

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ATTENTION: Jewish Interest, Jewish History and Culture, Religion, Bible Studies, Books and Literature

Contact:

Suzanne Selengut
The Jewish Publication Society
215-832-0609

Anna Weir
Publicist
aweir@unl.edu
402-472-5938

Bringing the Rich World of Talmudic Tales to Life

November 2018—Talmudic stories, known for their vivid imagery and colorful plots, offer a window into Jewish history, tradition and culture. With his new book, *The Land of Truth: Talmud Tales, Timeless Teachings* (JPS, 2018), renowned Talmud scholar Dr. Jeffrey L. Rubenstein makes the rich narrative world of Talmud tales fully accessible to modern readers. He analyzes their original contexts, cultural meanings, and literary artistry and shows the relevance for contemporary times.

To unearth the deeper meanings of these stories in their Talmudic contexts, Rubenstein delves into both rabbinic culture (the academy, master-disciple relationships) and Jewish life under Roman and Persian rule (persecution, resistance). Additionally, he explains how the storytellers used irony, figurative language, and other literary techniques to communicate their intended messages.

Rubenstein also demonstrates each story's continuing relevance into modernity. For example, a story recounting a confrontation between the King and the Rabbinic court illuminates parallel struggles to balance governmental power in modern American political history. The story of Honi, who awoke after a miraculous 70-year-sleep, becomes a window into the indignities of aging in our time.

Through the prism of Talmud tales, Rubenstein offers insight into suffering, beauty, heroism, humor, love, sex, truth and falsehood, all of which mattered as much to past generations as to readers today.

*For more information about *The Land of Truth: Talmud Tales, Timeless Teachings*, visit jps.org. To contact the author, email Suzanne Selengut, sselengut@jps.org. For a review copy, contact Anna Weir, aweir@unl.edu.*

About The Jewish Publication Society: Founded in 1888, The Jewish Publication Society is the preeminent publisher of classic and contemporary Jewish texts for English readers worldwide. JPS has been publishing partners with the University of Nebraska Press since 2012. For more information, please visit jps.org or nebraskapress.unl.edu/jps.