

## From the eleventh chapter in the first part of Purchetis book,

### Translated into German by Dr. Martin Luther.

1. We will now see how the Jews were always such enemies of Christ's wonders that they attributed them to Beelzebub, the lord of the devils. For he (Christ) did do so many wondrous works as no one else has ever done as he himself says in John 15. It has also never been claimed that anyone else in his Name made the blind see, the deaf hear, the lame walk, the dumb speak as Isaiah prophesied in Isaiah 35: 5-6 .: " God, the Rewarder, will come and help you. Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, the ears of the deaf will be opened, the lame will jump like a deer and the tongue of the dumb will say praises."

2. Over and above these many wondrous signs he did many more, woke up the dead, cleaned the leprous, and healed many others among the sick and did so many other signs that no one, except God, could have done them; yet, the meanness of the Jews, always associated with evil tricks, had the nerve to blaspheme a: id shame these miracles with lies. They have composed a book against Christians in which they write the following lies:

3. It happened at the time of Helen, the Queen, who reigned over the whole land of Israel," that Jesus, the Nazarene, came to Jerusalem. In the Temple of the Lord he found the stone upon which in earlier times was set the Ark of the Lord; Shem Hamphoras was written upon this stone; whoever learned the names of these letters and understood them, could do whatever he pleased.

4. Our wise men worried, however, that if the Children of Israel were to learn this Name they would destroy the world by means of that power. Therefore, they constructed two bronze dogs and set them on two pillars in front of the door of the sacred place. Now if someone entered and learned the letters of the aforementioned Name, and came out again, then the metal dogs barked at him so dreadfully that from fright he forgot the Name and the letters which he had learned.

5. Now Jesus, the Nazarene, came and learned the letters and wrote them on a parchment. Then he ripped up the flesh along his leg and placed the notes therein. And because he named the Name, nothing hurt him and the skin came together as it had been before; as he now left the Temple, the bronze dogs barked at him so that he forgot the Name promptly; as he came home, however, he ripped open his leg with a knife and

took the notes out upon which the letters of the Shem Hamphoras were written and learned them again.

6. Thereafter he gathered about him 310 young men of Israel and said to :hem: Look here, the wise men say I am the son of a whore, because they want to rule over Israel; you however know that all prophets prophesied concerning the Messiah; I am he, that is true. As Isaiah prophesied concerning me: "See, an Alma• is pregnant and will bear a son and his name will be Emanuel" (Is. 7:14). That is how my ancestor David prophesied and said: "You are my son, I begot you today" (Psalm 2:7): Thus, my mother bore me without contribution from a man, alone from the power of God. Therefore, not I, but they themselves are children of a whore, as Hosea says: "I will not have mercy on their children for they are the children of whores" (Hosea 2, 4').

7. Then the youths from Israel answered him: If you are the Messiah, give us a sign. What kind of sign do you want from me? They said: Make a lame man stand, as we are. He said: Bring one here to me. Soon they brought a lame man who had never stood on his feet, and he spoke the Shem Hamphoras over him; at that same hour he arose and stood on his feet. Then they all bowed before him and said: He is without any doubt Messiah. They also brought a leper to him. He spoke the Name over him and laid his hand on him and he recovered at once. Therefore, a good number of worthless persons from our people associated with him.

8. However, the wise men, as they saw that Israel was beginning to believe in him, caught him and brought him to the Queen Halani who possessed the land of Israel at the time and said to her: Gracious Lady, this man makes magic and tricks the world. Jesus the Nazarene answered: Gracious Lady, the prophets prophesied years ago about me and one of them says the following: "A twig will grow from the clan of Jesse" (Isaiah 11: 1). I am he, and of him David says: "Well being to him who does not wander in the advice of the godless" (Psalms 1: 1).

9. She said: Is what this one says in your law? They answered: Yes, it says so in our law, but it does not refer to him, but this is written concerning him in 5 Moses, 13:5: "The prophet should be killed for he taught injustice against God." But of the Messiah it is written (Jer. 23:6) : "In his time, Judah shall be helped." Thereupon this godless one answered and spoke to the queen: I am the one, for I can wake the dead.

