JG:EÂMG<E> Â0A>GÂLA>Â<BJ<M
HJf<E:BrfuzerÂÂ ÂžKL:J= ÂKfGÂf?Â:ÂF>GKLJM:LBG@ÂOfF:Gÿ
EBNBG@ÂLA>J>Â?fJÂ:Â?>OÂQ>:JKÂMGLBEÂA>ÂJ>LMJG>=

-A>Â?B@MJ>Âf?Â&SedeQTÂlektÂeshf ÂKJÂB>LÂB>GÂFÂLA>ÂLJ:@B<
;>:<D Â:GÂMG?fJLMG:L>ÂOfF:G ÂNB<LBFÂf?ÂK>PM:EÂ:;MK
:G=Â@:N>ÂAgBzbt ÂÂA#ÂKÂfJQÂKLJ>KK>KÂLA:LÂ&:JQÂf;C><L
A>Â?fJ<=>ÂABFK>E?ÂMHfGÂA>J Â LÂLA>ÂK:F>ÂLBF> ÂOA
=B??B<MELÂGfLÂLfÂAfe=ÂA>JÂBGÂ<fGL>FHLÂ:KÂ:ÂOfF:
LO>>GÂA>JÂAMF;E> ÂKf?L KHfD>GÂ?B:G<cÂ#fA:G:GÂ:G=Â
#fK>HAÂ):G=>J: ÂOafÂK:LÂBGÂLA>Â>GLJ:G<>ÂLfÂA>JÂA
A:N>ÂABKÂO:QÂOBLAÂA>J Â-Â>ÂFfKLÂBGKMElB@ÂÂHBLA
KfGÂf?Â:ÂF>GKLJM:LBG@ÂOfF:Gÿ ÂOBLAÂLA>Â<E>:JÂBGL
=BKH:J:@BG@ÂABFÂLAJfM@AÂABKÂFfLA>J;KÂ:<LbfGK Â&

#>OBKAÂ<fGL>FHLÂ?fJÂ&:JQÂ:G=ÂLA>ÂKLfJB>KÂ:KKf<B:
:G=Â<:MK>=ÂLA>FÂGfÂEBLLE>Â=BKLJ>KK Â-Â>BJÂ<fG<>
<JBLB<BKFÂLfM<A>=Â:ÂJ:OÂG>JN>ÂœÂ?J:@BE>ÂHfBGLK
:G=ÂGfLÂJ>:=BEQÂ>PHE:BG:;E>ÂBGÂ:ÂEf@B<:EÂF:GG>J

-OfÂ:;KB<ÂL>G>LKÂf?Â AJBKLB:GÂ=f@F:Â:GGfQ>=Â:G=ÂB
F>KKB:ÂA=:Â;>>GÂ;fJGÂLfÂ:ÂFfJL:EÂOfF:G Â:G=ÂLA>Â:
F:<ME:L>Â fG<>HLBfGÂO:KÂOB=>EQÂ:<<>HL>=Â:FfG@Â AJ
BLÂO:KÂ:ÂL:J@>LÂf?Â AJBKLB:GÂ<JBLB<BKFÂLAJfM@Af
:FfG@ÂK<Â-fEBKÂBGL>JG:EÂ AJBKLB:GÂ<JBLB<:EÂ:LLBLM
:G=Â=>K>JN>KÂF>GLBfGÂ;><:MK> ÂA>J>Â:KÂBGÂfLA>JÂ<j
;>>GÂK:B=Â;QÂ#>OKÂ:<LM:EEQÂJ>HJ>K>GL>=ÂKMHHJ>KK
<fGKG<>Â?fJÂA>J>LB<:EÂLAfM@ALKÂ:G=Â=fM;LKÂf?

