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HUMANITIES RESEARCH CENTER
The University of Texas at Austin

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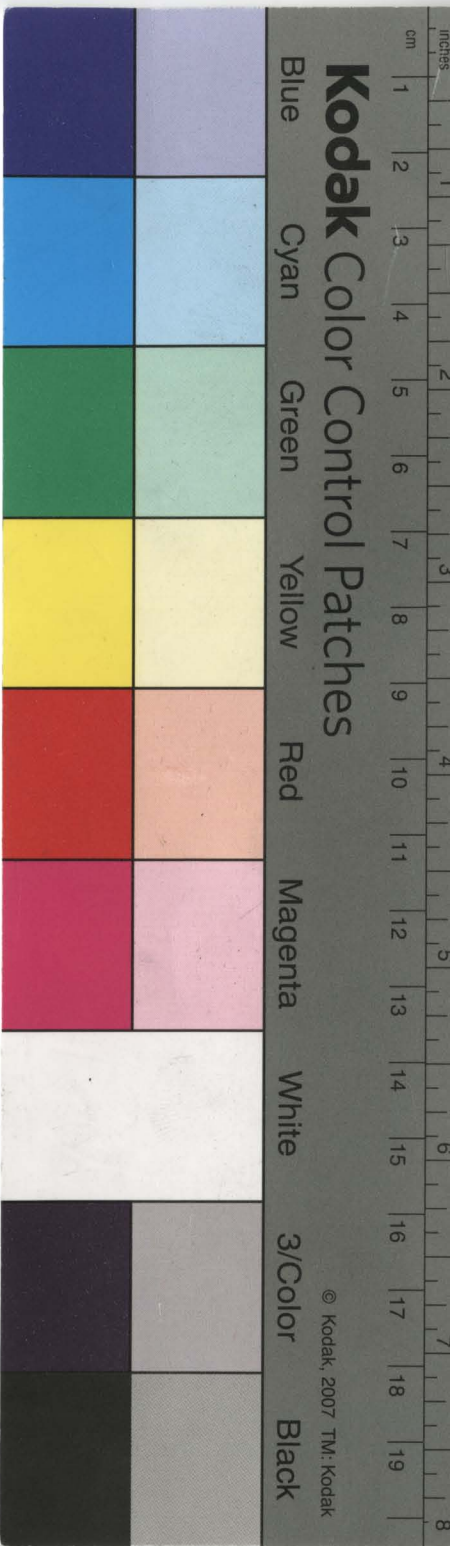
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in of near time I have
sent you a vialgeral web I
hope you will accept of
to hang up in yo^r closet
for a remembrance of me

HRC

OR
1
no
III



2 Kings 17. 15, 16.

They followed vanity & became vain & went after y^e heathen that were round about them concerning whom y^e Lord had said y^e they should not do like them. And they left all y^e commandments of y^e Lord their God & made them molten images even two calves & made a grove & worshipped all y^e host of heaven & served Baal.

Having had formerly occasion to discourse of these words I told you how y^e designe of y^e place was to describe y^e captivity of y^e ~~Israelites~~ ten tribes by y^e Assyrians & y^e abominations for which they were captivated & y^e religion of y^e nations wch y^e Assyrians placed in Samaria in y^e seats of y^e captivity of Israelites: wch religion was that these nations joynd together y^e worship of y^e true God in y^e Calves of Jeroboam & y^e worship of y^e fals gods of y^e Gentiles round about in their several Idols even as y^e Israelites had joynd them before. For y^e better understanding y^e know before of y^e place I laid down these six particulars. 1 That y^e Israelites acknowledged y^e worshipp of y^e true God at y^e same time that they worshipp'd y^e ~~gods of the~~ Gentiles. 2 That they & y^e nations wch succeeded them in y^e Cities of Samaria worshipp'd y^e true God in y^e calves of Jeroboam. 3 That this worship was Idolatry notwithstanding that it was performed to y^e true God: & by parity of reason that y^e worship of y^e true God by any Image wch he has not commanded, (as indeed he has commanded none) is Idolatry. 4 That generally y^e Israelites & Gentiles worshipp'd not mere Images as Gods themselves but only as dedicat'd to their several Gods. 5 That the ancient Idolaters, as many of them as acknowledged y^e true God, did not esteem any of their other Gods equal to him but account'd them only finite beings & for y^e most part the souls of men deceased, who for y^e eminent passage of their life here they supposed were after death rewarded with power more or less over this world, to do good or hurt therein ~~not only~~ subordinately not only to y^e supreme God but even to some others of their imagined Gods. Lastly,