10. The queen sent with them her most trusted servants and the godless one made a dead man live by means of the Shem Hamphoras; from then on the queen was astonished and said: Certainly, that is a great miracle. She held the wise men in contempt so that they had to leave her in shame which hurt them and those from Israel a great deal. And Jesus the Nazarene moved to upper Galilee.

11. And the wise men returned to the queen and said to her: Gracious Lady, this fellow deals in magic and confuses all living things. She thereupon sent her mercenaries so as

to catch him; but the people in Galilee did not like it but fought against her. However, he said: You should not fight for my sake; for the power of my father in heaven and the sign. he has given me will defend me. And the people in Galilee made birds of clay before him, so he said Shem Hamphoras about them and the birds flew promptly; and they fell upon their face and prayed to him.

12. At that same hour he asked that a large millstone be brought and thrown into the sea; when that had been done, the godless one pronounced the Shem Hamphoras, and caused the stone to lie still upon the sea and he sat on it and said to the mercenaries: go to your lady and tell her what you saw. Thereupon he got up in front of them and walked about on the sea.

13. The mercenaries went and told the queen Halani everything they had seen. She became exceedingly upset and called the wise men and said to them: You claimed that this man Jesus the Nazarene is a magician, but you should know iliac his signs prove that he is indeed the son of God. They however said: Gracious Lady, let him come here so we can expose his mischief. Meanwhile, the elders of Israel went and admitted a fellow by name of Judas Iscariot into the most holy of the Temple. He learned the letters Shem Hamphoras in the same manner as Jesus of Nazarene had learned them and ripped open the flesh on his leg which the other one (Jesus) had done.

14. Then Jesus the Nazarene came with his following and the queen asked the wise men to appear as well. And he stepped before the queen and said: David prophesied about me: "Dogs surrounded me and an assembly of evil doers encircled me". (Ps. 22:17). But this is also said by me, Jer. 1:8: "Be not afraid of them for I am with you, that I rescue you, says the Lord." But the wise men disputed this.

15. And he said to the queen: I shall rise to heaven, for thus said David of me: "Rise up, God, above the heavens." (Ps. 57:12) and raised the hands like wings, through the name Shem Hamphoras, and flew between heaven and earth. Since the wise men saw this, they spoke to Judas Shariat, he should say Shem Hamphoras and go up after him. He rose up and wrestled with him so that both fell back down together; and the godless one broke an arm: Christians weep about this every year before their Easter.

16. At that same hour, the Israelites seized him and hid him with cloths and beat him with whips of pomegranate trees. And said to the queen Halani: If he is the son of God, then let him say who beat him; but he could not say it. The queen spoke to the wise men: See, he is in your hands, do with him what pleases you.

17. Then they grabbed him and led him to the gallows; however, no matter what tree or beam they hung him on, it broke in two at once; for he had conjured all trees and woods by means of Shem Hamphoras so that they could not hold him. So, they went and got a cabbage stem, which does not grow from a tree but from a weed, and hung him on it.

Such is no miracle. For in the Holiest there grows a stem every year as about 100 pounds of seed hang from it. Haec ille. (10)

18. Where are they now, the unfaithful Christians who became Jews or wish to become Jews? Come here for a kiss, the devil has thrown it in the N. and emptied the stomach again, that is truly a holy place that the Jews, and whoever wants to become Jew, must kiss, devour, booze and pray to and then the devil also boozes and devours which his disciples see and can throw out both from above and below. Here the right guests and hosts have come together, cooked it right and prepared it. Oh, how it served both of them right! The devil had been created a beautiful angel so that he could, together with the other holy angels, forever sing the eternal Te Deum Laudamus with his holy, angelic mouth. That he could not tolerate and became a devil who now devours with his angelic trunk and devours with joy what the Jews spit out and from above and below. That became his dainty morsel in which he grazes like a sow behind the fence on St. Margareth's Day (11) right, right, that's how he wanted it.

19. The Jews too got what they deserved. They had been called and elected to be God's mouth as Jeremiah says: (Jer. 15:19 and Ps. 81:11): Open your mouth wide and I will fit it; they however, kept tightly closed their muzzles, eyes, ears, nose, whole heart and all senses, so he polluted and squirted them so full that it oozes from them in all places and devil's filth comes from them. Yes, that tastes good to them, into their hearts, they smack their lips like swine. That is how they want it. Call more: Crucify him, crucify him. Scream more: "His blood come upon us and our children" (Matth. 27:25). (12) I mean it came and found you.

