

ALONE ON THE FADING PATH OF HALAKHAH

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8 June 2026 | 11:00 - 13:00

Fondazione Bruno Kessler

Via S. Croce 77, Trento

In person/Online

Loneliness, as a theme in biblical theological anthropology, has a continuous history yet a discontinuous presence within the biblical corpus. One immediately thinks of the opening chapters of Genesis, where human solitude is articulated in ontological terms (“it is not good that man should be alone,” Gen 2:18); of Jacob’s solitude at the Yabok, taking the form of a liminal and transformative isolation preceding encounter and renaming (Gen 32:23–33); of David’s experience of isolation during his fugitive years under Saul (in both the Samuel narrative and the Psalms); and, finally, of Job’s profoundly theological loneliness, as he stands increasingly alone before both his friends and God. Isn’t the man of faith, ontologically, “lonely but not alone,” as Soloveitchik affirmed? Inscribing itself within the continuity of rabbinic reflections, this seminar will focus on a contemporary yet dramatic dimension of the human experience of solitude: that of a halakhic loneliness in the context of the Shoah. Its primary textual anchor will be a *Responsa* of Rav Tsvi Hirsch Meisels (*She’elot u-Teshuvot Mekadshei HaShem*, written in 1951 from his memories in Veitze, Hungary, and later in Auschwitz). The text will be studied in conversation with selected contemporary theological voices (Fackenheim, but also Barth and Moltmann), while remaining attentive to the resonances and tensions they generate with selected classical rabbinic teachings. Participants will be invited to reflect both on the anguish that such loneliness entails, and on the ethical possibility that may nonetheless arise from it when a religious tradition finds itself confronted with a rupture it could not have imagined and that can only be met with silence and loneliness.

The event will be held in **English**.

Cycle of Seminars: “Solitude and Communion in Religion and Ethics”

Scientific coordination: Massimo Leone, FBK-ISR

Registration is required to attend the event



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