Behold

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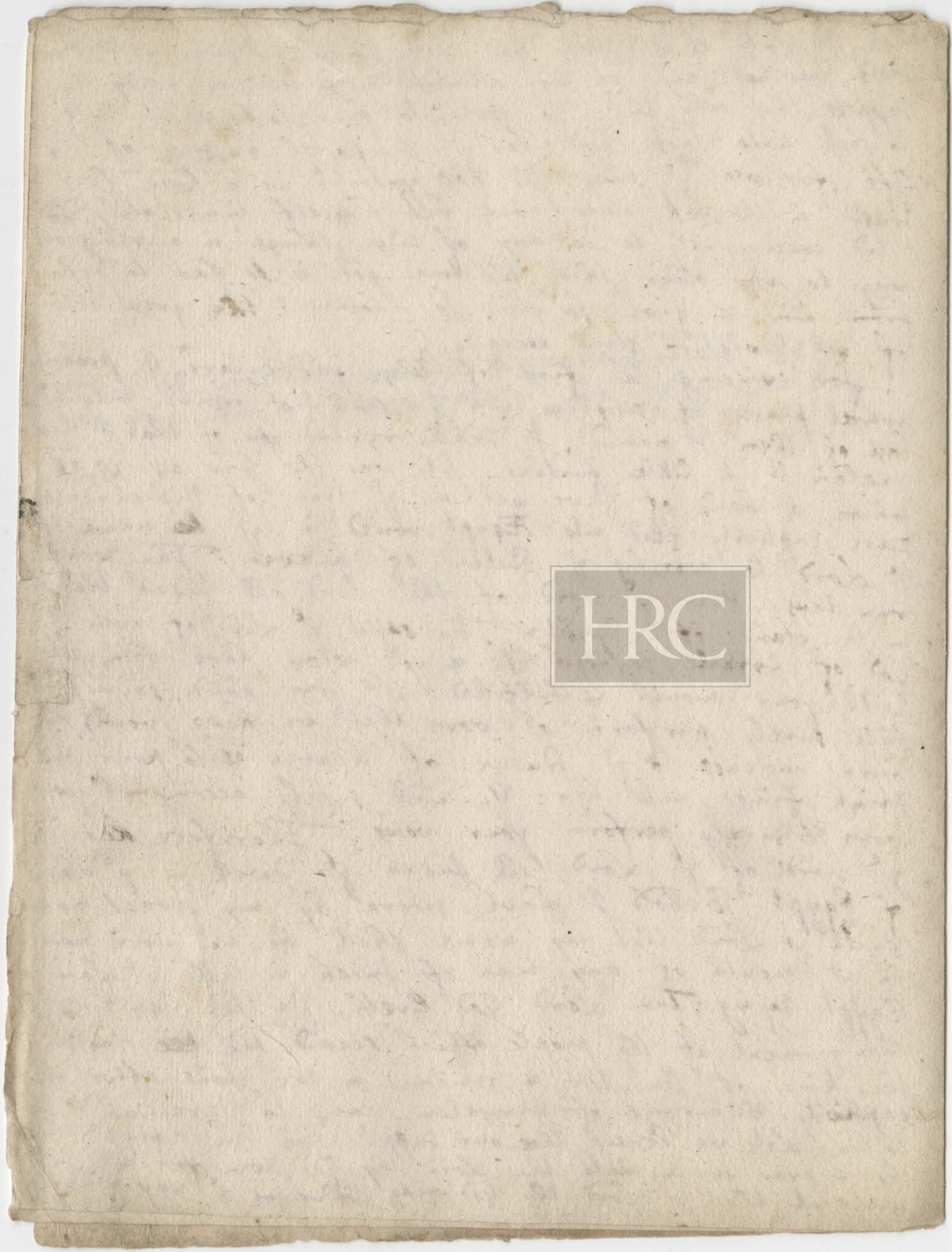
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* that the Israelites acknowledged & worshipped the true God at the
same time that they worshipped ^{of} Gods of ^{of} Gentiles.

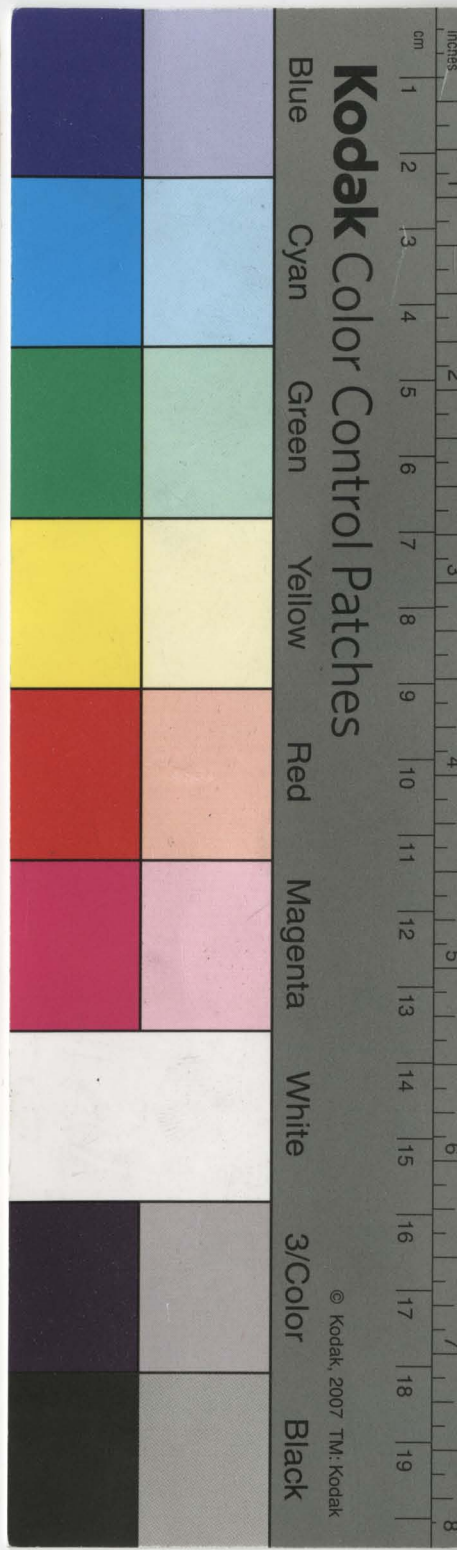


that of glory of y^e true God wch Idolaters gave unto th^{er}
Idols, was not any of his attributes as some are ready to
suppose, but only this: To love, to fear, to trust in, & to
to seek unto those Gods for y^e temporal blessings of this
life, for wch y^e true God has appointed us to love fear
trust in & seek unto none but himself immediately. ~~And~~
And consequently to do any of these things in a religious
way to any other than the true god, is so far to depart
from him & give his glory to another: the great crime
of wch Idolaters stand accused.

for convincing the first of these particulars, I produced
several places of scripture wch I shall not repeat: only y^e
last of them I named, I shall remind you of that I may
explain it a little further. It was in Jer 44. 25, 26
where a band of Jews wch in y^e time of Nebuchadne-
zars captivity fled into Egypt, vowed in y^e name of
y^e Lord to worship y^e Queen of heaven. The words
run thus. Hear y^e word of the Lord all Judah that are
in the land of Egypt: Thus saith y^e Lord of hosts y^e
God of Israel, saying Ye & y^e wives have both spoken
with your mouth & fulfilled w^{ith} your hands, saying, We
will surely perform o^{ur} vows that we have vowed to
burn incense to y^e Queen of heaven & to pour out
drink offrings unto her: Ye will surely accomplish your
vows & surely perform your vows. Therefore hear ye
y^e word of y^e Lord all Judah y^e dwell in y^e land
of Egypt, Behold I have sworn by my great name
saith y^e Lord that my name shall be no more named
in y^e mouth of any man of Judah in all y^e land of
Egypt saying; The Lord God liveth. In the 42th Chapter
the remnant of the people which escaped the ~~the~~ hands of
the king of Babylon, & remained in the land after the
captivity & burning of Jerusalem, came to Jeremiah & said
to him: Let, we beseech thee our supplication be accepted before
the & pray for us unto the Lord thy God, even for all this
remnant, that y^e Lord thy God may shew us y^e way wherein
we shall go.