20. Now let us take a look, one at a time, at the "fine" dogmas of the Jewish belief as given in this essay., so that anyone who has the inclination to become a Jew will be relieved. If you want to become a true Jew then listen and learn the catechism of the holy Jewish belief, but not in the name of God.

21 . First, you must believe that Helen had been queen in the land of Israel or Canaan, during the time that our Lord Jesus Christ lived, taught and did miracles. Not alone the Apostles and Evangelists oppose this, but also the Roman Empire as it then existed; in addition the testimony and exile of the Jews which began at the time of Vespasian, 250 years before Helen was born; you must not be fooled in this, but think: the rabbis (authors of such a book) cannot be wrong, heaven and earth and all angels and creatures together with God must be wrong sooner than they. That you must believe if you wish to become a true Jew.

22. Thus, you must also believe everything that is written here concerning the queen Helen, as she dealt with and let others deal with Jesus the Nazarene 250 years before she was born; for that belongs to what is to be known as part of the catechism of whoever wants to become a Jew. If someone were to say: the Jews had not been in the

land for 200 years at the time of Helen, but were dispersed in the whole world, and Jerusalem had neither a temple nor a government; against that you must smile sarcastically against the damnable goyim (13) and say: our Rabbis write it, therefore it must be so, even if God himself, using Scriptures and the work of creation says otherwise; he must do what the Rabbis want.

23. In addition you must believe, that two bronze dogs could at that time also have barked without Shem Hamphoras; before then, and now, no one can do it anymore; even with their bronze eyes could discern sharply who went in and who came out and in addition, who had copied the letters engraved into the stone: those must have been very sharp eyes, particularly since they were ore, and could see through such thick walls, doors, and a curtain. No doubt you would have difficulty with this since all living dogs in this world, who can of course bark naturally, and much less the bronze dogs, would not believe such a thing if they could hear and understand such a thing. But don't let it worry you; whatever the Rabbis say, that is right, ask nothing further if you wish to be a pious Jew.

24. Now you must also believe that the wise men of Israel were no wiser than to protect the Shem Hamphoras with two bronze dogs instead of iron doors, fences and similar things, even though the damned Goyim could have found other wise men. Would it not occur to you here that the wise men of Israel had far less sense in this than the bronze dogs themselves. Yet, you must forget such thoughts and think rather: what those rabbis say is right and cannot be a lie.

25. In the third place you must believe that in the Sanctuary in Jerusalem there grew each year such large cabbage stems that they were stronger than any other gallows beam and that 100 pounds of grain had grown on it. In addition, you must believe that 200 years after the destruction a temple stood in Jerusalem. Not only that, but that it was simultaneously a cabbage patch and a sanctuary. Even if all histories, Moses and all the prophets, even God with all the angels say otherwise, then that is a lie, for the belief of the Jews must be right. Remember that well if you want to become a Jew.

26. Finally, you must surrender to that which a rabbi says, no matter how peculiar it may be, you must believe it is right regardless if God himself ordered it otherwise and said: For so Moses ordered them 5 Mos 17:8. "If they do not understand something, they should go up to the priests and the judges, who are at that place and whom God elected. They shall (says he) give you a verdict; according to the law that they reach you shall you do, and according to the judgment that they tell you, you shall conduct yourself so that you do not deviate from it, neither to the right or to the left." Here it is concluded (I almost said shit upon)•• that everything the Rabbis say a Jew shall believe without deviating from it. Therefore, they now say, they must believe their rabbis even if the same said the right hand is the left and the left the right, as Purchetus writes. Just as the two Jews who visited me did. When I urged them to regard the text they said they

must believe their rabbis unsupported by any text; that is why, according to my own experience, I must believe Purchetus in this matter.

