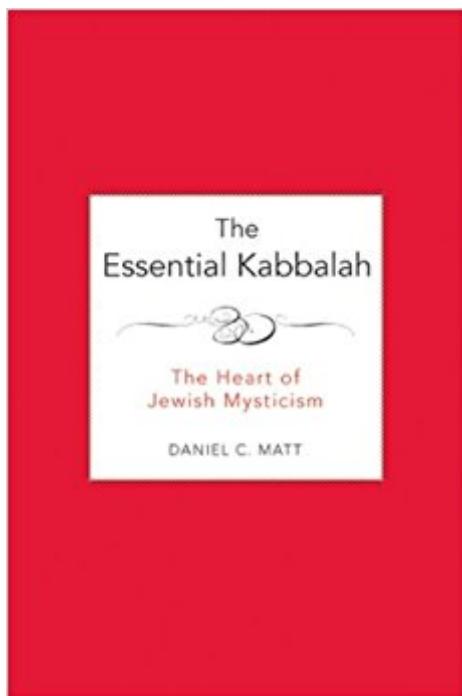


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The Essential Kabbalah: The Heart Of Jewish Mysticism



Synopsis

A translation of the Kabbalah for the layperson includes a compact presentation of each primary text and features a practical analysis and vital historical information that offer insight into the various aspects of Jewish mysticism.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Daniel Matt's continued wonder at the confounding brilliance of kabbalistic writings is evident in this loving presentation of the key texts from the Jewish mystical tradition. This fine sampling of works from the earliest medieval European texts to 20th-century interpretations includes poems, symbolic stories, meditations, and ruminations by such important figures as Moses de Leon, Moses Cordovero, Isaac Luria, and Abraham Isaac Kook. Matt's translations have both a sparseness and a poetic flair that makes reading these highly esoteric selections a richly moving experience. The words of 14th-century mystic Shem Tov ibn Shem Tov, for example, are rendered with a startling immediacy: "How did God create the world? Like a person taking a deep breath and holding it, so that the small contains the large. Similarly God contracted his light to a divine handbreadth, and the world was left in darkness. In the darkness God carved cliffs and hewed rocks to clear the wondrous paths of wisdom." A short introduction traces the history of Kabbalah, explaining its salient concepts and symbols, and extensive notes provide background on the featured texts and writers. A brief bibliography is provided for those who will want to savor more of these extraordinary texts after tasting their richness in this collection. --Uma Kukathas --This text refers to an out of print or

unavailable edition of this title.

Text: English (translation) Original Language: Hebrew --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Found it a bit of a hard read...meaning a bit "heady" (somewhat dry) in its style. I also think one needs a bit of Kabbalah 101 (which I do) before picking this book up. Put it down at one point and can't find it, but not rushing to look for it...

The Kabbalah is a very interesting work. It has been something that I have read bits and pieces of. But as I read in my 70's I really like it. It gives us a different way to think about God. The Christian faith talks about three persons of a trinity. But the Kabbalah has many faces or qualities of God. God is One in the Jewish faith, the Christian faith and the faith of Islam. And in the Bible and Tanek, we are created in God's image, Male & Female, God made us. In the Kabbalah The Creator has a partner the Shekhinah or feminine half of God. "The union of Shekhinah and the Tif'eret constitutes the focus of religious life." In the wisdom literature of the Bible, we see the feminine side of God in the Spirit. I think that anyone truly interested in the sacred Being. Will find a wealth of thought provoking material.

gift for my son

Well done.

A very intriguing read that will expand you way of thinking in religion

This jewish Kabbalah extract is powerful in it's imagery, requiring repeated studies for the novice. A practical means to use the information related in this book is likely a matter for personal spiritual discernment. I purchased this book as the first of many to be read concerning the cross-cultural significance and application of all books entitled "Kabbalah". Seeking some answers and a more complete understanding of the history of spiritual man, the steward of man and the creator of man, this book was a good first choice, but it's so concise, I feel that meditation is the only way to fully appreciate what this book may offer the reader. It may be that implementing a plan of meditation upon the contents of this book will open up what has been called the akoshic records (the entirety of

knowledge) to the adept.

Poorly written. Waste of money

Exactly what I wanted. I'm extremely happy with this purchase and the prompt, professional service I received from the Archeologists Closet

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