!fOÂ=B=Â AJBKLB:GKÂJ>:<LÂLfÂLA>Â#>OBKAÂ<JBLB<BK
:KKB@GÂLA>Â#>OKÂBGÂLA>Â>F>J@>G<>Âf?Â&:JB:GÂLA>
J>:=BG@Âf?ÂLAJ>>ÂKLfJB>KÂ:;fMLÂ&:JQÂ:G=ÂLA>Â#>O
#>OKÂ:LÂ:ÂK>GKBLBN>ÂCMG<LMJ> Â:ÂF>>LBG@ÂHE:<>Â;>
LBfGÂf?ÂA>JÂJ>EB<K ÂLA>Â;>@BGGBG@KÂf?ÂB<fGÂOfJ
LA>Â<JBLB<BKFÂBKÂHE:<>=ÂBGÂ#>OBKAÂFfMLAK ÂBGÂ:
&:JQ;KÂK:G<LBLQ ÂA>JÂ>E>N:L>=ÂKL:LMKÂBGÂLA>ÂKLJM
J>EB<K Â-Â>K>Â:J>ÂLAMKÂžOBLG>KKÂKLfJB>Kÿ ÂG:JJ:L
AJBKLB:GÂLJMLAK Â-Â>ÂJfE>Âf?Â#>OKÂ:KÂOBLG>KK>K
?fJfME:L>=Â;QÂ M@MKLBG> ÂOafÂHE:<>=ÂKH><B:EÂ>FH
f?Â AJBKLB:GÂ:ÂEÂQÂK ÂBKÂLMAJLÂ#>J>FQÂ fA>GÂA:KÂ:HLE
<:EÂ#>Oÿ ÂLA>Â#>OÂ:KÂHfJLJ:Q>=ÂBGÂ AJBKLB:GÂLA>

KLfJQÂO:KÂ:EKfÂ=BKK>FBG:L>=Â:G=ÂH>ÂHGÂM:LB=ÂJLA
LfÂ#>JMK:E>FÂO>J>ÂKAfOGÂLA>ÂHE:<> ÂCMKLÂfMLKB:ÂL
&:JQ;KÂ;f=Q Â-A>ÂKBL>ÂO:KÂ?BJKLÂF>GLBfG>=ÂBGÂK N>
<fGLBGMfMKEQÂJ>?>ÂJA=ÂKfÂ?GÂNBGBMBB@KÂ#>JMK:ÂF
OBLAÂLA>BJÂfOGÂ>Q>KÂ:G=ÂBF:@BG>ÂLA>Â>N>GLÂLA
:EO:QKÂ?MG<LBfGÂ:KÂ=>?BGBL>Â>NB=>G<>Â?fJÂLA>ÂLJMI
OA>J>ÂBLÂA:HH>G>=ÿ ÂfGÂ:Â:BIKÂ:GLYM:EEQÂK:QBG@ Âž"LÂ

** .BSZ T 3PCF JO (BMJMF

OABE>ÂLA>Â?BJKLÂKLfJQÂO:KÂEf<:L>=ÂBGÂ#>JMK:E>F ÂO/
L:D>KÂHE:<>ÂBGÂLA>ÂGfJLA>JGÂH:JLÂf?ÂLA>Â<fMGLJQ Â
:EBE>>ÂO:KÂ:GÂBFHfJL:GLÂ#>OBKAÂ<>GLJ> Â:G=ÂFfKLÂ
<fFFMGBLB>KÂO>J>Â@J:=M:EEQÂ>KL:;EBKA>=Â:EfG@KB=>
f?Â :EBE>>Â;>@:GÂLfÂL:D>ÂKA:H> ÂF:BGEQÂBGÂHE:<>KÂ
LA>Â:<<fMGLKÂf?Â#>KMK;Â;BJLAÂ:G=Â<ABE=Aff= Â"GÂ':R
<AMJ<A>KÂO>J>Â;MBEL Â>:<AÂOBLAÂBLKÂKH><B?B<ÂJBLI
BGÂ :EBE>>Â:J>ÂJ>E:L>=ÂBGÂ;fLAÂ AJBKLB:GÂ:G=Â#>OB
OBLAÂLA>Â<fFH>LBLBfGÂ;>LO>>GÂLA>ÂLOfÂ<fFÂ-MGÂLB>
:GfGQFfMKÂLJ:N>EE>JÂf?Â)B:<>GR: ÂDGfOGÂ:KÂ GLfGBG
€ Â=>K<JB;>KÂ;fLAÂBGÂfG>Â;J>:LA

We travelled on to the city of Nazareth, where many miracles take place. In the synagogue there is kept a book in which the Lord wrote his ABC, and in this synagogue there is the bench on which he sat with the other children. Christians can lift the bench and move it about, but the Jews are completely unable to move it, and cannot drag it outside. The house of Saint Mary is now a basilica, and her clothes are the cause of frequent miracles. The Jewesses of that city are better-looking than any other Jewesses in the whole country. They declare that this is Saint Mary's gift to them, for they also say that she was a relation of theirs. Though there is no love lost between Jews and Christians these women are full of kindness ... -