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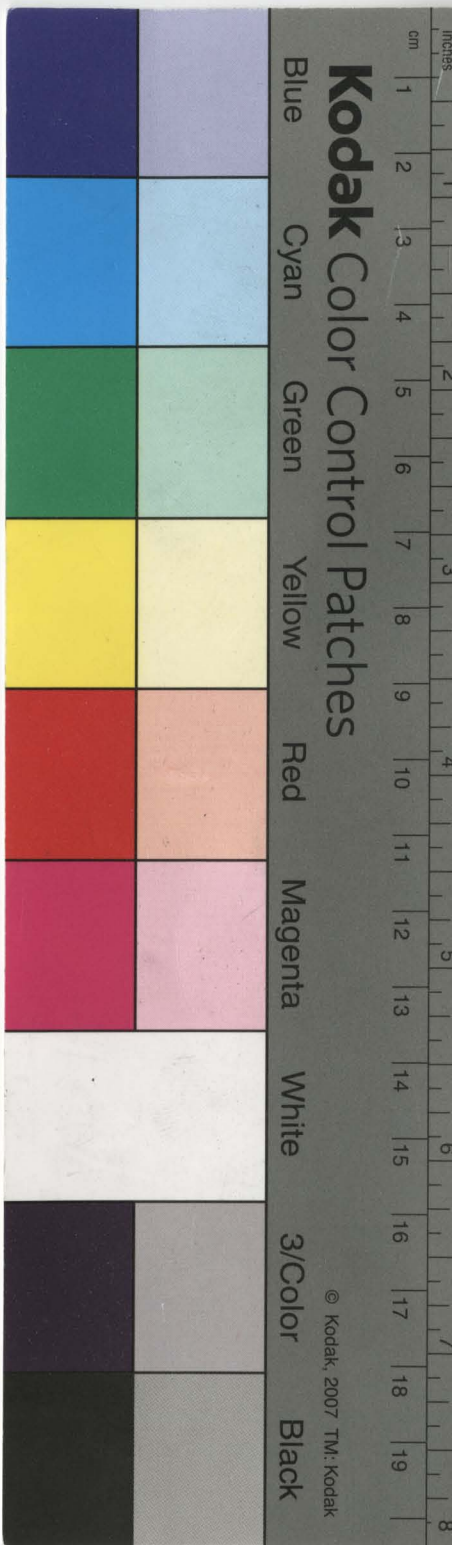


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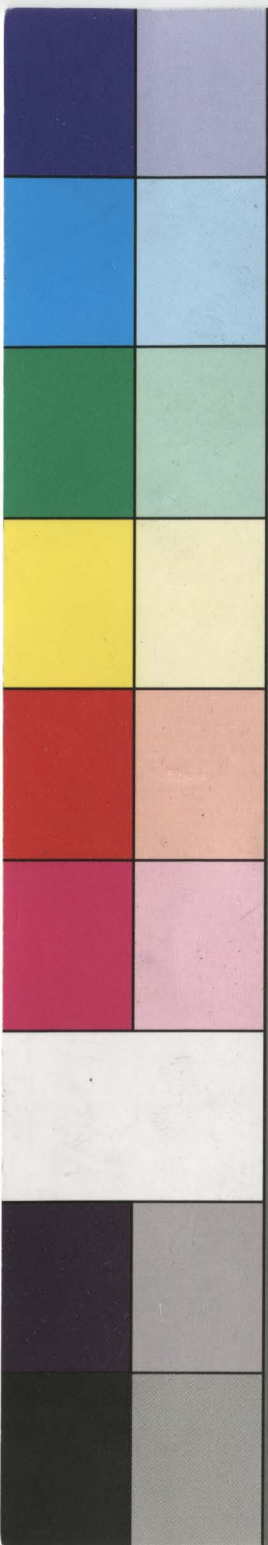
we may walk & the thing that we may do. After a
few days Jeremiah returned them answer from y^e
Lord that if they went into Egypt, as they designed,
they should surely be cut off there by y^e armies
of the king of Babylon, but if they stay in their
own land it should be well with them. But this
answer being contrary to their inclination, they replied to
Jeremiah, thou sprakest falsely, the Lord our God
hath not sent thee to say, Go not into Egypt to sojourn
there. Here you see the people acknowledged y^e true
God, y^e God of Jeremiah, ^{whom they called their own God} & made their applicati-
ons to him to know whether they should go into
Egypt or stay in their land. And when they received
answer that they should stay they did not ~~reject~~ ^{reject}
reject their God, & say we will not obey him
but only blamed the Prophet as if he had ^{spoken} ~~spoken~~
to them, & not spoken to them from the Lord. Upon
this therefore they went into Egypt, & what they did
there you have described in y^e 44th chapter ~~verses~~
the 7th & following verses, where Jeremiah is sent to
reprove them for their idolatry, with this message. Thus
saith y^e Lord, the God of hosts, y^e God of Israel, where-
fore commit ye this great evil against your souls to cut
off from you man & woman child & suckling out of
Judah to leave you none to remain: In that ye pro-
voke me to wrath with y^e works of y^e hands burn-
ing incences unto other Gods in y^e land of Egypt,
whether ye be gone to dwell. - Have ye forgotten the
wickedness of your fathers & y^e wickedness of y^e kings
of Judah & the wickedness of their wives, & your
own wickedness & the wickedness of your wives which they
have committed in y^e land of Judah & in y^e streets of
Jerusalem? They are not humbled even unto this day
neither have they feared nor walked in my law nor
in my statutes that I set before you & before y^e fathers.
Therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts y^e God of Israel,
Bened



