

Samuel Pallache: Rabbi, Corsair, and Diplomat — Between Faith and Survival[©]

Abstract

Samuel Pallache (c. 1550–1616), known as “the Pirate Rabbi,” embodied the intersections of exile, faith, and resilience. Born in Fez to a family of Iberian exiles, he navigated the turbulent worlds of the Moroccan court, the Dutch Republic, and the Spanish Empire. As both corsair and diplomat, Pallache challenged imperial power while sustaining Jewish dignity. His story reveals how Sephardic Jews transformed persecution into endurance, and how memory and identity continued to travel long after 1492.