



## Origins of the Kabbalah (Princeton Paperbacks)

By Gershom Gerhard Scholem

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**Origins of the Kabbalah (Princeton Paperbacks)** By Gershom Gerhard Scholem

One of the most important scholars of our century, Gershom Scholem (1897-1982) opened up a once esoteric world of Jewish mysticism, the Kabbalah, to concerned students of religion. The Kabbalah is a rich tradition of repeated attempts to achieve and portray direct experiences of God: its twelfth-and thirteenth-century beginnings in southern France and Spain are probed in *Origins of the Kabbalah*, a work crucial in Scholem's oeuvre. The book is a contribution not only to the history of Jewish medieval mysticism but also to the study of medieval mysticism in general and will be of interest to historians and psychologists, as well as to students of the history of religion.

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### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

Gershom Scholem's *Origins of the Kabbalah* provides a painstakingly detailed history of Kabbalah's rise among medieval French and Spanish Jews, describes the first publication of Jewish mystical texts, and investigates the growth of their influence on Jewish religious life. The book also doubles back to describe secret traditions of Jewish Gnosticism, which describe a Creation story so numerical and esoteric it makes the New Testament book of Revelation look as simple and straightforward as a Saturday-morning cartoon. This book is much denser than Scholem's excellent *On the Kabbalah and its Symbolism*, but for readers with a basic knowledge of Kabbalah, it shouldn't be rough going. --Michael Joseph Gross

#### Review

"[Scholem] labors the wealth, even the scandal, of the past in order to multiply options of survival. No great textual scholar, no master of philology and historical criticism commands a technique at once more scrupulously attentive to its object and more instinct with the writer's voice. That voice reaches out and grabs the layman." --George Steiner, *The New Yorker*

"[Scholem's] work on Jewish mysticism, messianism, and sectarianism, spanning now half a century, constitutes . . . one of the major achievements of the historical imagination in our time. I would contend that it is of vital interest not only to anyone concerned with the history of religion but to anyone struggling to understand the underlying problematics of the human predicament." --Robert Alter, *Commentary*

"This book has been a classic in its field since it was first issued in 1950, and it still stands as uniquely authoritative and intriguingly instructive. . . . [It is] a monument of revelation and insight bridging anthropology, religion, sociology, and history." --*Publishers Weekly*

#### Language Notes

Text: English, German (translation)

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##### Harriet Blum:

This *Origins of the Kabbalah* (Princeton Paperbacks) is great book for you because the content which can be

full of information for you who all always deal with world and get to make decision every minute. This kind of book reveal it details accurately using great plan word or we can declare no rambling sentences within it. So if you are read the item hurriedly you can have whole info in it. Doesn't mean it only gives you straight forward sentences but tricky core information with wonderful delivering sentences. Having *Origins of the Kabbalah* (Princeton Paperbacks) in your hand like obtaining the world in your arm, information in it is not ridiculous a single. We can say that no reserve that offer you world in ten or fifteen moment right but this guide already do that. So , this is certainly good reading book. Hey Mr. and Mrs. active do you still doubt which?

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