

The Zohar The First Ev

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zohar is a hebrew word that means splendor in its simplest form the zohar is a commentary on the bible structured as conversations among a group of friends scholars and spiritual masters although the wisdom available in its pages is older than creation itself the text of the zohar was composed approximately 2000 years ago in the centuries that followed the zohar was often suppressed by religious and secular authorities who feared its power to transform the lives of those who gained access to the sacred writings the sages of kabbalah also realized that the zohar must

wait until humankind was ready to receive it michael berg was the first person ever to translate the entire 23 volume zohar from ancient aramaic into english a monumental task which he began at the age of 18 and finished ten years later through his translation we discover the zohar deals very directly with concepts of reincarnation visionary experiences and the presence of unseen influences in our midst today we are able to accept these ideas that were once perceived as inexplicable mysticism or dangerous sorcery we have the capacity to understand the zohar's true teachings

the first two volumes of the zohar pritzker edition translated with commentary by daniel c matt cover more than half of the zohar's commentary on the book of genesis through genesis 32:3 this is the first translation ever made from a critical aramaic text of the zohar which has been established by professor matt based on a wide range of original manuscripts 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 the translator's introduction is accompanied by a second introduction written by arthur green discussing the origin and significance of the zohar for ancillary materials including the aramaic text please visit sup.s-zohar.com for further information on the zohar *sefer ha-zohar* the book of radiance has amazed and overwhelmed readers ever since it emerged mysteriously in medieval spain toward the end of the thirteenth century written in a unique aramaic this masterpiece of kabbalah exceeds the dimensions of a normal book it is virtually a body of literature comprising over twenty discrete sections the bulk of the zohar consists of a running commentary on the torah from genesis through deuteronomy this translation begins and focuses here in what are projected to be ten volumes two subsequent volumes will cover other shorter sections the zohar's commentary is composed in the form of a mystical novel the hero is rabbi shim'on son of yohai a saintly disciple of rabbi akiva who lived in the second century in the land of israel in the zohar rabbi shim'on and his companions wander through the hills of galilee discovering and sharing secrets of torah on one level biblical figures such as abraham and sarah are the main characters and the mystical companions interpret their words actions and personalities on a deeper level the text of the bible is simply the starting point a springboard for the imagination for example when god commands abraham *lekh lekha* go forth to the land that i will show you genesis 12:1 rabbi el azar ignores idiomatic usage and insists on reading the words more literally than they were intended *hyperliterally* *lekh lekha* go to yourself search deep within to discover your true self at times the companions themselves become the main characters and we read about their dramatic mystical sessions with rabbi shim'on or their adventures on the road for example an encounter with a cantankerous old donkey driver who turns out to be a master of wisdom in disguise ultimately the plot of the zohar focuses on

the ten sefirot the various stages of god's inner life aspects of divine personality both feminine and masculine by penetrating the literal surface of the torah the mystical commentators transform the biblical narrative into a biography of god the entire torah is read as one continuous divine name expressing divine being even a seemingly insignificant verse can reveal the inner dynamics of the sefirot how god feels responds and acts how she and he the divine feminine and masculine relate intimately with each other and with the world

the author examines the varieties of religious and secular salvation that have recently appeared in israel as evidence for israelis willingness to embrace private salvation in the face of immense cultural upheavals drawing on interviews field observations clinical data and media reports collected over ten years he surveys four roads to private salvation the return to judaism new religions sects or cults psychotherapy movements such as est and occultism these dramatic forms of conversion are unique to israeli society within the last decade and beit hallahmi provides a social history and social psychology of this transformation

an introduction to jewish thinking anyone can read this unique volume mixes biography history and philosophy to present the lives and work of 16 seminal jewish thinkers including maimonides isaac luria the baal shem tov theodor herzl leo baeck abraham isaac kook abraham joshua heschel and mordecai kaplan a concluding chapter presents current trends in jewish thought with contributions from contemporary figures including eugene borowitz cynthia ozick rachel adler judith plaskow elie wiesel and many others

for many the middle ages in general evokes a sense of the sinister and brings to mind a world of fear superstition and religious fanaticism for jews it was a period marked by persecutions pogroms and expulsions yet at the same time the middle ages was also a time of lively cultural exchange and heightened creativity for jews in the jewish middle ages contributors explore the ways in which the stories of biblical women including eve sarah hagar rebekah zipporah ruth esther and judith make their way into the rich tapestry of medieval jewish literature mystical texts and art particularly in works emanating from ashkenazic circles contributors include carol bakhos judith r baskin elisheva baumgarten dagmar börner klein constanza cordoni rachel elior meret gutmann grün robert a harris yuval katz wilfing sheila tuller keiter katrin kogman appel gerhard langer aurora salvatierra ossorio and felicia waldman these essays give us a glimpse into the role women played and the authority they assumed in medieval jewish culture beyond the rabbinic centers of palestine and babylonia

this book examines the crossroads of quantum and critical approaches to

international relations and argues that these approaches share a common project of uncovering complexity and uncertainty the quantum turn in international relations theory has produced a number of interesting insights into the complex ways in which our assumptions about the physics of the world around us can limit our understanding of social life while critique is possible within a newtonian social science core assumptions of separability and determinism of classical physics impose limits on what is imaginable the author argues that by adopting a quantum imaginary social theory can move beyond its newtonian limits and explore two methods for quantizing conceptual models translation and application this book is the first introductory book to quantum social theory ideas specifically intended for an audience of critical international relations

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

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