27. If you now wish to become a true, pious Jew, submit then as said, that you believe what the Rabbis say even if it is against God, reason, angels and all creation. For now, you are told that a Jew is expected to believe that the right hand is not the right hand if a rabbi says so. God must have said, yes, he has created it according to his eternal Word, and specifically ordered that the right hand shall be called the right hand as all angels and creatures acknowledge. Now that may be the truth until a rabbi comes along and says, no, it is not so, but what I call the right hand, that is the right hand. What shall God's word and work together with that of all angels and creatures testify as against a rabbi who is so much higher and better than God and all creatures?

28. Now you must also believe that the queen Helen and her wise men and Jesus dealt with this matter 200 years before she was born; that cabbage stems grew annually in the sanctuary, as thick as no beam able to carry one hundred pounds of seeds; that bronze dogs can bark; that Jesus as well as Judas Sharioth (15) did miracles through Shem Hamphoras, as said above and again here. Yes, if a rabbi put garbage before your very nose in a bowl and said: here you have a tasty almond broth, you would be expected to say you had not eaten a better broth in all your life. Risk your life when you say otherwise. For whoever has the power to say left is right and right is left, never mind God and all his creatures, can certainly also say his behind is his mouth and his mouth his behind and his belly a broth pot and a broth pot his belly.

29. Whenever you have learned these things and can believe them, then run there quickly and let yourself be circumcised before the bronze dogs see this and come from Jerusalem and bark out of you again such high understanding of the all holy Jewish beliefs, or before the seducer HaNozri (The Nazarene) enchants you into the Christian beliefs with his Shem Hamphoras. For now you are a righteous, fine, holy, clever Jew and yourself competent to call left, right and making the belly into a broth pot so that you have enough to devour with all the Jews all your life when you invite as guests all the devils. Thank also such high and heavenly rabbis from whom you are so highly learned and deeply hallowed that God himself, and all his angels must be astonished at your holiness, the damned Goyim are not worth it to smell or hear anything about this.

30. Perhaps, one of the merciful Saints among us Christians may think I am behaving too crude and disdainfully against the poor, miserable Jews in that I deal with them so sarcastically and insultingly. But, good God, I am much too mild in insulting such devils; I would like to do it, but they are much too superior in sarcasm, and even have a God who is a master at sarcasm and is called the actual devil and evil spirit. What I can do to insult him to his anger, that I should do cheaply for he had earned it. I want to show you a bit (for those who don't otherwise notice) what an unmentionable scoffer he is here.

31. The haughty, evil spirit plays with three types of derision in this book. First he derides God, the creator of heaven and earth, with his son Jesus Christ, as you can see yourself, so long as you believe as a Christian, that Christ is God's son. Furthermore, he derides us, the whole of Christianity, because we believe in that son of God. Thirdly, he even derides his own Jews, ascribes to them such shameful, foolish, silly things concerning bronze dogs and cabbage stems that all dogs would bark themselves to death if they understood such a wild, raging, senseless, angry, ridiculous fool. Is that not a master of derision who can, with one and the same ridicule, accomplish three insults at once? The fourth derision is that he insulted himself with this, as we, God be praised, will see with joy in those days.

32. The Jews deride themselves the most in that they obey the devil, their God, in this derision and thereby become raging fools. For they don't do it in error, but because they know it full well and because natural reason given by God warns them, shows them and convinces them that this cannot be true; still they delude and flatter themselves that they learn from the devil and preach such obviously shameful lies and slander against us Christians and Jesus the Nazarene. Indeed, it is right, master and pupil have come together in the right school.

33. Further. Besides this derision they prove once and for all their mastery over heaven as they say Jesus the Nazarene, (Jesus of Nazareth is meant) (16) has done his miracles through Shem Harnphoras which means "the interpreted name"; more later. Here they admit, as they must, that the miracles of Jesus the Nazarene were true, legitimate signs and they accuse and damn themselves just as their ancestors in the Gospels that he has woken up the dead, made the lame walk, cleaned lepers (Matth. 11:5) which are such works which are possible for and pertain only to the singular, eternal, divine power; men and angels are not capable of doing them any more than that creatures can create something from nothing. All reason must say this.

