The Formation of a Modern Rabbi
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THE FORMATION OF A MODERN RABBI
by
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For M.L.

Song of Songs 8:5
One hundred tongues speak one language: namely, the Science of Judaism is bound up with faith. Wherefore the latter lives actively in the hearts of the Jews, literature finds support and encouragement, and thus we can infer the warmth of faith among the Jews based on the favorable or unfavorable conditions [they] afford to science.

—Adolf Jellinek, “Eine Wanderung durch jüdische Bibliotheken” (1853)
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As Rabbi Elazar said that Rabbi Hanina said: Whoever reports a saying in the name of he who said it brings redemption to the world. As it is stated: ‘And Esther reported to the king in the name of Mordecai.’
(b. Megillah 15b)

One acquires many debts in the writing of a book: to friends, mentors, institutions, funders, and a myriad of seen and unseen librarians and archival staff.

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But to my wife, for her patience and endurance, and for the purity and depth of her love, I dedicate this book.

Note on Place-Names and Translations

I refer to historical locations using their German name (e.g., Pressburg instead of Bratislava), although upon first use I include any alternate or contemporary terms as well (e.g., Breslau [Polish: Wrocław]). If Anglophone readers are most familiar with a particular name (e.g., Vienna instead of Wien) I use what is familiar. For other places, I use a period- or linguistically appropriate name and spelling (e.g., Leopoldstadt instead of Leopold City).

In the nineteenth century, Christian and family names often contained slight differences depending on location, language, and typography. For Jellinek, a vast majority of modern scholarship spells his first name “Adolf.” He himself, however, was not consistent. In Leipzig, his printed and manuscript works often spell his given name “Adolph.” Jellinek’s Hebrew name was Aaron, which he inherited from his maternal grandfather. (In German, Aaron is rendered “Aron.”) In the body of the text I use the modern spelling, Adolf, while in quotations and bibliographical citations I retain whichever form appears in the original.

Unless otherwise noted, German, French, and Hebrew translations are my own.