-A>ÂKAfJLÂ<A:HL>JÂLA:LÂ GLfGBGMKÂ=>NfL>KÂLfÂ':R:J>L
#>OBKAÂJBN:EJQÂ LA>ÂKLfJQÂf?ÂLA>Â;>G<AÂLA:LÂLA>Â#>
BGÂ :EBE>> Â&:GQÂf?ÂLA>ÂLJ:=BLBfGKÂf?Â AJBKLB:GÂ :
O>J>Â?>FBGBG>ÂLJ:=BLBfGK Â GLfGBGMK;Â:<<fMGL ÂJ>?>
:G=ÂHJ>KMF:;EQÂE:<DBG@Â:GQÂHfe>FB<:EÂfJÂA:@Bf@J
:EBE>>ÂO>J>ÂHJfM=Âf?ÂLA>BJÂEBG>:@>Â:G=ÂLA>BJÂ?:F
#>O>KKÂEBD>ÂLA>FK>EN>KÂœÂ:G=Âf?ÂLA>ÂMGBIM>ÂIM:E
;><:MK>Âf?Â&:JQÂLA:LÂLA>QÂO>J>ÂH:JLB<ME:JEQÂ@ff= E
:ÂKHBJBLM:EÂK>GK> Â GLfGBGMKÂGfL>KÂLA:LÂ :EBE>:GÂ
LB:GK Â:G=Â?fJÂLA:LÂJ>:KfGÂA>ÂBKÂ:F:R>=Â:LÂLA>Â;>A:N
:<<fMGLÂABGLKÂ:LÂLA>Â>PBKL>G<>Âf?ÂKfF>ÂEf<:EÂ&:JB
OBLAÂ&:JQÂOAB<AÂ>GCfQ>=ÂLA>ÂH:JLB<BH:LBfGÂf?Â;fLA

&:JQÂ:G=ÂLA>Â#>OK Â,LfJQ Â fGLJfN>JKG

:G=ÂHE:<>KÂLA>J>Â:J>Â:ÂGMF;>JÂf?Â><MF>GB<:EÂJBL
:EKfÂf?Â>Â>Â<fG<>JGÂFfKLEQÂ AJBKLB:GÂAfEQÂHE:<
?J>IM>GL>=Â:Â:ÂMLÂB&B&KfF>ÂJ:J>Â<:K>KÂO>Â:EKfÂA:N>Â
BGÂLA>ÂJ&B&E&KGLfGBGMKÂ=f>KÂGfLÂBGÂ?:<LÂJ>?>JÂ
KABHBG@Â&:JQ ÂLA>BJÂ=><E:J:LBfGÂ:KÂJ>HfJL>=Â;QÂA
:GÂ:=FBKKBfGÂfGÂLA>BJÂH:JLÂLA:LÂKA>ÂO:KÂLA>ÂKfM.

GLfGBGMKÂJ>?>JKÂLfÂFBJ:<E>KÂH>J?fJF>=Â:LÂ':R:J>L
E:JEQÂA>JÂ<EfLABG@ Â,BG<>Â&:JQÂO:KÂL:D>GÂBGLfÂ
LA>FK>EN>KÂOBLAÂLA>ÂJ>F:BGKÂf?ÂA>JÂ<EfLABG@Âœ
<fG?BJF>=ÂA>JÂ:;K>GÂA>B&KfKIB&BEÂHJUKGIGÂAfEQÂJ>E
LBGfHE> Â=f<MF>GL>=Â:KÂ>:JEQÂ:KÂLA>ÂK>N>GLAÂ<>
E:<A>JG:>Â:LÂ fGKL:GLBGfHE> ÂBLÂO:KÂ<J>=BL>=ÂOB
=>?>G<>Âf?ÂLA>Â<BLQ Â-A>J>ÂO>J>ÂN:JBfMKÂN>JKBfG
fJB@BGÂBGÂ#>JMK:EÂF&KÂ:G&LÂ>E&B&G&ÂK&B&E&JQÂBKÂFfJ>
BLÂKAfME=Â;>Â=BK<MKK>=ÂA>J>ÂBGÂ=>L:BE Â-A>ÂKlfJ
LA>Â J>>DÂ AMJ<AÂBGÂ:Â?>OÂN>JKBfGK ÂLA>Â>:JEB>KL
F:BGÂHfBGLKÂf?ÂLA>ÂKlfJQ

