

---

# CONTENTS

Acknowledgments viii

- 1 Looking into *Lernen*: An Introduction into the  
Talmud Study Circle 1
  - 2 Social Drama 29
  - 3 Cultural Performance 61
  - 4 Interactional Drama: *Lernen* as Play 113
  - 5 Word Play and the Language of *Lernen* 161
  - 6 Fellowship 203
  - 7 The Religion of *Lernen* 239
  - 8 *Siyum* 261
- Epilogue 295  
Notes 297  
Glossary 313  
Bibliography 323  
Index 333