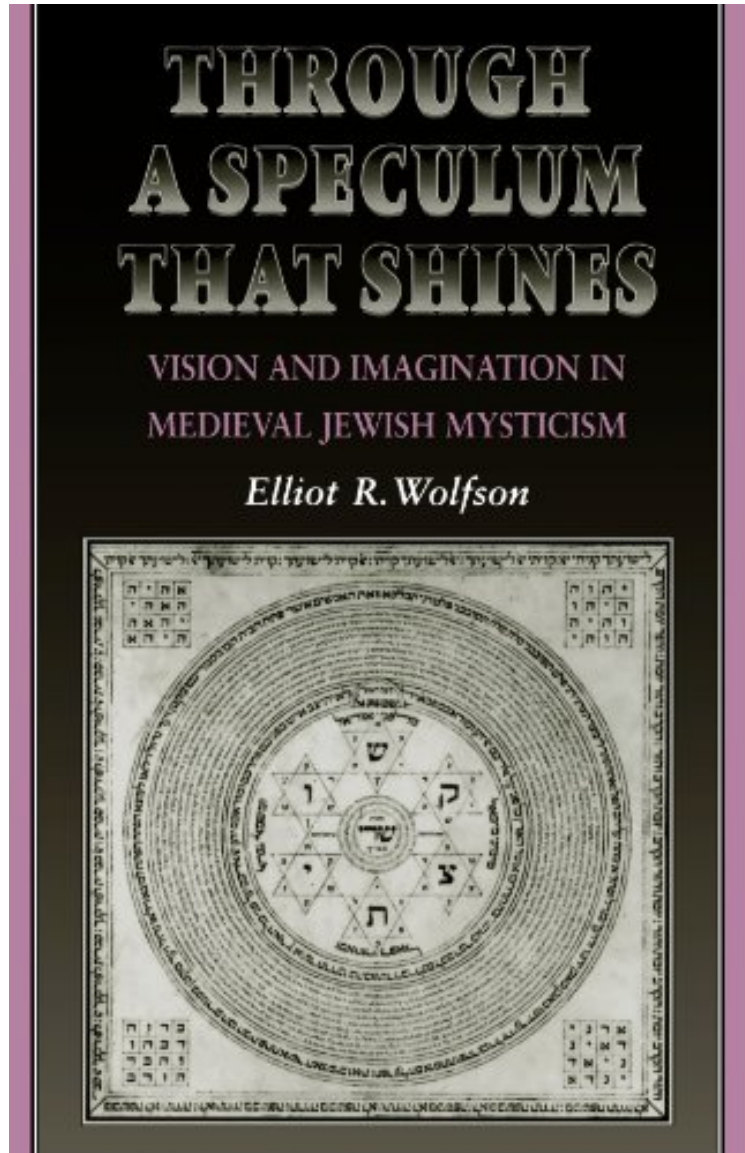


Through a Speculum That Shines

Elliot R. Wolfson

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#995736 in Books Elliot R Wolfson 1997-11-24 1997-12-14Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x 1.16 x 6.00l, 1.43 #File Name: 0691017220464 pagesThrough a Speculum That Shines Vision and Imagination in Medieval Jewish Mysticism | File size: 68.Mb

Elliot R. Wolfson : Through a Speculum That Shines before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Through a Speculum That Shines:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Splendid!By Kenneth GoodallKabbalah is one of those mysticisms I had always wondered about. and wasn't able to get into, though I tried with Green. Didn't work. I can safely say that

after trudging through hundreds of pages of "Through a Speculum That Shines" I have received much more than an inkling about a few medieval Jewish mystics and their joint effort, Zohar. Using impeccable scholarship as a ploy, Wolfson takes us into the inner sanctum of medieval hermeneutics in a homoerotic fellowship of scholars in 13th century Castile. He tickles my mind. Also recommended is the chapter on Wolfson in Kripal's Roads of Excess, Palaces of Wisdom. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Elliot Wolfson is amazing. He was my Jewish Mysticism professor at Harvard ...By NaomiElliot Wolfson is amazing. He was my Jewish Mysticism professor at Harvard for a semester, last year. His writing and his presence are brilliant. I highly recommend all of his books. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Three StarsBy Gail McNeilQuick shipping. So-so content. Very wordy-hard to follow. Thank you.

A comprehensive treatment of visionary experience in some of the main texts of Jewish mysticism, this book reveals the overwhelmingly visual nature of religious experience in Jewish spirituality from antiquity through the late Middle Ages. Using phenomenological and critical historical tools, Wolfson examines Jewish mystical texts from late antiquity, pre-kabbalistic sources from the tenth to the twelfth centuries, and twelfth- and thirteenth-century kabbalistic literature. His work demonstrates that the sense of sight assumes an epistemic priority in these writings, reflecting and building upon those scriptural passages that affirm the visual nature of revelatory experience. Moreover, the author reveals an androcentric eroticism in the scopic mentality of Jewish mystics, which placed the externalized and representable form, the phallus, at the center of the visual encounter. In the visionary experience, as Wolfson describes it, imagination serves a primary function, transmuting sensory data and rational concepts into symbols of those things beyond sense and reason. In this view, the experience of a vision is inseparable from the process of interpretation. Fundamentally challenging the conventional distinction between experience and exegesis, revelation and interpretation, Wolfson argues that for the mystics themselves, the study of texts occasioned a visual experience of the divine located in the imagination of the mystical interpreter. Thus he shows how Jewish mystics preserved the invisible transcendence of God without doing away with the visual dimension of belief.

Winner of the 1995 Sarah H. and Julius Kushner Award, National Jewish Book CouncilOne of Choice's Outstanding Academic Titles for 1995Winner of the 1994 Excellence in Book Publishing Award, American Academy of Religion"Massive, magisterial. . . . Wolfson has amassed an impressive array of texts to establish the foundational importance of seeing God for Jewish mysticism . . . and his book formulates many questions that will undoubtedly occupy subsequent investigators as they grapple with the significance of its findings. . . . This book comprises a manifold contribution to our appreciation of Jewish mysticism and Jewish intellectual history in the Middle Ages."--Jeremy Cohen, American Historical "Energy and excitement . . . burst forth from page after page of this remarkably wide-ranging yet tightly argued work. . . . Wolfson's work is scholarship in the grand tradition--sweeping in scope and references, precise in analysis and argumentation."--Everett Gendler, Theological Studies"A learned, authoritative and scrupulously documented study of visionary experiences among medieval Jewish prophets and mystics."--Earle J. Coleman, Menorah "Arguing that kabalistic experience is first and foremost a visual rather than an aural experience Wolfson traces the subject in rich detail, from its biblical origins through the mystical sources of the talmudic and posttalmudic era. . . . With the publication of this major study, Wolfson has confirmed his position as one of the leading students of medieval Jewish mysticism."--ChoiceFrom the Back Cover"Wolfson brilliantly shows that the visionary mode of religious experience is central to Jewish spirituality from antiquity through the late Middle Ages A landmark study from one of our most gifted scholars."--Elliot Ginsburg, University of Michigan"The book is a dazzling accomplishment, a landmark study from one of our most gifted scholars."--Elliot Ginsburg, University of MichiganAbout the AuthorElliot R. Wolfson is the Abraham Lieberman Professor of Hebrew and Judaic Studies at New York University, and Director of Religious Studies. He is the author of several books on the history of Jewish mysticism, including Along the Path: Studies in Kabbalistic Myth, Symbolism, and Hermeneutics and Circle in the Square: Studies in the Use of Gender in Kabbalistic Symbolism.