-OfÂGf;E>Â;JfLA>JK Â :E;BMKÂ:G=Â :G=B=MK ÂJ>KB=>GL
LA>Â J>:LÂ € œ Â=><B=>=ÂLfÂ>fÂfGÂ:QÂH&E@ÂJBF>@J
#>JMK:E>FÂGfLÂ;QÂLA>Â<f:KL:EÂJf:=Â;MLÂLAJfM@AÂ :E
:G=Â :H>JG:MF Â KÂGB@ALÂfN>JLffDÂLA>F ÂLA>QÂ?fMG
f??>J>=ÂLA>FÂA>JÂfGfK&B&L>E&B&@ÂLA>ÂAfMK> ÂLA>Â;JfL
œÂF>G ÂOfF>GÂ:G=Â<ABE=J>GÂœÂOAB<AÂ:JfMK>=ÂLA>I
LA>QÂBGNBL>=ÂLA>ÂOfF:GÂLfÂ=BG>ÂOBLAÂLA>F Â,A>Â
<fME=ÂGfLÂ=BG>ÂOBLAÂ AJBKLB:GK Â!fO>N>J ÂKA>Â:@
fOGÂ?ff= Â,MJBG@ÂLA>ÂF>:E ÂLA>Â;JfLA>JKÂHEB>=ÂA
BGN:EB=KÂO>J>Â<JfO=>=ÂBGLfÂLA>ÂBGG>JÂJffF ÂOA>LA
LA>ÂOfF:GÂLfe=ÂLA>FÂA>JÂK><J>L

"GÂ:Â<A>KLÂBGÂLA>ÂG>PLÂJfff ÂLA>ÂOfF:GÂK:B= ÂKA
=>H:JLMJ>Â?JfFÂLABKÂOfJE=ÂA:=Â>GLJMKL>=ÂBLÂLfÂ:Â
?:FBEQ Â-A:LÂOfF:GÂA:=Â>GcfBG>=ÂA>JÂ?:FBEQÂLfÂ@M
HfBGLÂBLÂA:=ÂLAMKÂ;>>GÂA:G=>=Â=fOGÂ?JffÂfG>Â@>
BGG>JÂJfff Â:G=ÂBLÂO:KÂLA>ÂJf;>ÂOBLABGÂBLÂLA:LÂC

-A>Â;JfLA>JKÂLA:GD>=ÂLA>ÂOfF:GÂ:G=Â;>@@>=ÂA>JÂH>
Jf;> ÂOAB<AÂKA>Â@J:GL>= Â,MJBG@ÂLA>ÂGB@AL ÂLA>Q
E>G@LAÂ:G=ÂOB=LA Â(GÂLA>ÂFfJJfOÂLA>QÂ:KD>=ÂLA>Â
:G=ÂK>LÂf??Â?fJÂLA>Â!fEQÂ BLQ Â(GÂLA>BJÂ:JBN:E ÂL
L>J Â?JfFÂOafFÂLA>QÂfJ=>J>=Â:GÂ>P:<LÂJ>HEB<:Âf?ÂL
AfF> ÂLA>QÂ:@:BGÂH:KK>=ÂLAJfM@AÂLA>ÂOfF:G;KÂNBE

? J f F Â # > J M K : E > F Â = B G > = Â O B L A Â A > J Â : G = Â J > I M > K L > = Â GB @ A L Â : ? L > J Â > G K M J B G @ Â L A : L Â : E E Â L A > Â K B < D Â H > f H E J > I M > K L B G @ Â A > J Â : @ J > > F > G L Â : G = Â L A > G Â > P < A : G @ > = Â f ? Â L A > Â f E = Â # > O > K K Â : G = Â O > G L Â f G Â L A > B J Â O : Q Â L : D B G f J B @ B G : E Â < A > K L Â : G = Â L A > Â J f ; > Â L f Â L A > B J Â < B L Q Â L A > < A M J < A Â O : K Â > J > < L > = Â : L Â E : < A > J G : > Â B G Â A f G f M J Â f ? Â L A > : G = Â K B E N > J Â < A > K L Â B G Â L A > Â < A M J < A Â O A > G Â L A > Â f E = Â O f f :