34. Now let's take a look at the delicate fruits, the circumcised (17) holy men. They attribute such divine works and miracles to the Shem Hamphoras, that is the empty dead, miserable letters, written in a book with ink, or hovering on the tongue or in the heart so that even the godless are carried along. Let the Shem Hamphoras be what it may; they are, and cannot be anything but, single, dead, powerless letters, although the Jews act as though it were the same as God's Holy Scriptures of which they prattle a lot although they don't know what they are talking about. What can letters accomplish as letters from their own power if nothing else is added? What do they, those letters, help the devils, Turks, Jews and all the godless who misuse God's name incessantly and violate the commandment. After all, Satan and all godless names and works are also cast in holy letters.

35. But the mad Jews give the Shem Hamphoras the divine power, as the only, sole letter, without any promise or commandment from God. For they all say that even the

godless and seducers can do many miracles and divine works through these letters. Where are they now, the circumcised holy men who pride themselves as against us Christians, that they alone are the ones who honour the single right God since the damned Nazarenes pray to three gods? (17) Here they give divine power and honour the bare, single, dead letters in the Shem Hamphoras to such an extent that even the godless and the deceivers of God's majesty can do works of their own against God's will and prohibition (in the Ten Commandments). Indeed those are holy children of God who placed so many gods over their own God as there are letters in the Shem Hamphoras. It is said that there are 216 of them as will follow; that is, they pray to 216 thousand devils and not the right God whom they insult so and whose divine honour they steal with the Shem Hamphoras; they are the same ones who appropriate the miserable letter.

36. Oh, how the mad Jews had it coming! they did not want to accept Jesus of Nazareth as saviour and son of God so that they could have remained with the only righteous God as we Christians have remained. For it is impossible that he who accepts the right belief and Jesus Christ as Messiah should or could accept more than the one, right and unified God for he must, as the devil wants, accept strange and several more gods even if it is only naked, dead, worthless letters or Shem Hamphoras, that is, big bags full of piled-up devils. Yes, such gods the Jews wanted to have instead of the right God, Jesus of Nazareth.

37. Here they might say: you Christians do the same thing. You speak words over the water and calling it baptism wash away all sins and make a newborn person. You make bread and wine into body and blood with words; you place the hands on the head of a sinner and with words free him of his sins. This is what your Luther writes: Whoever picks up even a straw in God's word does a better act than all monks, nuns, bishops, pope etc. Now words are no more than solitary, bare, poor letters: you just as well give them the tasks, which are in the nature of Gods majesty, as forgiving sins, new birth and resurrection.

38. We Christians are sufficiently and well instructed and informed concerning this, that it can be settled in a few words; Christians say therefore that water is nothing but water, words no more than mere letters which cannot do or help beyond their nature and even less so capable of producing divine tasks in us; for water and letters do not make a baptism. (18) I have often seen a horse or an ox slurp up a bucket of water. Now if you were to immediately pronounce the words of baptism over that then the horse surely would not be slurping up baptism nor be born again; more is demanded. The baptism is the sort of thing from which all devils may not swallow one drop for it would become a poisonous weed for them, burning like hell fire; instead, they flee as far as they can for they may not witness the baptism nor remain present. Why is that? They certainly do not pay regard to water and letters. ....

39. However, because God has ordered and commanded that we should employ our hand and tongue and pour water over the one to be baptized with the words and letters he has commanded, promised us and assured us in all certainty that he himself will be present with his divine grace and power and will do this task himself. Here you understand that we Christians do not give the water and letter any divine power nor claim it is our deed, but admit that it is alone God who wants this in this fashion as he likes it, that is to prove and show it on us through water, letters and the word. That doesn't mean vacant letters and just water such as a cow slurps, but that through which God joins Himself to us so that he can exercise his grace and his power through us and upon us as his tool. Therefore, both water and letters are in baptism (not otherwise) full and rich in God's grace and power, because he has promised and revealed it, he himself will do it. "Go and baptize" (he says) not in your name, but "in the Name" so that it be a work of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

40. Therefore we reject the Pope together with his whole church, for he filled the whole world with similar tricks, magic, idol worship, for he too has his particular Shem Hamphoras; he comes along and conjures the water with empty, simple, vacant letters, pretends it is holy water which washes away sin, drives the devil away and has a number of other powers, seeks to imitate God like a monkey. Then he conjures wax the same way with void and empty letters, sells it to emperors and kings as holy Agnus Dei (19) which has a great deal of virtue, sustains himself with that, in fact, becomes rich in the world, just like any arch trickster, magician and idol worshipper. So he conjured caps and plates and all the world with mere words or letters, so that they become monks, nuns, priests, who hold mass and sell, call upon and celebrate saints, cash in indulgences, pray to corpses, serve the Devil, and earn heaven through their own works, that is, thar heaven in which the Devil is bishop and pope [Hell].

