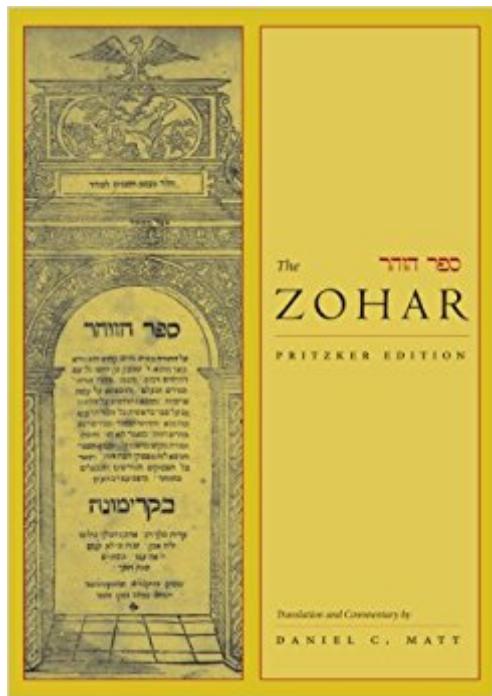


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The Zohar: Pritzker Edition, Volume Seven



Synopsis

Sefer ha-Zohar (The Book of Radiance) has amazed readers ever since it emerged in medieval Spain over seven hundred years ago. Written in lyrical Aramaic, this masterpiece of Kabbalah exceeds the dimensions of a normal book; it is virtually a body of mystical literature, comprising over twenty discrete sections. The bulk of the Zohar consists of a mystical interpretation of the Torah, from Genesis through Deuteronomy. This seventh volume of The Zohar: Pritzker Edition consists of commentary on more than half the book of Leviticus. How does the Zohar deal with a biblical text devoted largely to animal sacrifices, cereal offerings, and priestly ritual? Here these ancient laws and procedures are spiritualized, transformed into symbols of God's inner life, now that both the Desert Tabernacle and the Temple in Jerusalem no longer exist. For example, the ascent offering, which was totally consumed on the altar, is known in Hebrew as olah (literally, "that which ascends"). In the Zohar, this symbolizes Shekhinah, last of the ten sefirot (divine potencies), who ascends to unite with Her beloved, the blessed Holy One. The biblical narrative describes how two of Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu, offered alien fire before YHVH and were immediately consumed in a divine blaze. Rabbinic tradition suggested various reasons why they were killed: they lacked the proper priestly garments, or had not washed their hands and feet, or were drunk, or were not married. For the Zohar, marriage enables one to imitate the divine union of male and female energies, and to stimulate that union above. By not marrying, Nadab and Abihu remained incomplete and unfulfilled. According to a related Zoharic passage, their ritual act failed because in their contemplation of the divine qualities they did not include Shekhinah. Without Her, God is incomplete.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A superbly fashioned translation and commentary that opens up the Zohar to the English-speaking world. The lucidity and overwhelming relevance of Matt's Zohar will provide both common and uncommon readers with access to a work capable of changing the consciousness of those who enter it." (Harold Bloom, Max Sterling Professor of Humanities Yale University)"Daniel Matt's work is superior to any other available translation of the Zohar because of its superb poetic language, the exegetical contribution of its copious notes, and its superior underlying Aramaic text, which was specially prepared by Dr. Matt from numerous original Zohar manuscripts." (Moshe Idel, Max Cooper Professor of Jewish Thought Hebrew University of Jerusalem)"A monumental contribution to the history of Jewish thought." Koret Jewish Book Award, The Zohar: Pritzker Edition, Volumes I and II"Daniel Matt's new translation of the Zohar . . . will quickly become the definitive and unrivaled English edition of one of the pre-eminent classics of world mystical literature." (The Jerusalem Report)"A powerfully poetic rendition of this spiritual masterpiece . . . Matt's new Zohar is a classic already in its first two volumes. The edition alone, or the translation alone, or the commentary alone would be a major contribution. The whole is a work of art." (Journal of the American Academy of Religion)

Daniel C. Matt is a leading authority on Jewish mysticism. For twenty years, he served as Professor at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. He has also taught at Stanford University and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Matt is the author of The Essential Kabbalah (1995); God and the Big Bang (1996); and Zohar: Annotated and Explained (2002). He is also the translator of the first six volumes of The Zohar: Pritzker Edition.

I will always rate Daniel Matt's work with 5 Stars! Right now I am almost through reading Parashat Tazri'a - "She Yields Seed" (Leviticus 12:1 - 13:59). There is so much here to try and digest. Many times, I am in awe in what I have read! So, I have had to put the book down and go back to it again later. It is good reading in my leisure time over the Sabbath. I read at my own pace. This Volume will keep me busy for the entire year. Sometimes I wish I was in a group studying the same works, but since that is not happening, I am very happy to rely on the Ruach HaKodesh to enlighten me and

then meditate on what I have read. I want to nourish my soul and my mind as much as possible. The Zohar offers hope for the future and I am so glad that Daniel Matt and his many Helpers are bringing out the very best in what the Zohar has to offer.

