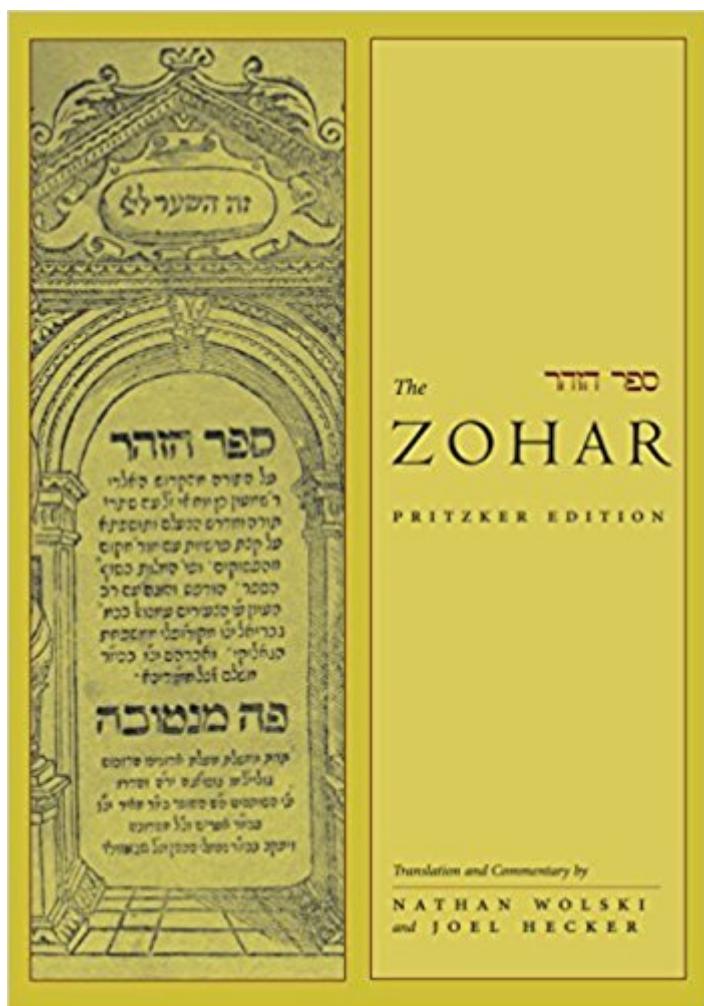


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The Zohar: Pritzker Edition, Volume Twelve (Zohar: The Pritzker Editions)



Synopsis

Sefer ha-Zohar (The Book of Radiance) has amazed readers ever since it emerged in Spain over seven hundred years ago. Written in a lyrical Aramaic, the Zohar, the masterpiece of Kabbalah, features mystical interpretation of the Torah, from Genesis to Deuteronomy. The twelfth volume of The Zohar: Pritzker Edition presents an assortment of discrete Zoharic compositions. The first two chapters contain different versions of the Zoharic Heikhalot, descriptions of the heavenly halls or palaces that the soul of the kabbalist traverses during prayer. Piqqudin, or Commandments, is a kabbalistic treatment of the mystical reasons for the commandments. Raza de-Razin (Mystery of Mysteries) is a diagnostic manual for the ancient and medieval science of physiognomy, determining people's character based on physical appearance. Sitrei Otiyyot (Secrets of the Letters) is a mystical essay that maps out the emergence of divine and mundane reality from the tetragrammaton, YHVH. Qav ha-Middah (Line of Measure) is another mystical essay that describes the divine instrument used by God to gauge the mystical overflow to the ten sefirot. The commentary on Merkevet Yehezqel (Ezekiel's Chariot) interprets the details of the prophet Ezekiel's chariot-vision. Beginning with the description of the four creatures, the Zohar demonstrates how Divinity and the cosmos comprise a series of quaternities that pervade all Being. The last main chapter includes Zoharic commentary to various portions of the Torah. The volume closes with a short appendix of passages that printers have labeled Tosefta despite their not fitting into that genre— a suitable end to the Zohar whose parameters and composition will remain ever mysterious.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Nathan Wolski is the Liberman Family Lecturer in Jewish Studies with the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation, Monash University, Australia. He is the author of *A Journey into the Zohar: An Introduction to the Book of Radiance* (2010), and translator of Melila Hellner-Eshed's seminal work, *A River Flows From Eden: The Language of Mystical Experience in the Zohar* (Stanford, 2009). Joel Hecker serves as Professor of Jewish Mysticism at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. He has also taught at the University of Pennsylvania, Jewish Theological Seminary, and Yeshiva University. Hecker is the author of *Mystical Bodies, Mystical Meals: Eating and Embodiment in Medieval Kabbalah* (2005) and the translator of Volume Eleven of *The Zohar: Pritzker Edition*.

Having now completed the collection - over the past 13 years these books have never ceased to enlighten me to ideas and clues to things deeper in the Torah. Threads of a history long lost, found woven where those that would seek to mislead could not touch! Found in the memories of people and places described in a wonderful tapestry of teachings. The completion of the last three volumes is something totally amazing. When one looks through the last three volumes you cannot help but realize the thinking present in the days of these Rabbis... the exercises in memory and recalling of teachings from master to master to master ... And the words... are in translation! But what a translation! Dr's Matt, Hecker and Wolski, have birthed a marvelous translation and collection. The Notes alone!!! If you have not bothered to collect this set and you fancy yourself a student of Biblical or Hebrew Literature - then bother NOW. I have never once been disappointed in any way, by opening to a dialogue and diving in head first and always rise with something fresh even if I read it before!.. Buy this volume.. buy them all. you will not be sorry.

This series is the only quality translation of one of the world's great mystical masterpieces. Vol 12 completes the series. The physical books are very solidly bound, so these books will hold up through many re-readings and research sessions from years to come.

The last Volume! Finally! Somethings the Kabbalah Center left out of their set!

The Pritzker Edition of *The Zohar* is truly an amazing twelve volume set. The English translations

are remarkably accurate, and the annotations including commentaries are extraordinarily erudite and scholarly authentic. For students of the Zohar and Kabbalah in general, at any level and at any age, this edition is excellent, lucid, and comprehensible. Daniel Matt, Nathan Wolski, and Joel Hecker have really given all readers of the Zohar a great gift.

How bittersweet it is that this monumental work has reached its end. Let's hope that this same team turns to the other classics such as the works of Chaim Vital.

Volume 12 of the Zohar focuses on a series of fascinating, esoteric texts, and the most valuable in the whole collection in my opinion. Chief among them are the treatises on the 7 Palaces and their angelic beings. These treatises are a continuation of the ancient Hekalot/Merkabah literature, integrated into the classical qabalah and the Sefirotic scheme - it provides an invaluable look at the shape these concepts took in their later forms. Also valuable is the Raza de Razin, an interesting treatise on physiognomy. If you only get one of these volumes, make it this one.

So the last volume of the Zohar came to my postbox. For a decade these books of wisdom have been a source of inspiration. And it still is ... thanx for more than a decade of delight.

This series of the Zohar is the best translation and commentary, in my opinion, there is on this subject. Must admit, I didn't read / study all 12 volumes, yet...

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