41. That he needs good words from the scriptures and God's name is even more disgusting since God nor only did nor command him to do so but has specifically prohibited this. It is written: "You shall nor misuse God's name"; that is why his power is not there, but there are only empty, void powerless letters. If, however, something does occur because of it, it is not the work of God but of the Devil, so as to strengthen his lies and tricks (through God's permission) to confuse the unbelievers, and to tempt the believers and to warn them; as we can see, witches and other magicians often do great harm. The Turks also conduct such swindle among each other, in. wartime they bring with them beautifully written Arabic letters, (I have seen many of-them) so that these vain letters, or as they claim, good and holy words, ensure their safety in face of weapons and danger. Thus, the devil fills the whole world with swindle, idol worship, deception as if he had nothing better to do than to instigate special Shem Hamphoras in every community.

42. Now I am concerned that it is time to know, and the reader ought to be astounded to discover, what the Jews' Shem Hamphoras is. As I have said, I know and am certain, that it is not nor can be anything but ordinary, common, poor letters. However, to uncover and exhibit and advertise their foolishness and to uncover the devils' maliciousness, I want to advertise it here as much as I can do it and know it: let those who don't have it any other way read Antonius Margarit. (20) There is in 2 Mos. 14, 19, 20, 21, a text as follows:

43. "And the angel of God, who travelled before the army of Israel, arose and moved behind them, and the pillar of cloud also moved away from before them and moved behind them and came between the army of the Egyptians and the army of Israel. However, it was a dark cloud, and lit up the whole night, so that they could come together the whole night, this night and no other. And Moses stretched his hand out over the seas and the Lord let it move away through a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry and the water divided from one another." (21)

44. This text has 216 letters in the Hebrew which are divisible into three lines or paragraphs so that each verse receives seventy-two letters. One could make six good verses from this, but the rabbis won't have it. Here note now the high art of Shem Hamphoras. If you write the three rows under one another, so that one letter is positioned exactly under another one, then do this: Take the first letter in the first row and the last one in the other row, and the first one in the third row, place them together you will have a word of three letters; do it in the same manner with all letters in the three lines or rows, you will find seventy two letters since each one has three letters.

45. They can easily do this in the Hebrew alphabet since all letters also serve as digits or numbers; for they count with letters as do the Greeks. We, however, have no more than seven numerical letters, i.e., CD I L M V X. (22) Nevertheless, I want to try and show it to us, the Germans, although it is only a rough example. So, I align three rows of twelve letters so that the text is this:

#### Notes

8. *In the first century C.E. Monobaz I, king of Adiabene, "a disrrict in the upper Tigris region, "became a converr to Judaism. His sister, his wife Helena and her son Izates likewise converted to Judaism. On the death of Mondoaz, Izates became king and reigned from 36 to 60 C.E. Helena spent the rest of her life in Jerusalem, where she built herself a palace. Athough she was known for charity and piety, she never ruled in Israel as claimed by Porcherus. Helena was buried in the Tomb of the Kings still found in the north of Jerusalem today. See Encyclopedia Judaica, Jerusalem, Keter Publishing House, Vol. 2, p. 267, and Vol. 8, p. 288.*

9. The word *alma* is Hebrew. Christians translate this word to mean "virgin"; Jews translate it to mean "young woman." Thus, the famous sentence in Isaiah 7: 14 is rendered in the Jerusalem Bible, "Behold the young woman is with child."

10. What else. This is the end of the Porchetus quotation.

11. St. Margareth of Amioch was a 15-year-old martyr who jumped off a building - to her death in order to preserve her virginity. Hers was one of the voices heard by Joan "of Arc. See *The Catholic Encyclopedia*, 1967.

12. Numerous Christian writers have commented on this phrase from Matthew, using it as justification for the bloody persecutions which mark all of Jewish history. As late as this century, some Christian pastors used this phrase.