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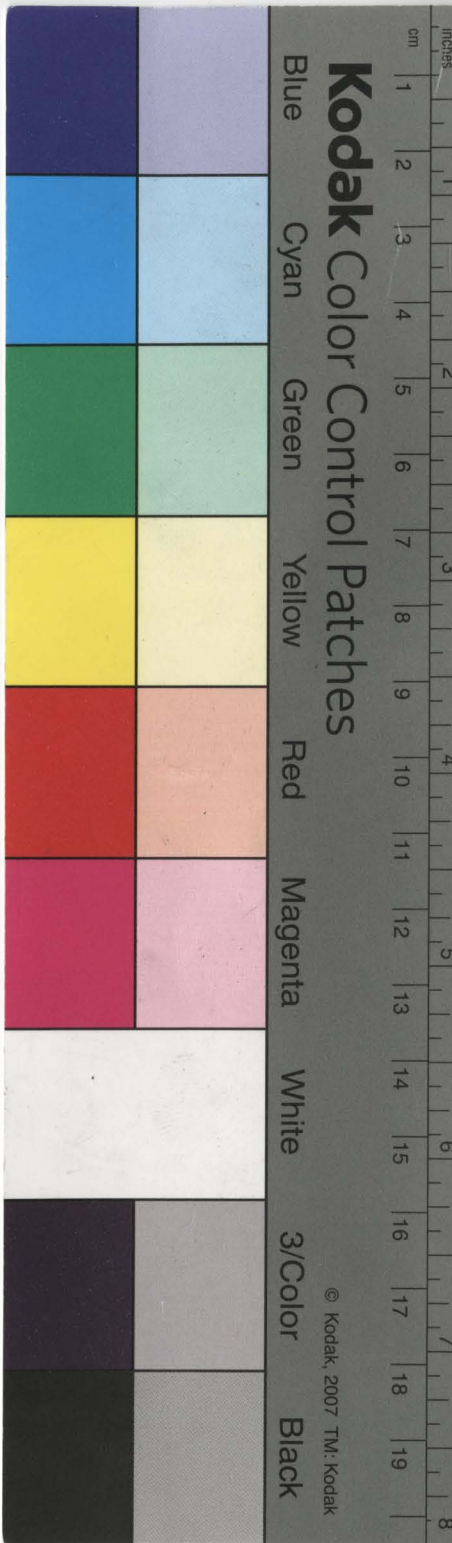
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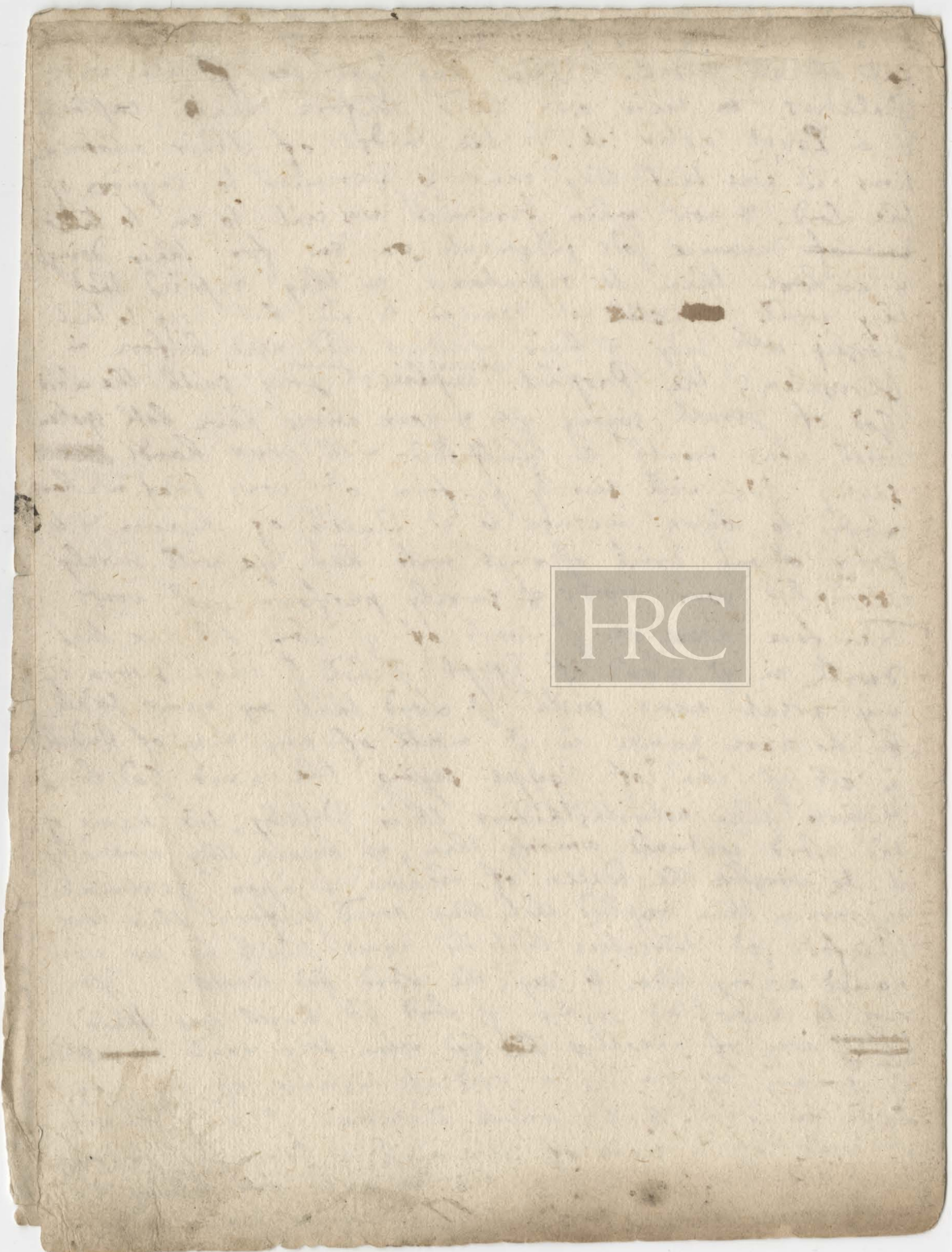


