

Pe'amim

Studies in Oriental Jewry

148

Halakha, Kabbalah and Jewish Thought

Editor: Avriel Bar-Levav

Associate Editor: Yair Adiel



**Ben-Zvi Institute for the Study of Jewish
Communities in the East**

	In This Issue	v
Tirza Kelman	“Written With Iron and Lead Letter in Print”: the print revolution and the creation of the Beit Yosef	9
Yehuda Liebes	Reflection of real development in Cordoveran Kabbala in Lurianic hagiographic literature	27
Moshe Idel	The Womb and the Infinite in R. Moshe Cordovero's Kabbalistic Thought	41
Elisha Russ-Fishbane	The legacy of the Prophets and the Prophetic path in Medieval Sufism and Egyptian Jewish pietism	65
Esti Eisenmann	Scientific aspects in Comtino's commentary on the <i>Guide of the Perplexed</i>	95
Shimon Fogel and Uri Ehrlich	‘Pores Sukat Shalom’: another look at the concluding formula of the “Hashkiveinu” benediction	117
	Document	
Dror Hubara	The Memories of Shalom Hayyim Tzarum.	145
	In Memoriam	
Meir M. Bar-Asher	Efraim Ya'acov	165

In This Issue

The articles in this issue of *Peamim* deal with Halakha, Kabbalah and Jewish thought. Tirza Kelman's article discusses the significance of print and print culture in the creation of the *Beit Yosef*. On the one hand, print as a technical method enhanced R. Joseph Caro's options when collecting halakhic writings, and enabled the rapid distribution of his book. On the other hand, the *Beit Yosef* reflects ideas about globalization, standardization, and working with texts that are part of print culture.

Tirza Kelman is a phd. candidate in the Goldstein-Goren Department of Jewish Thought, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

tirzak@post.bgu.ac.il

Cordoverian and Lurianic Kabbala were considered by Kabbalists and by researchers as different thinking methods, but principal traits of so-called Lurianism exist already in later phases of the writing of Moses Cordovero, who was aware of the change in his way. This change is discernable also in a tractate – as of yet unpublished – discussed here. Hence there is some truth in the Lurianic legend about the spirit of Cordovero indicating a passage agreeing with Luria. The ambivalent attitude of Lurianic Kabbalists towards Cordovero is reflected also in a legendary obituary discussed here.

Prof. Yehuda Liebes is Professor Emeritus at the Department for Jewish Thought, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and recipient of the Israel Prize for Jewish Thought.

yehuda.liebes@mail.huji.ac.il

The present study analyzes the existence of the concept of the “Womb” in its direct relation to the Infinite in the Kabbalistic thought of R. Moshe Cordovero. This is a different concept in comparison to other understandings of this concept found in Kabbalah – there it refers to the *sefirah* of *Malkhut* or to the third *sefirah* of *Binah*; it also differs from what can be found in other discussions in Cordovero’s own writings. The elevation of the feminine element to such a high degree in the divine structure is related to this Kabbalist’s positive evaluation of the nature and functions of the feminine entity in the supernal world.

Moshe Idel is Professor Emeritus at the Department of Jewish Thought, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and Matanel Chair at the Safed Academic College. He is recipient of the Israel Prize for Jewish Thought.

moshe.idel@mail.huji.ac.il

This article examines the aspiration for prophetic attainment within the parallel mystical traditions of classical Sufism, between the tenth and the thirteenth centuries, and Egyptian Jewish pietism of the thirteenth century. It argues that, in contrast to mainstream Jewish and Islamic traditions for which prophecy was a phenomenon of the past, a number of influential mystical authorities within both camps wrote of the prophetic experience as the ultimate goal of mystical praxis.

Elisha Russ-Fishbane teaches at the Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies, New York University

elisha.russfishbane@nyu.edu

This article deals with the scholarly labors of Rabbi Mordecai Comtino (Byzantium, 15th century) as reflected in his commentary to the *Guide of the Perplexed*. The article identifies the scientific works Comtino used in his commentary in order to acquire knowledge about the books that were known and available in Byzantium during Comtino's era. It also examines the extent to which Comtino continued the Aristotelian tradition or was aware of some of his predecessors' criticism on topics such as Movement, Time, Place and Universe, and whether he tried to offer new solutions and scientific innovations. Dr. Esti Eisenmann teaches at the department of History, Philosophy and Jewish Studies at the Open University and at Shalem Collage. estiei@openu.ac.il

This paper depicts the various forms of the concluding formula of the "Hashkiveinu" benediction. Based on the Midrashic and Talmudic literature, this article suggests a reconstruction of the ancient ending formula. Following the halachic writing by the Geonim and the manuscripts of prayer books and poetry from the Cairo Genizah, the article describes the ways in which the many versions of formula were elaborated.

Dr. Shimon Fogel and Prof. Uri Ehrlich teach in the Goldstein Goren department of Jewish Thought, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. skfogel@gmail.com; ehrich@bgu.ac.il

In the Documents' section, Dror Hubara presents the memories of Rabbi Hayyim Tzarum. In Memoriam presents Prof. Meir Bar Asher's eulogy of Dr Efraim Yaakov.