13. The Hebrew word *goy* means nation. Thus, "Goy Israel" means the nation of Israel. However, in the Yiddish language, a form of medieval German mixed with Hebrew and Slavic phrases and used by Eastern European Jews, the word *goy* came to mean "non-Jew," that is, a nation other than Israel. *Goyim* is the masculine plural form of that word. In the Hebrew language, the ending *-im* refers to the masculine plural as in *Elohim* ("Gods," derived from *El*, "God"). This is a remarkable matter because the third word in Genesis is *Elohim* thus leading to the exact translation of that first sentence in the Bible to mean: "In the Beginning the Gods created . . . "

14. In German, Luther wrote: "Hie ist's beschlossen, (ich haue schier gesagt besdz.issen:). "Note the play on the two German words *beschlossen*, meaning to conclude and *beschissen*, meaning to shit upon. Luther was by no means ashamed to use such language throughout his works.

15. Reference is made to Judas, the betrayer of Jesus. Usually, Judas is referred to as Judas Iscariot as if Iscariot were his last name. It should be remembered however, that the use of last names was utterly unknown in the ancient world. The word should therefore be read "Ish Kariot." "A man from Kariot". The Hebrew word *ish* means "Man", and Kariot was a place in ancient Israel.

16. Nazareth is a town in northern Israel (Galilee) where Jesus spent his youth.

17. Circumcision is an ancient practice widespread in many human societies. Among Jews it has been viewed as a divine commandment and is regarded as evidence of a covenant between Israel and God. Genesis 17:11 reads, "And you shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and this shall serve as the token of the covenant between me and you." This practice is regarded as so important in the Jewish community that Spinoza in *Tractatus Theologico-Politicus* (1670) "declared that the practice of this rite was alone sufficient to ensure & the survival of the Jewish people." See *Encyclopedia Judaica*, 1971. Frazier in *The Golden Bough* mentions numerous societies which practice circumcision as a signal of initiation into adult life, as a substitute for castration and,

among modern Americans as a health measure. In Europe, this practice was regarded as Jewish. Christians did not circumcise until about the middle of the twentieth century. Thus, circumcision was viewed with disgust by European Christians and became so firmly associated with Jews that a few European Jews escaped death at the hands of the Nazi murderers during the Holocaust because they had, for one reason or another, not been circumcised.

18. *Baptisma* (Greek) = dipping.

19. This prayer, said in almost all Christian denominations consists of the words: "Agnus Dei, qui tolles peccata mundi, miserere; dona nobis pacem," or "Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy; give us peace." "Lamb of God" is a designation derived from John 1: 29. In modern English the sentence is: "On the following day, John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, there is the Lamb of God who will take away the sin of the world. "An earlier use of the designation "lamb" can be found in Isaiah 53:7. "He was oppressed, but he humbled himself and opened not his mouth; as a lamb which is brought to the slaughter . . . " This is given a Christological interpretation by Christian theologians. Felecien Challaye (*Petite Histoire de Grandes Religiones Paris, Presses Universitaires de France, 1947, p. 138*) shows that the archaeologist Masson Oursel translated the following sentence from ancient Assyrian-Babylonian cuneiform script: "He delivered the head of a lamb for the head of a man" and that this refers to the belief of the Assyrian-Babylonians that the sins of the community could be alleviated by substituting a "scape goat" for punishment earned by one and all.

20. Anwnius Margarit was a contemporary of Luther. He had converted from Judaism to Christianity and thereupon became Professor of Hebrew at the University of Vienna. He published *Der Ganze Judische Glaub* (*All the Jewish Beliefs*). This anti- Jewish book became one of the sources for Luther's *Vom Schem Hamphoras*. See :0. *Martin Luthers Werke, Kritische Gesamtausgabe 53, Band, Weimar, Herman Bohlaus, Nachfolger, 1920, p. 413. (Dr. Martin Luther's Works, Annotated Complete Edition, 53rd Volume, Weimar, Herman Bohlaus, Successors, 1920, p. 413.*

21. This refers to Exodus 14:19-21. The author continued the number of letters in these three Hebrew verses and found them to be indeed 216 as asserted by Luther.

22. In Latin, not German.