

Beholders Of Divine Secrets Mysticism And Myth In The Hekhalot And Merkavah Literature

Hekhalot Literature in Translation Apocalyptic and Merkavah
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the hekhalot literature is a motley collection of textually fluid and often textually corrupt documents in hebrew and aramaic which deal with mystical themes pertaining especially to god's throne chariot the merkavah they were composed between late antiquity and the early middle ages with roots in earlier traditions and a long and complex subsequent history of transmission this volume presents english translations of eclectic critical texts with a full apparatus of variants of most of the major hekhalot documents hekhalot rabbati sar torah hekhalot zutarti ma aseh merkavah merkavah rabba briefer macroforms the chapter of r nehuniah ben haqanah the great seal fearsome crown sar panim the ascent of elijah ben avuyah and the youth and the hekhalot fragments from the cairo geniza

preliminary material ithamar gruenwald two essential qualities of jewish apocalyptic ithamar gruenwald the mystical elements in apocalyptic ithamar gruenwald the attitude towards the merkavah speculations in the literature of the tannaim and amoraim ithamar gruenwald the hekhalot literature ithamar gruenwald introduction ithamar gruenwald re'uyot ye'ezkel ithamar gruenwald hekhalot zutreti ithamar gruenwald hekhalot rabbati ithamar gruenwald merkavah rabbah ithamar gruenwald ma'a seh merkavah ithamar gruenwald hekhalot fragments ithamar gruenwald seper hekhalot 3 enoch ithamar gruenwald masekhet hekhalot ithamar gruenwald shi'ur qomah ithamar

gruenwald physiognomy chiromancy and metoposcopy ithamar gruenwald seper ha razim ithamar gruenwald appendices saul lieberman indices ithamar gruenwald

beholders of divine secrets provides a fascinating exploration of the enigmatic hekhalot and merkavah literature the jewish mystical writings of late antiquity vita daphna arbel delves into the unique nature of the mystical teachings experiences revelations and spiritual exegesis presented in this literature while previous scholarship has demonstrated the connection between hekhalot and merkavah mysticism and parallel traditions in rabbinical writings the dead sea scrolls apocalyptic early christian and gnostic sources this work points out additional mythological traditions that resonate in this literature arbel suggests that mythological patterns of expression as well as themes and models rooted in near eastern mythological traditions are employed in a spiritualized fashion to communicate mystical content the possible cultural and social context of the hekhalot and merkavah mysticism and its composers is discussed

this book represents the first wide scale presentation and interpretation of pre kabbalistic jewish mysticism this is the hekhalot or merkavah mysticism the emphasis is on the conceptions of god the angels and man that the texts provide and that are the framework of the judaic world view in late antiquity and the early middle ages this interpretation is based on the major works of this early jewish mysticism hekhalot rabbati the greater palaces hekhalot zutarti the lesser palaces ma aseh merkavah the working of the chariot merkavah rabbah the great chariot and the third hebrew book of enoch many quotations from this largely unknown body of esoteric literature are included the experience of the mystical heroes of this literature moves between the two poles of the heavenly journey between the ascent of the mystic through the seven palaces to the throne of glory and the adjuration the attempt to invoke god and his angels in order to force them to fulfill man s will both are permeated by magic and the world view of this first stage of jewish mysticism is thus deeply magical the circles which formed it were concerned with nothing less than a radical transformation of the world of normative judaism that for centuries was determined by the rabbis

this book describes the history of jewish mysticism introducing the wide ranging and varied mystic writings known collectively as the heikhalot and the merkavah literature with its description of mystic spiritual elevations and meetings between the mystics and superior beings and even with god explains jewish mysticism s relationships to parallel streams of thought both within and outside judaism

a comprehensive treatment of visionary experience in some of the main texts of jewish mysticism this book reveals the overwhelmingly visual nature of religious experience in jewish spirituality from antiquity through the late middle ages using phenomenological and critical historical tools wolfson examines jewish mystical texts from late antiquity pre kabbalistic sources from the tenth to the twelfth centuries and twelfth and thirteenth century kabbalistic literature his work demonstrates that the sense of sight assumes an epistemic priority in these writings reflecting and building upon those scriptural passages that affirm the visual nature of revelatory experience moreover the author reveals an androcentric eroticism in the scopic mentality of jewish mystics which placed the externalized and representable form the phallus at the center of the visual encounter in the visionary experience as wolfson describes it imagination serves a primary function transmuting sensory data and rational concepts into symbols of those things beyond sense and reason in this view the experience of a vision is inseparable from the process of interpretation fundamentally challenging the conventional distinction between experience and exegesis revelation and interpretation wolfson argues that for the mystics themselves the study of texts

