

From what I can discern from Goldenberg's diagram, the roots in oral tradition of the Talmud makes presenting it as a standard written text, that is, one with a linear progression of thoughts and ideas that are developed in some sort of logical progression, is near impossible to do. What the written Talmud then becomes is a work that one can not fully comprehend without knowing it in its entirety. This is not to say that wisdom cannot be gleaned from particular passages, but one cannot understand the all of the connections without knowing where they all lead.

The consequences of reading the Talmud then might be an increased ability to retain information for referencing purposes, as it becomes always necessary to know where you are and where the place that you are is referenced. In standard texts, as defined above, it is easy enough to forget where you came from because by that point, it is presumed that you have gleaned the logic of whatever universe the text presents. By contrast, the Talmud's interconnectedness makes it much more difficult to draw a straight path between all the things you know. And thus, since you are unable to string all those things together in a neat line, it forces you to retain more of it in order to maintain your fully understanding.