

HOLDS RITUAL MURDER A MYTH

Rev. E. Horowitz, Instructor At
Duluth Hebrew School, Gives
Its History.

STATEMENT APROPOS TRIAL OF JEW AT KIEV

Deals With the Origin of Fantas-
tical Accusation Against the
Jews.

Ritual murder, charged against Mendel Beiliss, a Jew now on trial for his life at Kiev, Russia, is a myth, according to Rev. E. Horowitz, instructor at the Moses Montefiore Hebrew school here. In a statement to the News Tribune, he surveys the subject thus:

"The case of Mendel Beiliss in Kiev, Russia, which has stirred up the whole civilized world, deserves some historical investigation, concerning the origin of so terrible a myth, for which thousands of innocent souls perished.

"Here, as well as in all other persecutions, the plans were laid to bring religion into play. Religion is pregnant with mysteries, therefore mystic crimes will answer the purpose. The first case of ritual murder, Apion brought before Caligula, accusing the Jews of annually fattening a Greek in the temple, sacrificing him, and tasting his entrails and swearing an oath of enmity against the Greeks.

"Apion, a statesman and orator of great repute, knew well, that to be successful in his evil design of damaging the Alexandrian Jews, he must use a mystic weapon. The Jews' religion was a mystery and it would be easy to apply more mystery by saying that a Greek's entrail is needed to serve the God of Israel. This clever method was employed at all times; and so it happened in the early centuries of the Christian Era, the charge appears to have been leveled by Greeks and Romans against the Christians, and many of the early fathers inveigh against it.

"No doubt the strangeness of the new Christian religion, with its celebration of the holy communion, was a good and desirable nucleus for the demoralized, depraved and cruel Roman to rejoice in shedding innocent blood. Thus Justin 'the martyr' (about 140 A. D.), in dealing with the charges of eating human flesh says:

"They drag our slaves, children or wives to the ordeal, and by means of horrible tortures force them to confess their mythical rites, which they, themselves, openly practice."

"Shortly afterwards Athenagoras (about 176 A. D.), in his apology, refutes the accusation brought against the Christians of atheism, eating human flesh and licentiousness. At the beginning of the third century Tertullian writes in the Apologeticum:

"We are charged with the heinous crime of killing and eating children as a secret rite. The charge is brought against us persistently, yet you do not care to prove this persistent charge. Prove it, then, if you believe it, or believe it not since you have not proved it."

"At later periods the accusation of ritual murder was brought against heterodox Christian sects, such as the Montanists or Kataphrygians. It was just at the time when the authority of the episcopate had been introduced into the churches and as soon as Christianity ignored the noble maxim of 'Corpus semus de conscientia religionis, de unitate disciplinae, de spei fovere' and looked for means to enslave every human mind, a great change has taken place in the world's history, and brought the dark ages, which made again Israel bring his human offerings on the altar of Moloch. But if there be an ascending scale of suffering, Israel has reached its highest degree. Because Israel had not only the blood accusation invented against him, but many angels of death have been created for him; such as well poisoning, holy wafer desecration of the Host, etc. Strangely enough the first revival of ritual murder arose in England in connection with St. William of Norwich, a boy, whom the Jews were accused of having killed (see 'Life and Miracles of St. William of Norwich,' by Thomas Monmouth) From here this angel of death spread his wings all over Europe, and when Frederick II caused a commission to investigate the ritual case in Fulda, which reported that the accusation was untenable, the crafty priest brought the other deadly weapons of 'holy wafers, desecration of the Host, etc.' against the Jews, which were current for many ages, and employed to infuriate the multitude and which caused Luther to declare: 'Sophists, monks and arch donkeys have hitherto treated the Jews in such a manner that a good Christian might have desired to turn Jew. If I had been a Jew, and had seen such clowns administering and teaching Christianity, I would rather have been a sow than a Christian.'

"The secret power of priestcraft, which has created the dark ages is now working in Russia against the poor and honest Jew Beiliss and keeps a Hilsner 14 years in a dungeon in Australia. And we Jews defy all our enemies with the following song on our lips:

"Nimm, Helliger, was wir erflehen,
"Liebreich auf in Himmels hoehen;
"Lasse nach so vielen Leiden,
"Uns eadlich schauen Freuden.
"Doch traefe uns auch das
Schlechte.
"Du bleibst der Gerechte."