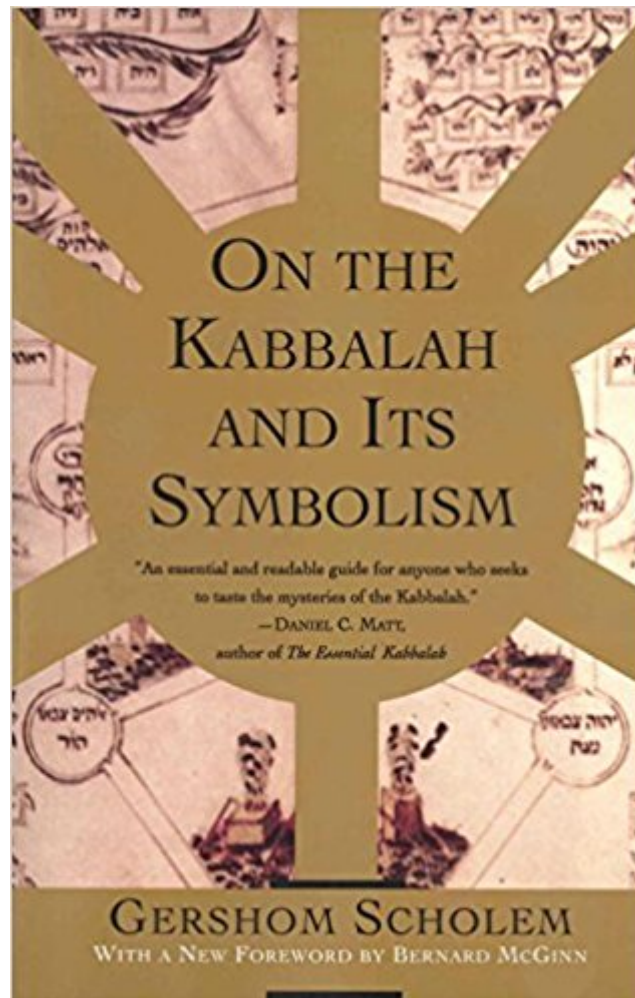


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On The Kabbalah And Its Symbolism (Mysticism & Kabbalah)



Synopsis

In *On the Kabbalah and Its Symbolism*, Gershom Scholem guides the reader through the central themes in the intricate history of the Kabbalah, clarifying the relations between mysticism and established religious authority, the mystics' interpretation of the Torah and their attempts to discover the hidden meaning underlying Scripture, the tension between the philosophical and the mystical concepts of God, and the symbolism employed in mystical religion. With a new foreword by Bernard McGinn

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gershom Scholem, who died in 1982, remains the biggest gun in kabbalah scholarship, and *On the Kabbalah and its Symbolism* is perhaps his most accessible book on the subject. It contains definitive essays on the relation of the Torah to Jewish mysticism, the mythology of the kabbalah, and the place of Jewish mystics in the Jewish community. This book helped reinvigorate 20th-century Jewish studies with an awareness of the living reality of God, after the 19th century's more astringent scholarly emphasis on law and philosophy. It shows how Jewish mystics have been less concerned with adherence to orthodoxy than their Christian counterparts, and freer in their expression of the divine aspects of eroticism. Furthermore, Scholem offers great insight regarding the ways that kabbalah has not only threatened the authority of institutional religion, but also served as a source of its vitality. --Michael Joseph Gross

"Along with Scholem's Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism, this is the standard work in its field."-- Choice
"Comprises some of Scholem's most broadly conceived intellectual efforts, dealing with such universal issues as creativity and tradition, Scripture and its interpretation, religion and myth, and the nature of religious authority."-- Arthur Green, Brandeis University
"Makes the intricate and fascinating world of kabbalistic symbol and myth accessible to a wider audience, rendering it in terms that are of interest to contemporary readers."-- Elliot R. Wolfson, New York University

The author is incredible, but even for a layman like myself he presents it in an understandable manner. Of course there's always more to see/understand, I'll be reading this again in the future.

Easy to read more difficult to understand. It is one of those books that will require several reads. That said. It is a classic if interested in the topic. Scholem has been referred to as accountant of this subject.

The book is too extensive to give a short summary of what it is about, this is why it is necessary to read the book. The subject of the Kabbalah has been discussed for many centuries, so many angles, so many interpretations. Ultimately it is the author though that opens the mind to quality of information. Gershom Scholem is well known for his expertise in thought and writing. Highly recommend reading this book for a true insight.

Excellent

This book is critical for understanding of the history of the kabbalah. You can find many interesting thoughts about Jewish mysticism.

I am satisfied and happy with my purchase

It is written in a style which can be easily understood. The topic is difficult but the author makes it understandable.

if you are serious about study the Kabbalah. Scholem is a master scholar and story teller. the Joseph Campbell of Hebrew mysticism

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