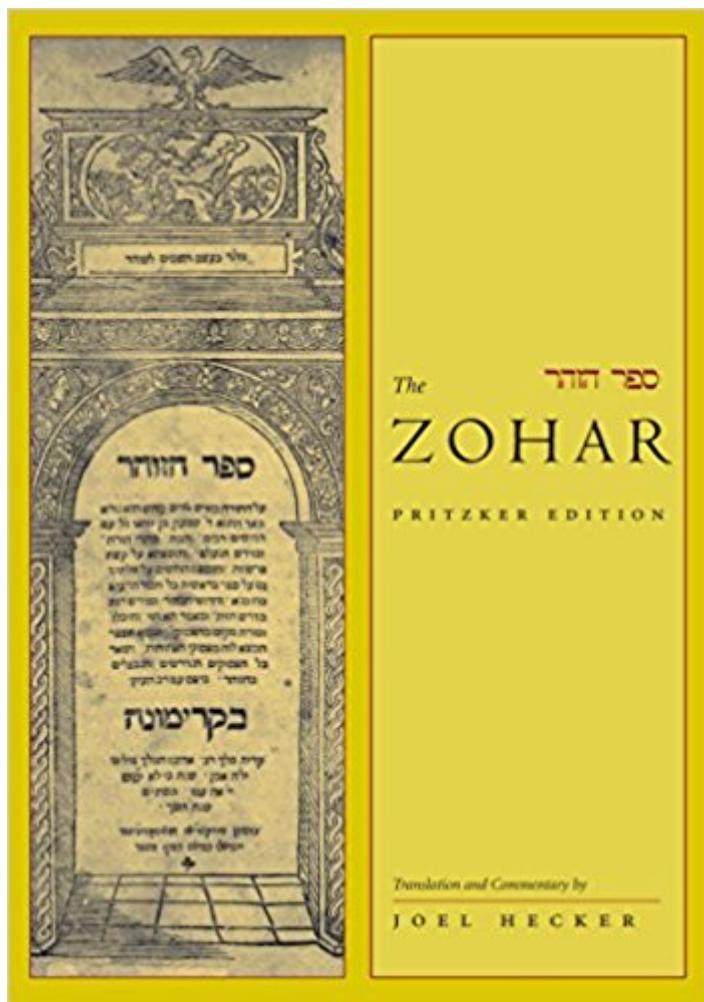


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# The Zohar: Pritzker Edition, Volume Eleven



## Synopsis

Sefer ha-Zohar (The Book of Radiance) has captivated readers ever since it emerged in Spain over seven hundred years ago. Written in a lyrical Aramaic, the Zohar, a masterpiece of Kabbalah, features mystical interpretation of the Torah, rabbinic tradition, and Jewish practice. Volume 11 comprises a collection of different genres within the Zoharic library. The fragmentary Midrash ha-Ne'lam on Song of Songs opens with its treatment of mystical kissing. Highlights of Midrash ha-Ne'lam on Ruth are the spiritual function of the Kaddish prayer, the story of the ten martyrs, and mystical eating practices. In Midrash ha-Ne'lam on Lamentations, the inhabitants of Babylon and the inhabitants of Jerusalem vie to eulogize a ruined Jerusalem. It reframes the notion of a Holy Family in Jewish terms, in implicit contrast to the Christian triad of Father, Mother, and Son. The Zohar on Song of Songs consists of dueling homilies between Rabbi Shim'on bar Yohai and the prophet Elijah, contrasting spiritual ascent with the presence of the demonic. The climax projects the eros of the Song of Songs onto the celestial letters that constitute the core of existence. Matnitin and Tosefta are dense, compact passages in which heavenly heralds chide humanity for its spiritual slumber, rousing people to learn the mysteries of holiness. Packed with neologisms and hortatory in tone, these passages are spurs to pietistic devotion and mystical insight.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Joel Hecker is a leading academic scholar of The Zohar and Jewish mysticism. He is Associate

Professor of Jewish Mysticism at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. He has also taught at the University of Pennsylvania, Jewish Theological Seminary, and Yeshiva University. He is the author of *Mystical Bodies, Mystical Meals: Eating and Embodiment in Medieval Kabbalah* (2005), and does research on ritual and mystical experience in *The Zohar* and its contemporary literature.

excellent book

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. This work goes past the longer pieces of the *Zohar*'s first 9 volumes into the smaller later written parts (but yes they're still part of the kabbala proper.) One more volume and English speakers will have a full overview of the mystic classic at long last. Essential for those interested in spiritual studies or the concept of the deity. Well footnoted as in all the volumes and in volume one there's a massive bibliography for further study. This edition has a different author than the first 9 volumes if that matters to some people.

I was so pleased to see the additional texts added to the series. This entire set is amazing, I am awaiting volume 12. The texts, as anyone who has spent any time at all in them knows... this is not a light evening's read. I am still digesting material from vol. 1! not to mention all in between. There is so much and so many threads - these Midrash and expositions of the Song of Songs and the Book of Ruth and the Misnah bring us into the company of companions, directly into their reasonings... the teachings are profound. IF you are serious about wanting to delve into the thought process of the old Sages - I don't care where you start - GET THIS SERIES. It is good to have other editions for comparison true, but this is a masterful work! And Joel Hecker has brought forth a very welcome work!

Vol. XI present texts, that became the *Zohar* tradition. The texts are worth reading, as visionary, even lyric literature. The Pritzger *Zohar* is simply the best edition of in English on the market.

Excellent translation and commentary

Glorious!

WOW

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