On The Mystical Shape Of The Godhead Basic Concepts In The Kabbalah Mysticism And Kabbalah | ce88bf62f5b60640de0e3b7056efca4f

"And They Shall Be One Flesh": On The Language of Mystical Union in Judaism

Investigating how Jewish thinkers from the biblical to the postmodern era have approached questions about God and highlighting interplays between texts over time, Rabbi Kari H. Taling elucidates many compelling—and contrasting—ways to think about God in Jewish tradition.

The Origins of Jewish Mysticism

In the study of Judaism, the Zohar has captivated the minds of interpreters for over seven centuries, and continues to enthrall readers in contemporary times. Yet despite those centuries of study, very little attention has been devoted to the literary dimensions of the text, or to formal appreciation of its status as one of the great works of religious literature. The Art of Mystical Narrative offers a critical approach to the zoharic story, seeking to explore the interplay between fictional discourse and mystical congress. Elhan Feilshtein argues that the narrative must be understood first and foremost as a work of the fictional imagination, a representation of a world and reality invented by the thirteenth-century authors of the text. He claims that the text functions as a kind of dramatic literature, one in which the power of revealing mystical secrets is demonstrated and performed for the reading audience. The Art of Mystical Narrative offers a fresh, interdisciplinary perspective on the Zohar and on the intersections of literary and religious studies.

Kabbalah

This book deals with the nature and development of Jewish mysticism from the Talmudic period through to Kabbalah in Hasidism. It describes the changes in the mystic’s various stages and the external influences on it. The author shows that mysticism is in the essence of the Jewish religion and that, rather than being created out of external influences, Kabbalah is one of its manifestations. The book also deals with the related subject of Hasidism, and delves into the spiritual experiences of some of the most influential figures in Jewish history to show how mysticism was incarnate in them.

The Greatest Mirror

In "And They Shall Be One Flesh": On the Language of Mystical Union in Judaism Adam Alterman offers an extensive study of mystical union and mystical embodiment through the divine name and spirit in Judaism.

Transformations and Transfer of Tantra in Asia and Beyond

Giovanni Bruno (1548–1600), a defrocked Dominican monk, was convicted of heresy by the Roman Catholic Inquisition and burned at the stake in Rome. He had spent fifteen years wandering throughout Europe on the run from Counter-Reformation intelligence and eight years in prison under interrogation. The author of more than sixty works on mathematics, science, ethics, philosophy, metaphysics, the art of memory and esoteric mysticism, Bruno had a profound impact on Western thought. Until now his involvement with Jewish mysticism has never been fully explored. Karen Silvia de Lelio-Jones presents an engaging and illuminating discussion of his mystical understanding and use of Jewish and Christian Kabbalah, theology, and philosophy, including the famous Hexagram, and especially his exploration and use of magic to reveal the mysteries of the universe and the divine.

Studies in Jewish Myth and Messianism

By shifting attention from the image of Jews as a cultural community to the ways Jews understand and manage their bodies — for example, to their reproduction and sexuality, menstruation and childbirth — this volume contributes to a rethinking of what Jewish and Judaism are and have been. The project of re-membering the Jewish body has both historical and constructive motivations. As a constructive project, this book describes, explores, and participates in the complex and ongoing modern discussions about the nature of Jewish bodies and the place of bodies in Judaism.

The Shape of the Soul

Combining philosophy, psychology, religion, and even a bit of physics, Marshall establishes an expanded consciousness that proves the existence of a deeper being common to all. Addressing the origins of the universe, evolution, reincarnation, suffering, and the nature of God, Marshall delivers what will prove an instant intellectual classic.

