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## Tacitus' Fragment 2: the Anti-Roman Movement of the Christiani and the Nazoreans

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**Source:** [Vigiliae Christianae](#), Volume 54, Issue 3, pages 233 – 247

**Publication Year :** 2000

**DOI:** [10.1163/157007200X00143](#)

**ISSN:** 0042-6032 **E-ISSN:** 1570-0720

**Document Type:** Research Article

**Subjects:** [Biblical Studies](#)



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There is little consensus as to the historical nature of the sect identified by Tacitus in *Annales* 15.44 as the Christiani. The consensus on the authenticity and historicity of all of that fragment known as Tacitus' fragment 2 (= Sulpicius Severus' references to "Christiani" are widely suspected of being later Christian interpolations. Much of this fragment is the lost portion of the fifth book of Tacitus' *Historiae*. A solution can be found to both of these problems by adducing f... indicating that this fragment indeed represents a primary historical source. This new evidence takes the form of tl... statistical relationship among the following three words: (1) The metaphor stirps (branch, descendants) used to de... 2, (2) and (3) Ναζωραῖοις and Ναζαρηνοῖς (Nazorean), describing the New Testament sect associated with the of Acts... among, as well as the common source for, the three words listed above appears to be the Hebrew netser (branch, c...

influenced by Isa 11.1), which both translates into stirps and translitcrates into N It is mathematically extremely un  
represents a random coincidence. Also, it appears that a later Christian redactor of fragment 2 or his target audien  
connection. Because of this and other contextual explanations, the possibility is largely eliminated that fragment 2  
redacted by a later Christian. We are thus left with the substantial probability that this fragment constitutes a prin  
via Tacitus. In turn this source supplies us with a probable solution to the problem of the Christiani's identity by d  
being major participants in the first Jewish revolt against Rome in 66-73 CE.

**Affiliations:** 1: University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa

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