Dr. Yuval Harari considers three patterns—priestly, rabbinical, and magical—of the ordeal for testing a woman suspected of adultery. The acknowledgement of the Biblical rite as magical by its very essence lies at the core of its later developments among rabbinical circles on the one hand and magical ones on the other. Magicians concentrated on the way of making the ordeal viable at a time when there was neither high priest, nor Temple or holy water. The early medieval magical text titled *inyan sota* (“The case of the adulteress”), found in the Cairo Geniza, presents their practical solution. Dr. Harari will also discuss a yet-unstudied paragraph in the Hebrew text known as “The Scroll of Ahima‘az” (Italy, 11th century), which hints at the magical ordeal of the Genizah, and maybe even at its actual implementation.

Dr. Yuval Harari teaches Folklore at Ben Gurion University of the Negev, in the Department of Hebrew Literature—Folklore Studies. An expert in the study of Jewish magic and the realm of the occult associated with it, he prepared a critical edition of *The Sword of Moses* (Harba de-Moshe) and is the author of the forthcoming Early Jewish Magic: Study, Method, and Sources.

A reception will immediately follow the lecture.