- A > Â / B J @ B G ; K Â J f ; > Â O : K Â f G > Â f ? Â f G K L : G L B G f H E > ; K Â f f K L f E E > = Â B G Â F : G Q Â K f M J < > K Â Â F : @ G B ? B < > G L Â f f K : B < Â L f E = : G = Â : J f M G = Â A > J Â f L A > J Â ? B @ M J > K Â : F f G @ Â L A > Â L A > Â f B f ? Â L A > Â J f ; > Â B G Â L A > Â < A M J < A Â O : K Â < > E > ; J : L > = Â f G Â ~ Â # M G L A > Â ? B J K L Â J > H f J L Â f ? Â L A > Â > : K L Â f ? Â L A > Â K K M F H L B f G Â f B G @ Â : E B E > : G Â f J Â L f Â ; > Â F f J > Â H J > < B K > Â # > O B K A : E B E > L f Â : Â O f f : G Â D G f O G Â L f Â A > J Â : G = Â B L Â O : K Â H : K K > = Â = f O G Â G > P L Â M G L B E Â L A > Â f E = Â : E B E > : G Â O f f : G Â = B N M E @ > = Â L A > Â f f u n d a s a c r a Â f J Â ž K : < J Â = K Â O > E E Â t r a n s l a t a K Â f f J Â L Â f : G Â H f J L : L B f G Â f ? J f ; > Â ? J f F Â : E B E > > Â L A > Â / B J @ B G ; K Â A f F > E : G = Â L f Â f G K L : C H > J K f G Â A : = Â = f M ; L K Â : K Â L f Â L A > Â : M L A > G L B < B L Q Â f ? Â L A > Â J F B J : < E > O f J D B G @ Â I M : E B L B > K Â L A > Â # > O B K A Â O f f : G Â ? J f F Â L A > F Â : G = Â L A M K Â L f Â L A t h e o t o s > J G : E Â N B J @ B G B L Q Â f ? Â L A > Â

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G f HE > Â ? J f F Â O A > J > Â A > Â ; J f M @ AL Â LA > Â ? f E E f O B G @ Â KL f

The oft-mentioned Arculf gave us an accurate rendering also of a true story about an ikon of the holy Mary, mother of the Lord, which he learned from some well-informed witnesses in the city of Constantinople. On a wall of a house in the metropolitan city, he said, a picture of the blessed Mary used to hang, painted on a short wooden tablet. A stupid and hardhearted man asked whose picture it was, and was told by someone that it was a likeness of the holy Mary ever virgin. When he heard this that Jewish unbeliever became very angry and, at the instigation of the devil, seized the picture from the wall and ran to a building nearby, where it is customary to dispose of the soil from the human bodies by means of openings in long planks whereon people sit. There, in order to dishonour Christ, who was born of Mary, he cast the picture of His mother through the opening on the nuisance lying beneath. Then in his stupid folly he sat above himself and evacuated through the opening, pouring the nuisance of his own person on the icon of the holy Mary which he had just deposited there. After that disgraceful action the hapless creature went away, and what he did subsequently, how he lived, or what sort of end he had, is unknown. After the scoundrel had gone, one of the Christian community came upon the scene, a fortunate man, zealous for the things of the Lord. Knowing what had happened, he searched for the picture of the holy Mary, found it hidden in the refuse and took it up. He wiped it carefully and cleaned it by washing it in the clearest water, and then set it up in honour by him in his house. Wonderful to relate, there is always an issue of genuine oil from the tablet with the picture of the blessed Mary, which Arculf, as he is wont to tell, saw with his own eyes. This wondrous oil proclaims the honour of Mary, the mother of the Lord Jesus of whom the Father says: "With my oil I have anointed him" (Ps. 88:21). Likewise the psalmist addresses the Son of God himself when he says: "God thy God hath anointed thee with the oil of joy beyond thy companions" (Ps. 44:8).

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K > J F f G Â : LL J B ; M L > = Â L f Â - A > L I A B E M K A f A Â K L f J Q Â J B ? Â : Â #
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LAJfOBG@Â&:JQ;KÂBF:@>ÂBGLfÂJ>?MK>Â:G=Â?BELA