The word 'Zohar' and 'Kabbalah' and being broadcast far & near even from Hollywood. Tie a red wool string to your wrist and become empowered with supreme spiritual energy! Right...As an adherent to the 'Sod' level of the study of the Divine Torah, which is a search for the deepest meaning & understanding of the 'mysticism' of the Torah (The Divine Teachings of Ohr EinSof....(The Infinite Light)) I can assure that this production of the translation (which actually is an impossibility) of the Holy Zohar is Far & Away the very best in several respects than any attempt to produce it in any language other than the original Aramaic known to man to this day. Aramaic is the language that the original was written in and to translate a Semitic language into any other language is doing it a huge injustice. Semitic languages ie; Hebrew, Arabic, and Aramaic (which was formulated during the Hebrew captivity in Babylon in approx 300BC) is a syntheses of Hebrew/Arabic. Semitic languages are meant to convey 'pictures' or 'movies' unlike English, French, German, etc that for the most part are meant to convey clear cut hard and fast 'meanings'. Semitic languages 'speak' on several levels of understanding (Binah) simultaneously so that interpretation is much deeper and broader than any other language. Additionally, Hebrew is the only language known to man that provides a 'numerical value' to each consonant and therefore each word has a numerical 'significance' ...additionally, words/sentences develop as it were numerical significance that can be recognized systematically throughout 'scripture'. This is known in the Hebrew as 'Gamatria'. Science utilizes mathematics in order to 'prove' hypotheses thereby rendering the 'provable/real. Hebrew/Aramaic through association yields this similar opportunity for removing the obscurity of the influence on semantics to reveal 'hidden' layers of meaning at various 'depths'. This is the realm of the teaching of the Zohar and is not very well known to 'modern man' simply because it shows 'movies' on a adapt persons 'heart' and is ALWAYS speaking allegorically & anthropromorphically. Asking the wayfarer....what does this mean to you?! And since 'words fall on deaf ears' the heart of the man must be attuned to the sound of the guiding Light/Truth ...so few men/women these days care about much more than their income, new car, new house or anything else in the created 'world' that even considering there are 'other realms/worlds parallel to this one that are every bit as real as that which their eyes behold. But consider this.....if a person, G-D forbid, was alive but devoid of their 5 senseswould this 'world' exist for them? The answer is of course....no. Because without the use of the 5 sense none of 'this' does exist!. It only exists

because our 'created senses' tell or inform us that what we see, smell, feel, hear, taste is 'real' when those sensory preceptors are no more ...and the 'spirit' that invigorates our bodies is all that is left...then the 'True Existence' becomes manifest as it were. One of the many features of the study/implementation of Zohar is that it affords the human the opportunity to witness or begin to see the 'hidden' realms of 'reality' even while he/she is still in the realm of 'Malchut' Hebrew for Kingdom. So back to this rendering of the magnificent Zohar and an exegetical teaching of the Divine Eternal teaching of the Torah... for that is the format of the teaching of the 'original' Zohar having absolutely nothing to do with the Hollywood version. It is this ancient teaching of the Zohar....the hidden levels of the Torah given to man by the Supreme One of all that is known by the sensory perceptions of man....that R' Matt has spent many years of his life rendering in a language completely ill suited for the teaching the original Aramaic attempts to convey and if anyone would entice you to receive 'Zohar' teaching from them without pointing out that the Zohar is teaching the deeper levels of the Torah then rest assured that they DO NOT know the meaning of man's existence here on earth, it's purpose or it's result and what they would teach you is bogus. R'Matt has to this date produced seven volumes in English replete with voluminous footnotes and reference to other works validating his interpretations and is a truly scholarly work worthy of the name of the workZohar....Resplendent Light! Buy it, study it, try to fashion your thoughts, speech & actions in accordance with it's teachings and witness for yourself whether or not it is a much higher manner of existence leading one to a much higher more significant reason for man's development in & of the Kingdom.

The scholarship and dedication to the project Daniel Matt has put into this translation, is worth collecting of the series alone. Coupled with the rebuilt Aramaic text available online for the volumes (Seven last I looked is not out yet) makes this a very desirable set to have for those involved in Hebrew textual studies. I continue to marvel at the wonders I continue to find with this translation. And the copious notes are amazing. If you haven't yet begun to use this set of texts you may want to get to gathering volume one is fading fast... Buy this entire set! You will not be sorry.

I have written a bit previously on the earlier volumes of this series. I enjoy these books because they are a serious effort to produce an accessible edition of these works in English. This is not more New Age dribble by those spreading nonsense and pop psychology cloaked in the Kabbalah. This is intelligent work by real scholars.

All volumes are excellent and really insightful. Translation is great

A very useful reference on the Zohar.

this series, I have read 1 - 4 so far, has been incredible.the wisdom hidden between the lines (which is really only viewable in Hebrew) has been tremendously insightful, the nuances of the words is so so deep, more than most can imagine.it's really easy to see why at one time the catholic church wanted to ban the bible and quran and institute this, though I am glad they didn't. The reason I say that is because true understanding will never come in only one language and in one series of books, but rather a conglomeration of all, but this series is probably the MOST enlightening of all of them.I would recommend this series to anyone interested in the faith.the only complaint I have about the series is that as a homeless and disabled man myself it hurts me to carry one of these on my back, and god knows I couldn't carry 2 or 3 as genesis and exodus are both 3 volumes each.this REALLY needs put on the kindle, I can't keep buying the hardbacks, my back is growing soft from them, I am physically in pain from it, I wish Daniel C. Matt and Stanford press would show some compassion and put it on the kindle, but I guess they are worried about their "profits" and not their prophets.

great book

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