

Absorbing Perfections Kabbalah And Interpretation

Absorbing Perfections The Value of the Particular: Lessons from Judaism and the Modern Jewish Experience Kabbalistic Revolution "And They Shall Be One Flesh": On The Language of Mystical Union in Judaism Encyclopedia of Jewish Folklore and Traditions Old Worlds, New Mirrors Kabbalistic Manuscripts and Textual Theory The Zohar: Parashat Be-reshit-Parashat Noah Jewish Studies at the Central European University: 2002-2003 The Worship of Satan in Modern France Modern mystics and modern magic, containing a biography of W.S. Moses, together with sketches of Swedenborg [and others]. Ascensions on High in Jewish Mysticism The Encyclopædia Britannica Modern Mystics and Modern Magic Elenchus of Biblica Hispania Judaica Bulletin The Oxford Dictionary of the Middle Ages Comitatus ספר הזוהר The Jewish Theosophist Moshe Idel Michael Zank Hartley Lachter Adam Afterman Raphael Patai Moshe Idel Daniel Abrams Daniel Chanan Matt Arthur Lillie Arthur Lillie Moshe Idel Thomas Spencer Baynes Arthur Lillie Robert E. Bjork Daniel Chanan Matt

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in this wide ranging discussion of kabbalah from the mystical trends of medieval judaism to modern hasidism one of the world s foremost scholars considers different visions of the nature of the sacred text and of the methods to interpret it moshe idel takes as a starting point the fact that the postbiblical jewish world lost its geographical center with the destruction of the temple and so was left with a textual center the holy book idel argues that a text oriented religion produced language centered forms of mysticism against this background the author demonstrates how various jewish mystics amplified the content of the scriptures so as to include everything the world or god for example thus the text becomes a major realm for contemplation and the interpretation of the text frequently becomes an encounter with the deepest realms of reality idel delineates the particular hermeneutics belonging to jewish mysticism investigates the progressive filling of the text with secrets and hidden levels of meaning and considers in detail the

various interpretive strategies needed to decodify the arcane dimensions of the text

in this tribute to steven t katz on the occasion of his seventieth birthday michael zank and ingrid anderson present sixteen original essays written by senior and junior scholars in comparative religion philosophy of religion modern judaism and theology after the holocaust fields of inquiry where steven katz made major contributions over the course of his distinguished scholarly career the authors of this volume specialists in jewish history especially the modern experience and jewish thought from the bible to buber offer theoretical and practical observations on the value of the particular contributions range from tim knepper s reevaluation of the ineffability discourse to the particulars of the settlement cookbook examined by nora rubel as an american classic

the set of jewish mystical teachings known as kabbalah are often imagined as timeless texts teachings that have been passed down through the millennia yet as this groundbreaking new study shows kabbalah flourished in a specific time and place emerging in response to the social prejudices that jews faced hartley lachter a scholar of religion studies transports us to medieval spain a place where anti semitic propaganda was on the rise and jewish political power was on the wane kabbalistic revolution proposes that given this context kabbalah must be understood as a radically empowering political discourse while the era s christian preachers claimed that jews were blind to the true meaning of scripture and had been abandoned by god the kabbalists countered with a doctrine that granted jews a uniquely privileged relationship with god lachter demonstrates how kabbalah envisioned this increasingly marginalized group at the center of the universe their mystical practices serving to maintain the harmony of the divine world for students of jewish mysticism kabbalistic revolution provides a new approach to the development of medieval kabbalah yet the book s central questions should appeal to anyone with an interest in the relationships between religious discourses political struggles and ethnic pride

in and they shall be one flesh on the language of mystical union in judaism adam afterman offers an extensive study of mystical union and embodiment in judaism afterman argues that philo was the first to articulate the notion of unio mystica in judaism and is the source of the henōsis mysticism in the later neoplatonic tradition the study provides a detailed analysis of the jewish medieval trends that developed different forms of mystical union and mystical embodiment through the divine name and spirit the book argues that the development of unitive mysticism in judaism is the fruit of the creative synthesis of rabbinic judaism and hellenistic and arab philosophy and a natural outcome of the theological articulation of the idea of monotheism itself

this multicultural reference work on jewish folklore legends customs and other elements of folklife is the first of its kind

in old worlds new mirrors moshe idel turns his gaze on figures as diverse as walter benjamin and jacques derrida franz kafka and franz rosenzweig arnaldo momigliano and paul celan abraham heschel and george steiner to reflect on their relationships to judaism in a cosmopolitan mostly european context

kabbalistic manuscripts and textual theory uncovers the unstated assumptions and expectations of scribes and scholars who fashioned editions from manuscripts of jewish mystical literature this study offers a theory of kabbalistic textuality in which the material book the printed page no less than handwritten manuscripts serves as the site for textual dialogue between jewish mystics of different periods and locations the refashioning of the text through the process of reading and commenting that takes place on the page in the margins and between the lines blurs the boundaries between the traditionally defined roles of author reader commentator and editor this study shows that kabbalists and academic editors reinvented the text in their own image as part of a fluid textual process that was nothing short of transformative this book is certainly monumental offering in its seven hundred pages a wealth of documentation and distilled argument that manages to be both comprehensive in its materials and transparent in its critical insights it is rare indeed that a work of such formidable scholarship can actually be a pleasure to read and convincing in its elucidation of what are often extremely complex documentary circumstances and editorial traditions from the foreword by david greetham

this is the first translation ever made from a critical aramaic text of the zohar which has been established by professor daniel matt based on a wide range of original manuscripts the work will eventually span twelve volumes the extensive commentary appearing at the bottom of each page clarifies the kabbalistic symbolism and terminology and cites sources and parallels from biblical rabbinic and kabbalistic texts publisher s description

ascensions on high took many forms in jewish mysticism and they permeated most of its history from its inception until hasidism the book surveys the various categories with an emphasis on the architectural images of the ascent like the resort to images of pillars lines and ladders after surveying the variety of scholarly approaches to religion the author also offers what he proposes as an eclectic approach and a perspectivist one the latter recommends to examine religious phenomena from a variety of perspectives the author investigates the specific issue of the pillar in jewish mysticism by comparing it to the archaic resort to pillars recurring in rural societies given the fact that the ascent of the soul and pillars constituted the concerns of two main romanian scholars of religion ioan p culianu and mircea eliade idel resorts to their views and in the concluding remarks analyzes the emergence of eliade s vision of judaism on the basis of neglected sources

the oxford dictionary of the middle ages is an outstanding resource for anyone studying or with an interest in all aspects of european history society religion and culture from 500 to 1500 its 5 000 plus entries written by over 800 international scholars provide uniquely broad balanced and authoritative coverage of the period

the zohar is a mystical commentary on the torah that is the basis for kabbalah this is a difficult book to translate matt who has taught jewish mysticism at stanford university and the hebrew university of jerusalem is working his way through the book giving a comprehensive annotation that offers background and explanations of the text both his

own and those of other scholars

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