Reading the Zohar

Mysticism, which transcends the boundaries of time and space and refers to a reality not grasped by means of ordinary human cognition, is one of the central sources of inspiration of religious thought. It is an attempt to recast the mystery of divine existence by penetrating to the depths of consciousness through language, memory, myth, and symbolism. Delving deep into the psyche, mystics strive to redeem the past reality from its immediate meaning. Mystical texts constitute a history of this religious creativity, of man's attempt to reveal the divine structure underlying the chaos of reality and thereby ordain life with hope and purpose. By offering an alternative perspective on the world that gives expression to yearnings for freedom and change, mysticism endows new modes of authority and leadership: as such it plays a decisive role in molding religious and social history. For all these reasons, the mystical corpus deserves study and discussion in the framework of cultural criticism and research. This study, a lyrical exposition of the Jewish mystical phenomenon, is based on a close reading of the hundreds of volumes written by Jewish mystics and incorporates mystical testimonies drawn from the different countries and cultural environments in which Jews have lived. Rachel Elie?'s purpose is to present, as accurately as possible, the meanings of the mystical works as they were perceived by their creators and readers. At the same time, she contextualizes them within the boundaries of the religious, cultural, language, and social-historical circumstances in which the destiny of the Jewish people has evolved. The author succeeds in opening the reader into a mystical world. With great intimacy, she conveys the richness of the mystical experience; in discovering the infinity of meaning embedded in the sacred text, teasing out the recurring themes, she explicates the multidimensional symbols. Using copies extracted from Jewish mystical sources, she illustrates the variety of the mystical experience from antiquity to the twentieth century. She succeeds in eloquently conveying how mystics try to decipher reality by penetrating beyond its apparent boundaries: how they experience spiritual powers symbolically, imaginatively, or visually. How hidden truths are revealed in visions or dreams, in an epiphany or as a setting how they are ‘impressed’ in the mind or illuminated in the soul. Most of the texts she draws on are written in very obscure language, but the skilled translations communicate the mystical experiences vividly and make it easy for the reader to understand how Elie?'s uses them to explain the relationship between the revealed world and the hidden world and between the mystical world and the traditional religious world, with all the social and religious tensions this has caused.

The Messianic Idea in Judaism

Over 150 miles from the Talmud, the Zohar, Jewish folklore, and Hasidic lore.

The Encho-Metatron Tradition

"Scholm's treatment is complex and stylistically brilliant as he systematically analyzes the history and intellectual background of these critical ideas. Highly recommended".—Library Journal.

Jewish Mysticism and Kabbalah

Mystical Bodies, Mystical Meals is the first book-length study of mystical eating practices and experiences in the kabbalah. Focusing on the Jewish mystical literature of late-thirteenth-century Spain, author Joel Hacker analyzes the ways in which the Zohar and other contemporaneous literature represent mystical attainment in their homilies about eating. What emerges is not only consideration of eating practices but, more broadly, the effects such practices and experiences have on the bodies of its practitioners.

The Return to the Mystical

This book examines the way Bernard of Clairvaux, in his writings, shapes the monastic existence as a subtle blend of biblical and liturgical texts and scenes on the one hand and uncontrolable events and emotions on the other.

The Art of Mystical Narrative

June O. Leavitt offers a fascinating examination of the mystical in Franz Kafka's life and writings, showing that Kafka's understanding of the occult was not only a product of his own clairvoyant experiences but of the age in which he lived.
Mystical Resistance

Countering over 2,000 years of scholarly writing, the compilation of texts known as the Zohar represents the collective wisdom of various strains of Jewish mysticism, or Kabbalah, up to the thirteenth century. This massive work continues to provide the foundation of much Jewish mystical thought and practice to the present day. This book brings together in the study as a systematic theology, reveals a lively developed tradition that was probably known to the author or editor of the Zohar itself.

People of the Body

In its historical development from late antiquity to the present, Western esotericism has repeatedly been the locus of poltical discourse. This volume engages the poltical structures that endure onostric identities and the controversy about onostic currents in European history.

Poetical Encounters

Rearranging, in an original and provocative study, the mystical contents of the works of famous figures such as Virgina Woolf and Iris Murdock, Donna Lewensohn shows how these thinkers refused to construct worldviews on available reductive models brought them to offer radically alternative pictures of life which maintain its mysteriousness, and promote a mystical way of knowing. A Mystical Philosophy contributes to the contemporary emergence of interest in Spirituality, but from an entirely new direction. This book provides a turning against reductive scientific and philosophical models that impoverish our understanding of ourselves and the world, and a powerful endorsement of ways of knowing that give art, and a restored concept of contemplation, their consummate place.