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Behold I will set my face against you for evil, even to
cut off all Judah. These men you see ~~then~~ were
idolaters in their own land before their captivity
& in Egypt after it. In the midst of their abomina-
tions it was that they came to Jeremiah to enquire of
the Lord, & now when Jeremiah was sent to em to ~~tell~~
~~em~~ of denounce Gods judgments on 'em for their doings
& exhort them to repentance & they replied that
they would ~~not~~ not hearken to him but keep to that
worship wch they & their fathers had used before in
Jerusalem, the Prophet ^{answers} replies: Thus saith the Lord
God of Israel, saying ye & your wives have both spoken
with your mouth & fulfilled with your hands ~~and~~
saying: We will surely perform o' vows that we have
vowed to burn incense to y^e Queen of Heaven & to
pour out drink offerings unto her. Ye will surely
accomplish your vows & surely perform yo^r vows
Therefore leave ye y^e word of y^e Lord all ye that
dwell in y^e Land of Egypt: Behold I have sworn by
my great name saith y^e Lord that my name shall
be no more named in y^e mouth of any man of Judah
in all y^e Land of Egypt saying the Lord God liveth
Hitherto then notwithstanding their Idolatry, the name of
the Lord continued among them, & because they vowed by
it to worship the Queen of Heaven & upon Jeremiahs
reproving them replied that they would perform their vows
therefore God threatens that his name should be no more
named among them to say, the Lord God liveth. You
are to know y^e this saying y^e Lord God liveth was their
~~solemn~~ ^{usual} way of invoking ~~the~~ God when they would ~~solemnly~~
swear by him. An evident instance of this you
have in Jer. 38. 16, where Zedekiah y^e ^{of Judah} king, demanding
y^e word of y^e Lord of Jeremiah, & Jeremiah fearing
least the king should put him to death for telling it him,
it is said that y^e king swore secretly to Jeremiah saying





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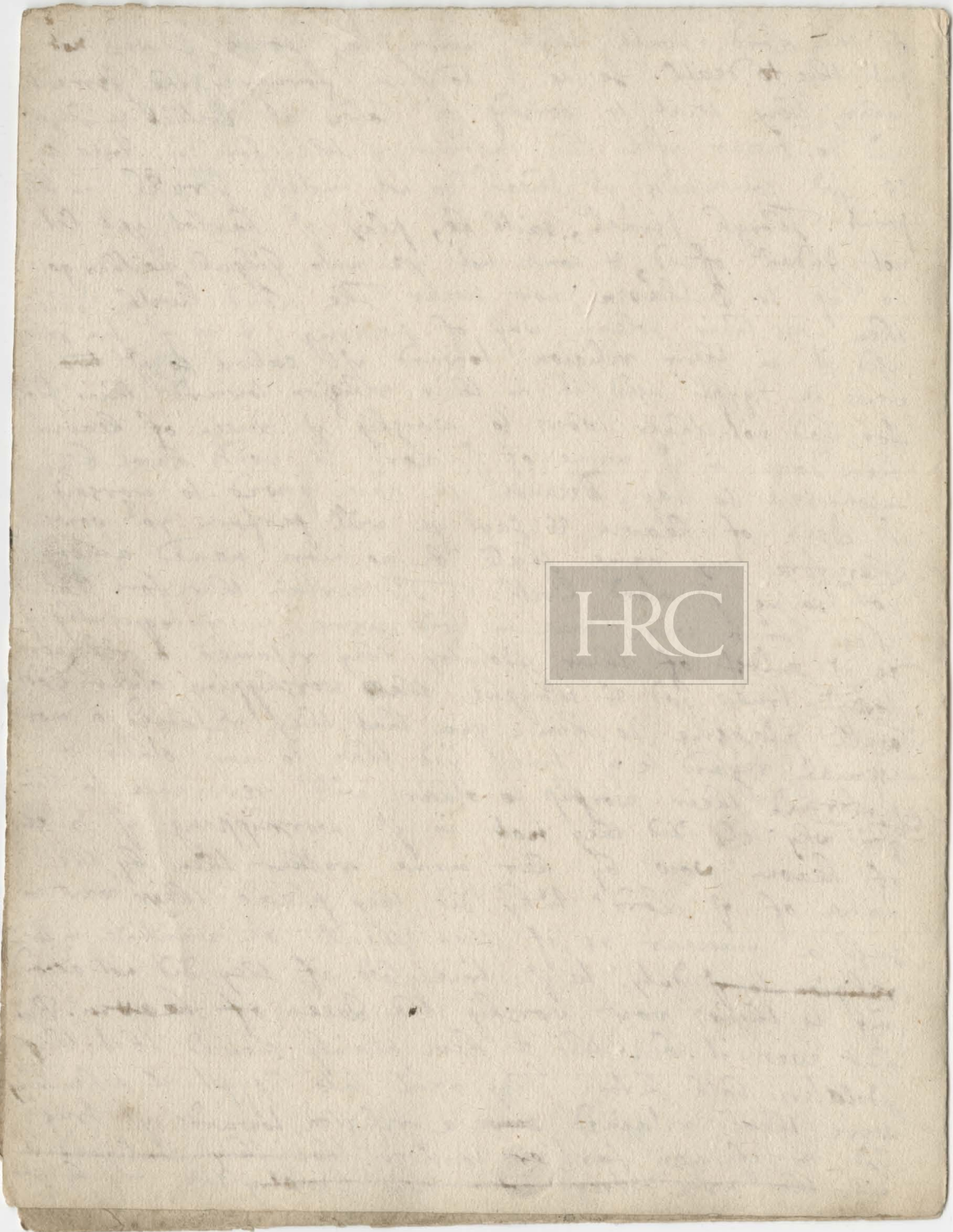


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As the Lord liveth that made this soule, I will not
put thee to death. So; (as I told you formerly,) the Jewishity
when they went to worship of Calos at Bethel & Gilgal
used to swear after this manner, & therefore in Hossea 4.
15 God commands y^e Judah do not imitate Israel in this
point: Though Israel, saith he, play of harlot, yet let
not Judah offend, & come not ye unto Gilgal, neither go
ye up to Bethaven, nor swear, The Lord liveth. This
then was their solemn way of swearing, & as y^e heathens
used it in their religion toward y^e Calos so y^e ~~two~~
Jews in Egypt used it in their religion towards their gods
for had not their vows to worship of Queen of heaven
been done in y^e name of y^e Lord it would have been
incoherent to say, Because ye have vowed to worship
of Iden of heaven & say ye will perform y^e vows
therefore my name shall be no more named among
you, saying, y^e Lord liveth. It is certain therefore that
these vows were done in Gods name & consequently y^e
in y^e midst of their Idolatry they retained a religion
toward y^e true God & thought their worshipping other Gods
well pleasing to him: yea that they retained a more
especial regard to y^e true God than to any other &
performed their worship to others, with reverence to him.
For why els did they not in y^e worshipping of Queen
of heaven vow by her name rather than by the
name of y^e Lord? Why did they plead their vow in
such a manner as if they should be wanting in their
religion to y^e duty to y^e true God if they did not accord
ing to their vow worship the Queen of heaven? But
how ever it be, this I have plainly shewed that these
Idolaters both before they went into Egypt & when they
were there retained ~~some~~ a religion towards y^e true
God, & if you further consider that they continued it
till they were destroyed for their Idolatry the way by y^e God



