

Art History 331
Muslims, Jews, and Christians in Medieval Spain
Prof. Stephen Clancy

JEWISH STATUS UNDER CHRISTIAN RULE: THE ROLLER-COASTER RIDE

Important questions/info

1. What were the "leanings" of Jews during the 12th and earlier 13th centuries of the Reconquista?
 - the "first Golden Age" and Samuel ha-Nagid
 - the Almoravids and the Almohads
2. Why was the history of Jews during the Reconquista a "tug of war"?
 - ups:
 - Alfonso VI (1065-1109) and the conquest of Toledo (1085)
 - Alfonso VII (1126-57) and Judah ben Joseph
 - Alfonso VIII (1158-1214), Las Navas de Tolosa, and the "Rachel affair"
 - downs:
 - Papal Bull of Innocent IV (1250)
 - forced preaching
 - clothing badges
 - limits on repairs and sizes of synagogues
 - forced living in *judería*
3. Was there generally overt resentment among Jewish leaders toward the concept of the "king's Jews"?
 - John II** in 1443: "The Jews and Moors are mine and pertain to me and my chamber, for I take and receive them under my custody, and under my safety and protection, and Royal defense"
 - Pedro I** ("the Cruel") (r. 1350-69): "Israel's savior" ("king of the Jews")
 - poem** offered by a Jewish courtier to Alfonso X:
 - Never was such loyalty seen
 - Since Don Alfonso was crowned king
 - On coming to serve you I bring your Majesty
 - A cup engraved with a poem
 - May it never be raised empty
 - Under the mandate of my Lord!
4. What were the forces behind Christian "resentment" towards Jews in Iberia during the 13th and 14th centuries?
 - increasing success of the Reconquista
 - increasing church pressure
 - the *almoxarifes*
5. What marked the "beginning of the end" for Jews on the Iberian peninsula?
 - the Massacres of 1391
 - the *conversos*
 - e.g., Sta. Maria la Blanca in Seville