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My Brother Esau is a Hairy Man: Hair and Identity in Ancient Israel (Hardback)

By Samuel Green Professor of Religion Susan Niditch

Oxford University Press Inc, United States, 2008. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 236 x 160 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. The story of Jacob and Esau is told in the book of Genesis. With his mother's help, Jacob impersonates his hairy older twin by dressing in Esau's clothes and covering his own hands and the nape of his neck with the hairy hide of goats. Fooled by this ruse, their blind father, Isaac, is tricked into giving the younger son the blessing of the firstborn. This is only one of many biblical stories in which hair plays a pivotal role. In recent years, there has been an explosion of scholarly interest in the relationship between culture and the body. Hair plays an integral role in the way we represent and identify ourselves. The way we treat our hair has to do with aesthetics, social structure, religious identity, and a host of other aspects of culture. In societies modern and ancient, the hairdo is one key to a group's cultural code. In ancient Israel, hair signifies important features of identity with respect to gender, ethnicity, and holiness. Susan Niditch seeks a deeper understanding of Israelite culture as...



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