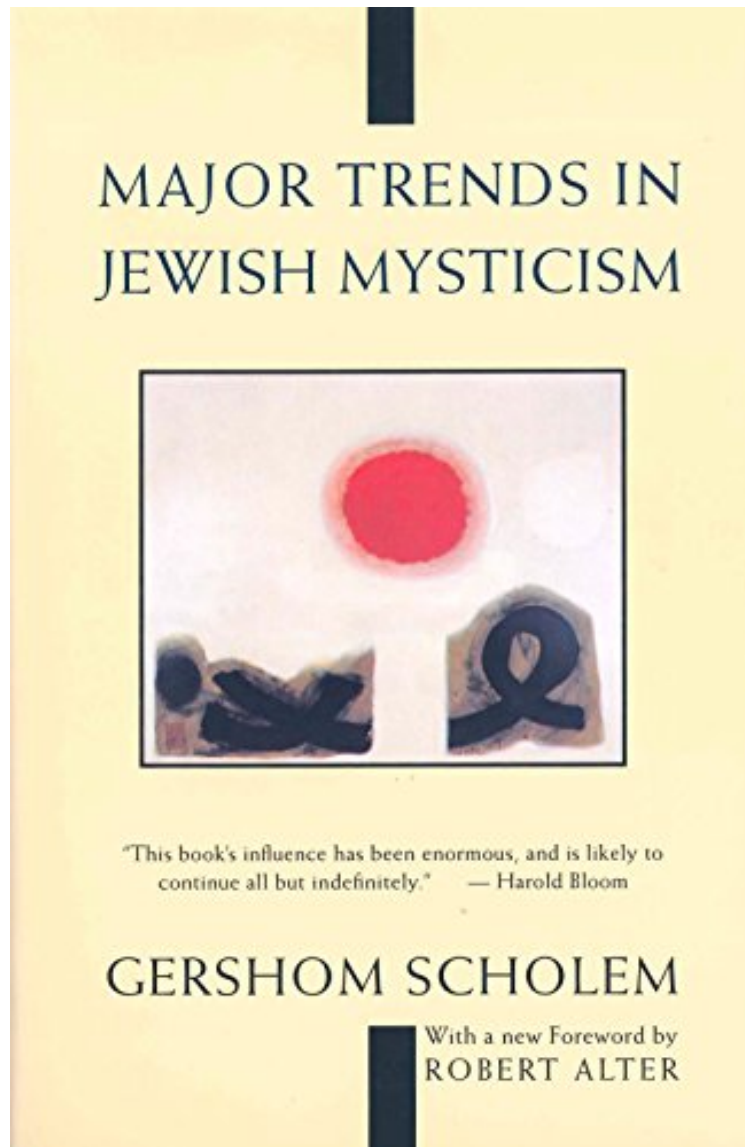


(Ebook pdf) Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism

Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism

Von Gershom Scholem

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Von Gershom Scholem : Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Review of 'Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism'Von Ein KundeGershom Scholem was President of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities and a Professor of Jewish mysticism at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem until his death in 1982. He wrote the standard collage textbook on Jewish mysticism ('Major Trends...'). He is also the author of 'Origins