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Blue

Cyan

Green

Yellow

Red

Magenta

White

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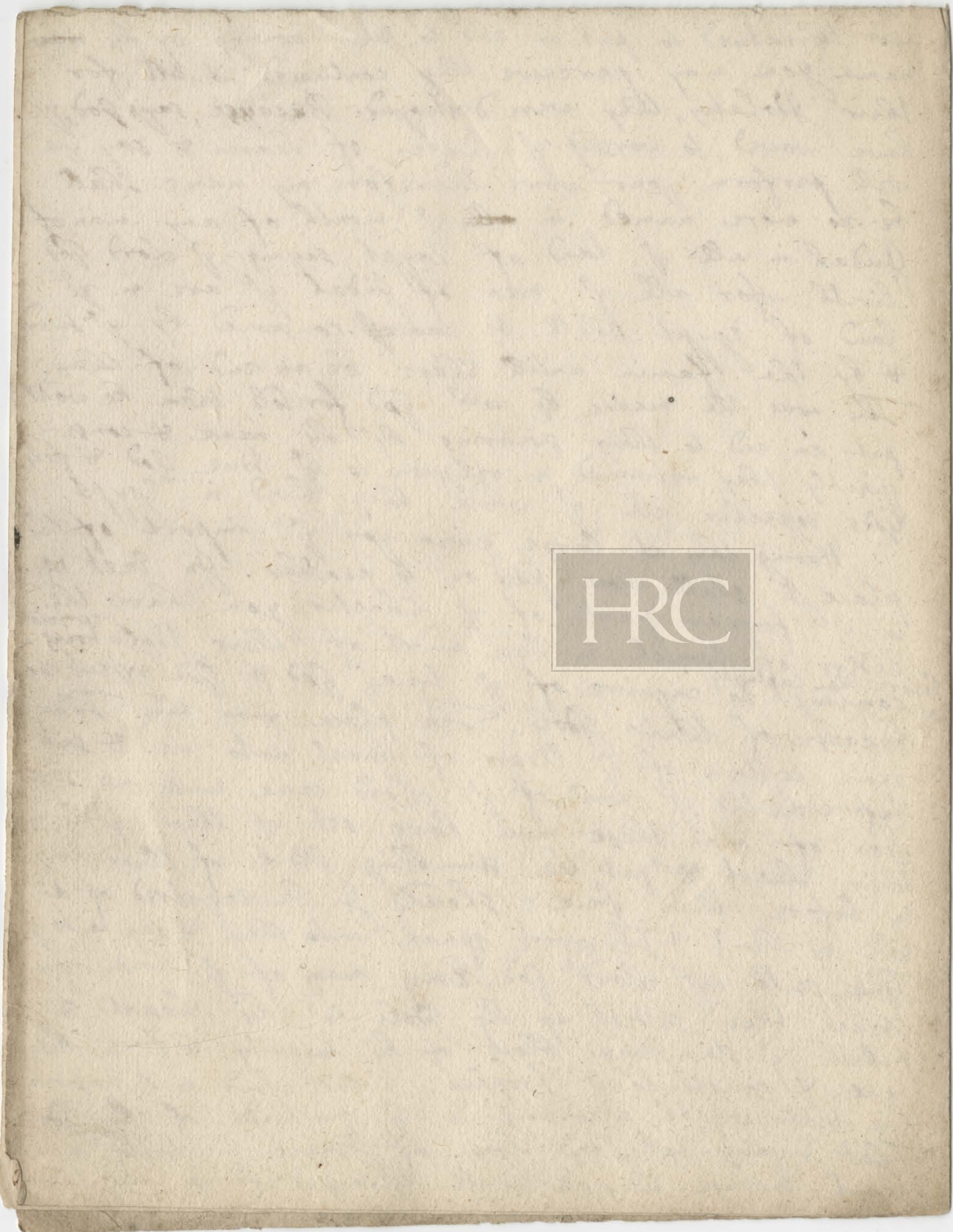
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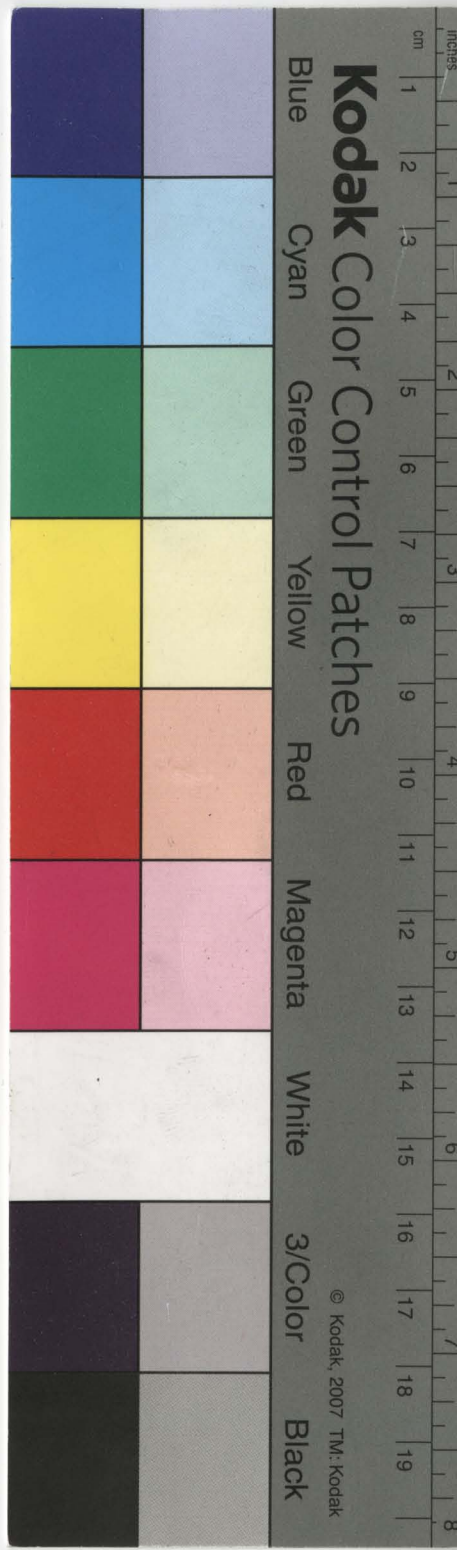
God threatened to put an end to their vowing by his ^{own} name you may perceive they continued it till, for their idolatry, they were destroyed. Because, says God, ye have vowed to worship y^e Queen of Heaven & say ye will perform your vows therefore my name shall be no more named in ~~all~~ y^e mouth of any man of Judah in all y^e land of Egypt saying y^e Lord God liveth:—for all y^e men of Judah y^e are in y^e land of Egypt shall be ~~cut~~ consumed by y^e sword & by the famine untill there be an end of them.

