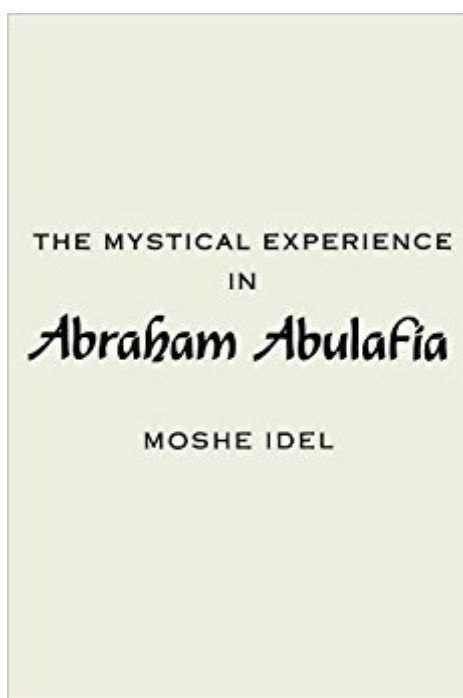


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The Mystical Experience In Abraham Abulafia (Suny Series In The Anthropology Of Work)



Synopsis

This book represents the first wide-scale presentation of a major Jewish mystic, the founder of the ecstatic Kabbalah. It includes a description of the techniques employed by his master, including the role of music. There is a discussion of the characteristics of his mystical experience and the erotic imagery by which it was expressed. Based on all the extant manuscript material of Abulafia, this book opens the way to a new understanding of Jewish mysticism. It points to the importance of the ecstatic Kabbalah for the later developments in mystical Judaism.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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

Moshe Idel was Centennial Scholar in Residence at the Jewish Theological Seminary. Currently, he is Professor of Kabbalah in the Department of Jewish Thought at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

One of the few studies of Abulafia and his meditational alphabet mysticism. Aulafia's system is often mentioned but rarely elucidated. Like most scholarly works Idel plumbs the writing style, time period, influences and important unanswered questions that arise from any critical study including such odd factors as music and eroticism. I myself am not a scholar and often find these ilk of books hard to

read and concerned with topics that were not my chief concerns on the subject. However, this work contains an examination of many of the practical techniques of Abulafia's system. This makes the academic read of the book worthwhile just to get these practical gems. Even if your orientation is practical the historical and biographical info. in the book are very helpful background info. any student of the system should know. Of special interest are the questions raised as to whether Abulafia emphasized any form of asceticism and how important he considered observance of Jewish law to be. Questions on which all authorities do not agree. If you want to know more about Abulafia and his system this is a good book.

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