On the Mystical Shape of the Godhead

In Western religious traditions, God is conventionally conceived as a humanlike creator, longsore, and loving, a being both accessible and actively present in history. Yet there is a concurrent and strong tradition of a God who is actively hidden. The two traditions have led to a tension between a God who is simultaneously accessible to humanity and yet inaccessible, a God who is both immanent and transcendent, present and absent. Western Gnostic, esoteric, and mystical thinking capitalizes on the hidden and hiding God. He becomes the hallmark of the mystics, Gnostics, sages, and artists who attempt to make accessible to humans the God who is secreted away. "Histories of the Hidden God" explores this tradition from antiquity to today. The essays focus on three essential themes: the concealment of the hidden God; the human quest for the hidden God, and revelations of the hidden God.

Thinking about God

An accessible introduction to the concepts of Jewish mysticism and how they relate to our lives. Allows us to experience mysticism's incomparable relevance before the mystery of creation and celebrate the quest to transform ordinary reality into holiness.

Like Joseph in Beauty

"Scholar's treatment is complex and stylistically brilliant as he systematically analyses the history and intellectual background of these critical ideas. Highly recommended." --Library Journal.

Jewish Mystical Autobiographies

A collection of lectures on the features of the movement of mystics that began in antiquity and continues in Hasidism today.

Voices of the Mystics

The Origins of Jewish Mysticism offers the first in-depth look at the history of Jewish mysticism from the book of Ezekiel to the Merkabah mysticism of late antiquity. The Merkabah movement is widely recognized as the first full-blown expression of Jewish mysticism, one that had important ramifications for classical rabbinic Judaism and the emergence of the Kabbalah in eleventh-century Europe. Yet until now, the origins and development of still earlier forms of Jewish mysticism have been largely overlooked. In this book, Peter Schürer sheds new light on Ezekiel's imaginative vision, the apocalyptic literature of Haggai, the Dead Sea Scrolls, the writings of the Hellenistic Jewish philosopher Philo, the biblical writings of the Talmudic period, and the ascensions of the Merkabah mystics. Schürer questions whether we can accurately speak of Jewish mysticism as a unified, coherent phenomenon with origins in Judaism's mystical past. Rather than imposing preconceived notions about "mysticism" on a great variety of writings that arose from different cultural, religious, and historical settings, he reveals what these writings seek to tell us about the age-old human desire to get close to and communicate with God.

All Religion Is Inter-Religion

Here are first-time English translations of the autobiographical works of two important and influential Jewish mystics. In The Book Of Vision: Rabbi Hayyim Vital (1542-1622), foremost disciple of R. Isaac Luria, describes his mystical experiences in great detail. In The Book Of Secrets, Rabbi Yisrael Isaac abbaFina of Komarno (1609-1674) recounts incidents in his life and visionary experiences.

On the Mystical Shape of the Godhead

Comprehensive overview of Hegel's thought on history.

The Shape of Spiritual Direction in the Mystical Theology of Jan Van Ruusbroec

All Religion Is Inter-Religion analyzes the ways in which religious traditions have contributed both historically and philosophically to the construction of the category of "religion" as a distinct subject of study. Regarded as contemporary classics, Steven M. Wasserstrom's Religion after Religion (1999) and Between Muslim and Jew (1995) provided a theoretical reorientation for the study of religion away from hierarchies and ultimacy, and toward lived history and deep pluralism. This book distills and systematizes this reorientation into nine themes on the study of religion. Drawing on these themes-and Wasserstrom's opus more generally--a distinguished group of his colleagues and former students demonstrate that religions can, and must, be understood through encounters in real time and space, through the complex relations they create and maintain between people, and between people and their gods. This book also features an afterword by Wasserstrom himself, which poses nine dilemmas to students of religion based on his personal experiences working on religion at the turn of the twenty-first century.

Coherent Judaism

With origins extending back in time beyond the Dead Sea Scrolls, the body of writings and beliefs known as the Kabbalah has come to be increasingly recognized not only as one of the most intriguing aspects of Judaism but also as an important part of a broader mystical tradition. Now the world’s leading authority on the Kabbalah has written one of the most enlightening studies ever to plumb its complex depths and range over its rich history.

Mystical Bodies, Mystical Meals

This book traces the evolution of an Arabic poetic form called “Humayni poetry." The book addresses the connections between the Humayni poetry of Yemen and the sacred poetry of Jews from Yemen, a hitherto-neglected chapter in the history of Arab and Jewish literatures.