This was the means by w^{ch} God forbode them he would put an end to their swearing by his name & consequently they retained a religion to y^e true God & fals gods together all y^e while they lived in Egypt.

Having thus at large given you y^e import of this place I shall now pass on to another. In Ezek 14. in y^e former part of y^e Chapter you have the Elders of Israel in the midst of their idolatry ^{committed} before their captivity to enquire of y^e true God & God rejects them because of their gods. The place runs thus. Then came certain of y^e Elders of Israel unto me & sat before me. And y^e word of y^e Lord came unto me saying Son of man these men have set up their gods in their heart & put the stumbling block of their iniquity before their face: should I be enquired of at all by them? Therefore speak unto them & say unto y^e Thus saith y^e Lord God, Every man of y^e house of Israel that setteth up his gods in his heart & putteth y^e stumbling block of his iniquity before his face & cometh to y^e Prophet, I the Lord will answer him that cometh according to y^e multitude of his gods. That I may take the house of Israel in their own heart because they are all estranged from me through



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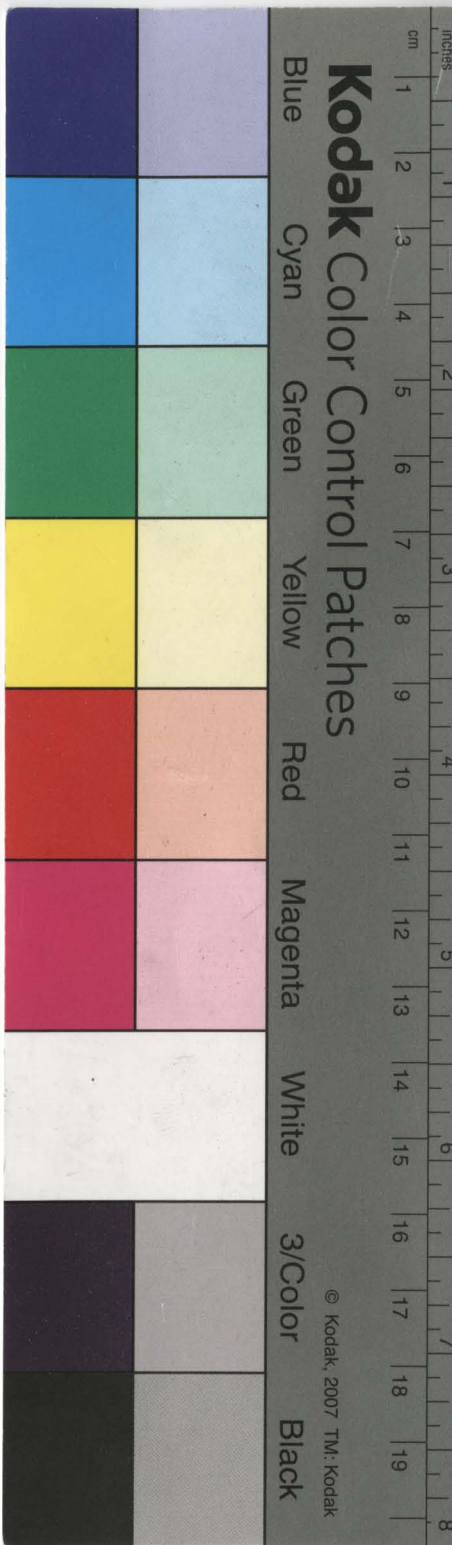