occasioned a visual experience of the divine located in the imagination of the mystical interpreter thus he shows how jewish mystics preserved the invisible transcendence of god without doing away with the visual dimension of belief

a practical guide to the famed medieval book of pre kabbalistic jewish magic freshly interpreted and revealed for the first time with instructions on how to use the spells the sword of moses is one of the earliest jewish magic books which describes a rite for adjuring angels to assist in controlling and wielding the sword of moses for magical purposes the rite involves a short period of purification and then the adjuring of four sets of angels each higher than the last these angels in turn give the magician the power to control the sword through a series of divine names that work as magical spells the spells 137 in all have a wide variety of uses including healing harm love sex exorcising demons divination and more this work was first translated by moses gaster in 1896 but he removed many of the spells making the text unusable for magic the magic of the sword of moses is the first book to show in detail exactly how a magician can use the sword how to do the purification ritual adjure the angels and pronounce and use the divine names for each spell

an excellent body of practice for those wishing to explore the vast depths of the magic of the solomonic pentacles david rankine author of the grimoire encyclopaedia the key of solomon is a family of closely related historic grimoires legendarily attributed to solomon the biblical magician king most famously samuel liddell macgregor matthers s 1889 english edition presented forty four hebrew seals commonly called the planetary pentacles however it offered very little guidance for how to work with them sara l mastros a leading teacher and practitioner of magic translates and interprets each of these pentacles and presents practical methods for working with their magical powers creating a clear accessible user s guide sara mastros has provided a deep dive into the forty four pentacles as codified by matthers drawing on a wide variety of sources and her own experiences she includes many easy to follow exercises for exploring them joseph peterson author of the secrets of solomon in the sorcery of solomon mastros places the key of solomon in a historical and folkloric context presenting a complete fresh translation of the forty four pentacles all of which have been newly illustrated she guides the reader through the process of working with solomonic pentacles and more primarily intended for intermediate level magicians who already have a basic knowledge of spellcraft the sorcery of solomon is also appropriate for beginners who are willing to do a bit of extra homework sara mastros manages to illuminate the past history of the pentacles while shining a light forward into the future with clear and thoughtful instruction not only does she fully explain the design of each pentacle correcting many errors along the way but she shares advice and insight gained from her own work the sorcery of solomon delivers what it promises a fully workable system of magic jason miller author of protection and reversal magic

based on stracks classic introduction this is a comprehensive fully revised and up to date reference to rabbinic literature

born in 1916 in la jolla california gregory peck took up acting in college on a lark that would lead to a career in his early years he appeared in a series of summer stock engagements and broadway shows he became a star within a year after arriving in hollywood during world war ii and he won an academy award nomination for his second film from the 1940s to the present he has played some of film apos s most memorable and admired characters this volume provides complete information about gregory peck s work in film television radio and the stage entries are included for all of his performances with each entry providing cast and credit information a plot summary excerpts from reviews and critical commentary a biography and chronology highlight significant events in his life

while a listing of his honors and awards summarizes the recognition he has received over the years for researchers seeking additional information the book includes descriptions of special collections holding material related to peck s work along with an extensive bibliography of books and articles

a substantial introduction to the study of early jewish and christian mysticism this volume examines major aspects of the mystical tradition within early judaism and christianity this tradition was centered on the belief that a person directly immediately and before death can experience the divine either as a rapture experience or one solicited by a particular praxis the essays define and analyze the nature and practices of mysticism as it emerges within early judaism and christianity recognizing this emergence within a variety of communal environments larger questions about the relationship between hermeneutics and experience as well as the relationship between mysticism and apocalypticism are also discussed and a substantial bibliography of the field is provided the book is the result of ten years of work of the early jewish and christian mysticism unit of the society of biblical literature the contributors are cameron c afzal daphna arbel kelley coblenz bautch ra anan s boustan james r davila april d deconick celia deutsch rachel elior frances flannery dailey charles a gieschen rebecca lesses andrea lieber christopher r a morray jones andrei a orlov christopher rowland seth l sanders alan f segal and kevin sullivan paperback edition is available from the society of biblical literature sbl site org

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