of the Kabbalah', 'Kabbalah', 'On the Kabbalah and Its Symbolism', 'On the Mystical Shape of the Godhead', 'The Messianic Idea in Judaism', and 'Sabbatai Sevi: The Mystical Messiah'. Every book is a treasure in and of itself. Mr. Scholem put the Kabbalah back on the 20th century map. His studies on the 'Sefer Yetzirah (Book of Creation)', 'The Bahir (Bright)', and 'The Zohar (Splendor)' show the brilliance of this unique individual. 'Major Trends...' is broken down into nine lectures. He covers everything from the beginnings of Jewish mysticism up to modern times. He traces its origin from the Second Temple era, through the apocalyptic/pseudepigrapha period, and right into Jewish gnosticism with the Thrown (merkavah) mysticism. The 'Hekhaloth Books' (hekhaloth: the heavenly halls or palaces the visionary passes through on his way to the seventh heaven where there rises the throne of divine glory) are well known for their similarity to standard gnostic works. The caves around Khirbet Qumran are another (Dead Sea Scrolls). He covers all aspects of this; the 'Song of Songs' and its mystical meaning (it was banned until a man reached 40 years old), the Shi'ur Komah (Measure of the Body of God), and all the magical elements that encompassed this, also theurgy, and so on. All of this, of course, was several hundred years before the epoch 'Sefer Yetzirah' was conceived of. The Jewish nation had to suffer through the loss of their Second Temple, the messianic revival of the infamous Bar Kokhba (the Star of Jacob) and Rebbe Akiva's endorsement of him, the loss of their country to the Romans, the loss of their 'reestablished' country under Mar Zutra (in their 'new' capital of Mahoza, near Bagdad) in 502, and so on. He covers the mystic Abraham Abulafia and his prophetic Kabbalism (and how it broke Kabbalism in two), the Zohar and Moses de Leon, En-Sof (the hidden God), the ten Sefirot (numbers) and Sefirotic development through the years (from Sefer Yetzirah to the Zohar), also the Shekhinah (the female side of God), Isaac Luria (the Lion) and his students (his Cubs), and the stunning impact the exile from Spain had on the Kabbalah in general. The last two lectures cover Sabbatai Sevi and the disaster he brought on the Jewish people. He very nearly destroyed Judaism itself for 250 years afterwards. The impact is still felt to this day. He also shows the modern Hasid's (the Ultra-Orthodox Jews) and how the Kabbalah and the Zohar influence their teachings and beliefs. He also shows why regular Orthodox Jews avoid the Kabbalah (calling it Jewish witchcraft) and why they consider the Hasid's to be cultists of a sort (even though the Kabbalah WAS Orthodox Judaism for 300 years before the advent of Sabbatai Sevi - which Mr. Scholem painfully points out). I have only scratched the surface of the things this book contains. If you can buy one book on Jewish mysticism, this is it. It is well worth the purchase. Sincerely, Shawn W. Ooten

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The seminal work in Kabbalah scholarship

Von Ein Kunde

This text is simply indispensable for anyone interested in Kabbalah's history and development. It covers Jewish mysticism from its early beginnings to recent times. Scholem's scholarship is excellent, and his writing is lucid, informed, and interesting--a welcome cry from the tranquilizer effect much scholarly writing can induce. A bias against Kabbalah's development in non-Jewish directions does influence sections of the text, but does not detract from the overall quality

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Excellent overview of Jewish mysticism - a classic

Von Ein Kunde

Scholem's work, Major Trends, is a classic in the academic study of Jewish mysticism. He covers the breadth of Jewish mysticism in a lucid manner, while still being able to discuss the various nuances of the historical periods. Despite rumors of its early demise, his analysis still remains, and those who follow can only build on the foundation he laid.

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

Pressestimmen "A crucially vital work in the long history of Jewish esoteric spirituality. Aside from its intrinsic importance, the book's influence has been enormous, and is likely to continue all but indefinitely. As much as the stories and parables of Kafka, Scholem's work helped inaugurate Jewish gnosticism on our era." Harold Bloom, Yale University

"Over fifty years ago, Major Trends struck the scholarly world like a bombshell, marking the beginning of a new era. The book's unique combination of philological erudition, phenomenological penetration, and synthetic sweep not only wrought a revolution in Jewish studies but also established Jewish mysticism as a major phenomenon in the general history of religions." R.J.Z. Weblowsky, Hebrew University

"As the Zohar is the canonical text of the Kabbalah, so, in a sense, is Scholem's Major Trends the canonical modern work on the nature and history of Jewish mysticism. For a sophisticated understanding, not only of the dynamics of Jewish mysticism, but of the exquisite complexities of Jewish history and tradition, Major Trends is a major port of entry through which one must pass." Yosef Hayim Yerushalmi, Columbia University

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