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The *Liji* from a Jewish Perspective: An Exploration of Challenges and Approaches in Comparing Jewish and Confucian Classics

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Abstract: This article adopts a Jewish perspective to explore the methodologies and challenges in the comparative study of the *Liji* (Book of Rites) and Jewish classical texts. It proposes two comparative pathways: first, at the textual-structural level, comparing the Liji with the rabbinic legal code known as the *Mishnah* to analyze their similarities in editorial logic, thematic classification, and hermeneutic methods; second, at the spiritual-conceptual level, juxtaposing the concept of li (ritual propriety) in the *Liji* with that of covenant (berit) in the *Hebrew Bible*, examining their philosophical commonalities and differences in constructing social order, addressing real-world challenges, and pursuing an ideal world. Although Confucian and Jewish traditions differ significantly in historical context, textual genre, and religious framework, a careful selection of appropriate comparative texts and core concepts, coupled with in-depth structural and conceptual analysis, can reveal potential spaces for dialogue and scholarly value in Jewish-Confucian cultural exchange.

Key Words: *Liji*, Mishnah, Li (ritual propriety), Cross-Cultural Studies