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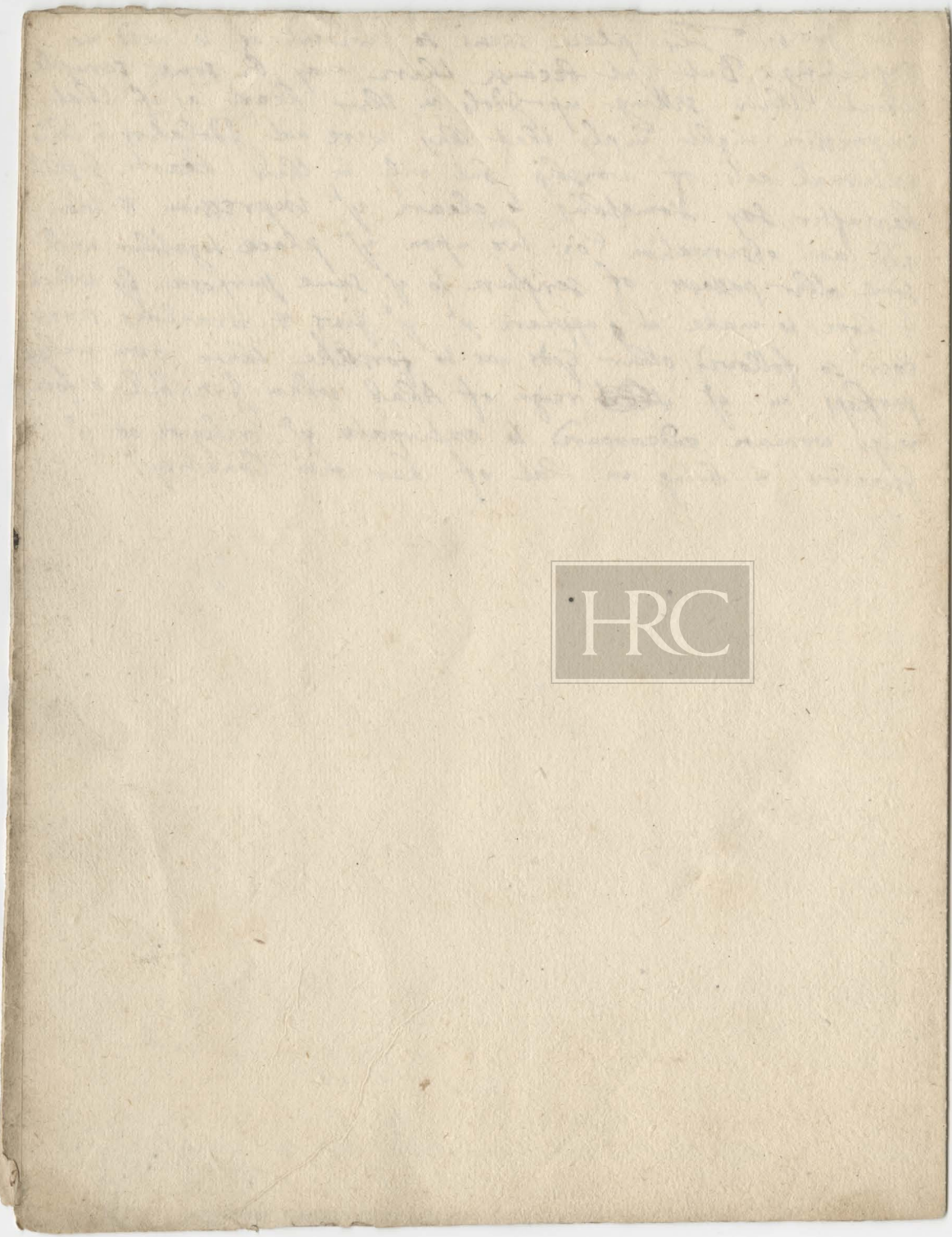
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their Idols. This place seems so evident as to need no
explaining. But yet because there may be some scruple
about their setting up Idols in their heart as if that
expression might imply that they were not idolaters in their
external acts of worship but only in their heart, I shall
hereafter say something to clear up expression & then
add an observation or two upon it place together with
some other passages of scripture to of same purpose: by which
I hope to make it appear that the Jews & Israelites scarce
ever so followed other Gods as to forsake their own unless
perhaps in the reign of Ahab when Jezebel a for-
eign woman endeavoured to extirpate the religion of the
Israelites & bring in that of her own Country.



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Blue

Cyan

Green

Yellow

Red

Magenta

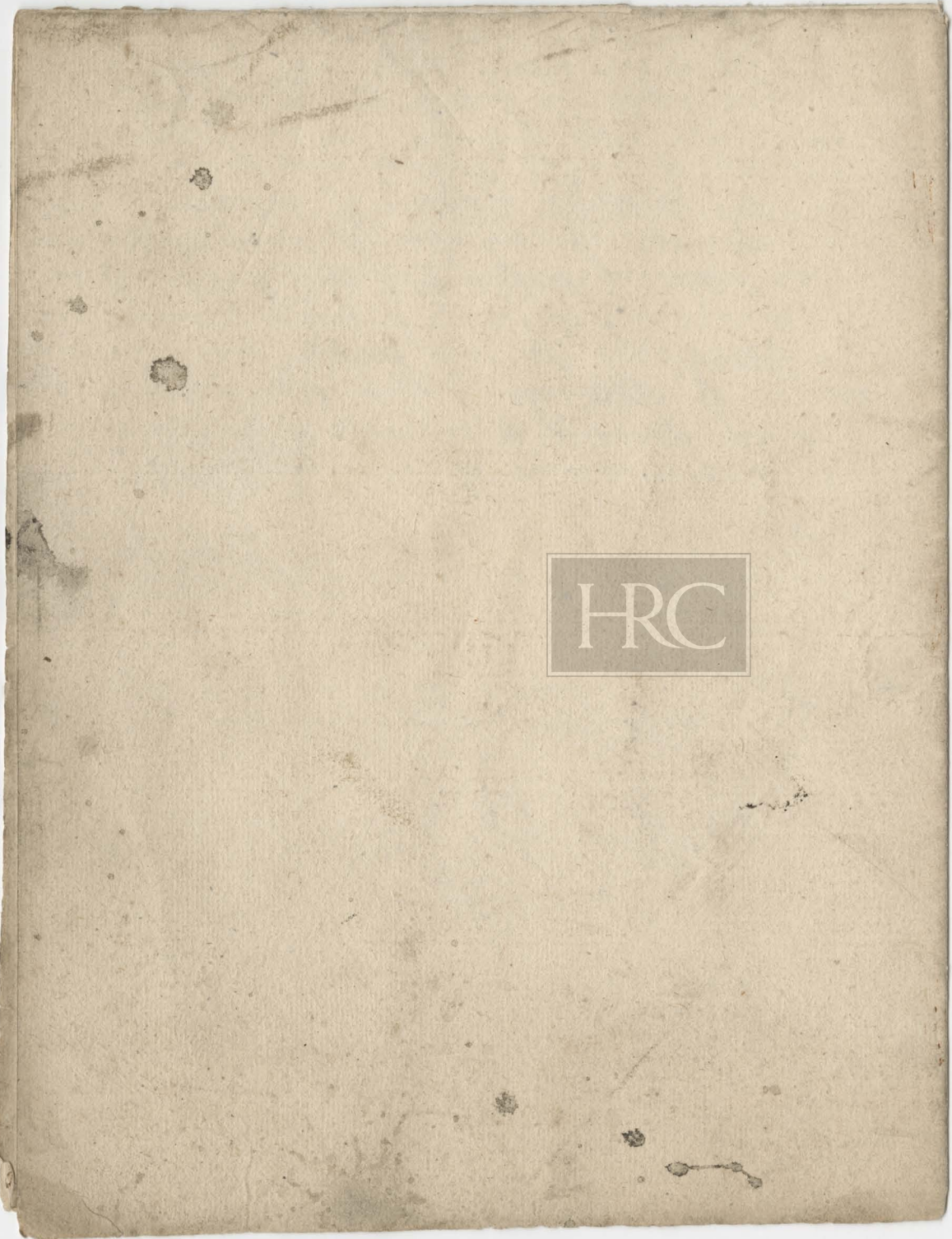
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