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:EBE>:GÂOofF:G ÂOafÂOBEEBG@EQÂ;>:JKÂHfKBLBN>ÂOB
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:J>ÂIM>KLKÂ?fJÂ:GÂBGG>JÂLJMLAÂ:G=Â?fJÂLA>Â=>>HÂJ
:E;BMKÂ:G=Â :G=B=MK Â:G=Â J<ME? Â;BKAfHÂf?Â :ME ÂC
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BG:EEQ ÂLA>ÂLAJ>>ÂKlfJB>KÂ:EKfÂJ:BK>ÂIM>KLBfGK
OfJKLÂ>G>FQÂBKÂLA>ÂF:E>Â#>OÂOafÂHJf?:G>KÂA>JÂB
:J>ÂK>>GÂ:KÂHfKKB;E>Â:EEB>K Â%BD>Â&:JQ ÂLA>QÂ:J>
KfF>LBF>KÂfLA>JKÂ :KÂBGÂLA>Â?:FfMKÂKlfJQÂf?ÂLA>
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LA>J>? f J>Â; QÂ H M G B K A M f z z G o h A e u f J A A F < B G L A f G > Â A f : f A A A > Â : J L B < E > Â < f G L > K L K Â L A B K Â ; > E B > ? Â : K Â O > E E

You may argue that he was not defiled in her womb, since Mary had ceased to menstruate and it was the spirit that entered her; subsequently, he came out unaccompanied by pain or the defilement of blood. The answer is that you yourselves admit that she brought the sacrifice of a child-bearing woman. Now it is clear that this sacrifice is brought as a consequence of impurity ...

! f O > N > J Â L A > f E f @ B < : E Â = B K < f M J K > Â B K Â : Â F : E > Â = B K < f M J K > < f F J : = > K A B H Â J > ? E > < L Â F : E > Â A J B K L B : G Â ? : G L : K B > K Â : ; f M L Â # H f E > F B < : E Â E B L > J : L M J > Â J > ? E > < L K Â L A > Â N B > O K Â f ? Â # > O B K A Â # > O B K A Â O f f > G Â B G Â L A > Â & B = = E > Â @ > K Â J > : E E Q Â L A f M @ A L Â :

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~ Â - A > J > Â B K Â : Â n f E M F B G f M K Â ; f = Q Â f ? Â K < A f E : J E Q Â E B L > J : L M J > Â : ; ? f E E f O B G @ Â K M F F : J B M A k y t h r o u g h t h e C e n t u r i e s) - E P B D i n t h e A n t i q u a r y o f C u l t u r e Â ' > O Â ! : N > G Â 2 : E > Â .) Â A l o n e & f A l l B e G e A T h e M o n a c h a d t h e C u l t o f t h e V i r g i n M a r y Â ' > O Â 2 f J D Â \$ G f h ? Â M a n s E u n i k u M u t a A H e r B e G e i n Ä & M G B < A Â ! : G K > J Â

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) A B E : = > E H A B : Â # > O B K A Â) M ; E B < : L B f G Â , f < B > L Q Â f ? Â F > J B < : Â N f E M F > Â ž f = Â B G Â L A > Â O f f ; Â : G = Â L A > Â) J f ; E > F Â f ? Â L A > Â " G < : J G E : L > E Q Â # f A : G G > K Â ! > B E Â : M a r i a A T o c h e S i o d A M a r i e f i d i e B o G e @ A n n i g k i t Â und Judenfeindschaft Â) : = > J ; f J G Â , < A m G B G @ A Â ~ Â - O f Â J > < > G L Â O f J D K L A > Â A J B K L B : G Â B F : @ > Â f ? Â & : J Q Â : G = Â ? > F B G B I G o r o f B i f B e @ t y K Â f ? Â f = F e m i n i n e I m a g e s o f G o d f r o m t h e B i b l e t o t h e E a r l y K a b b a l a h Â) J B G < > L f G Â) J B G < > L f G Â .) Â ~ J L A M J Â S h e k i n a o f t h e V i r g i n M a r y , a n d t h e S o n g o f S o n g s Â # > J M K : E > F Â ~ • Â B G Â ! > ; J > O

Ä , > > Â > J The Jewish-Christian Debate Â H H Â • € œ Â O A f Â K M H H E B > K Â J > ? > J > G E B L > J : L M J > Â - A > Â H : K K : @ > Â I M f L N i z z a h o n V e t u s f A A f L J A A ? A M J G E Q A A > E < N J l b i d . Â " G = > P Â K N Â ž & : J Q Y Â ? Â 2 S e r f e n a - f i n A h o B A H F A G G f A @ M : H E A B : M K > G L B f G Â f ? Â > = Â ! : < D K H : G Â E L = f J ? œ ' r J > G ; > J @ Â Â # > J M K : E > F

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