



The present volume honors **Rabbi Professor Nehemia Polen**, a rare scholar whose religious teachings, spiritual writings, and academic scholarship come together into a sustained project of interpretive imagination and engagement. With intellectual integrity and remarkable religious insight, Polen's work expands the reach of Torah into an academic quest for ever-broadening depth and connectivity. The essays in this collection, written by students, colleagues, and friends, are a testament to his enduring impact on the scholarly community. The contributions explore a range of historical periods and themes, centering upon the fields dear to Polen's heart, but they are united by a common thread: each essay is grounded in deeply engaged textual scholarship casting a glance upon the sources that is at once critical and beneficent. As a whole, they seek to give readers a richer sense of the fabric of Jewish interpretation and theology, including the history of Jewish mysticism, the promise and perils of exegesis, and the contemporary relevance of premodern and early modern texts.

Editors:

Ariel Evan Mayse joined the faculty of Stanford University in 2017 as an assistant professor in the Department of Religious Studies, and is rabbi-in-residence of Atiq: Jewish Make Institute. He holds a PhD in Jewish Studies from Harvard University and rabbinic ordination from Beit Midrash Har'el. His research examines the role of language in Hasidism, the formation of early Hasidic literature, the renaissance of Jewish mysticism in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and the relationship between spirituality and law in modern Jewish thought.

Arthur Green, historian of Jewish religion and theologian, is the founding dean of the Rabbinical School of Hebrew College and now serves as its rector. He has lectured widely and taught Jewish mysticism, Hasidism, and theology to several generations of students at the University of Pennsylvania; the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, where he served as both dean and president; Brandeis University; and Hebrew College. Green was the founder of Havurat Shalom, an egalitarian Jewish community in Somerville, MA, and remains a leading independent figure in the Jewish renewal movement. He is the author or editor of more than twenty books, including *Radical Judaism: Rethinking God and Tradition* (Yale UP, 2011). His annotated translation of *Me'or Eynayim*, an early Hasidic classic, is forthcoming with Stanford University Press.

Contributors:

- Rachel Adelman
- Aubrey L. Glazer
- Alon Goshen-Gottstein
- Avraham Yizhak (Arthur) Green
- Elie Holzer
- Jane L. Kanarek
- Tsippi Kauffman
- Ebn Leader
- Naftali Loewenthal
- Ariel Evan Mayse
- Chaim Milikowsky
- Daniel Reiser
- Or N. Rose
- Avraham Rosen
- Michael Rosenberg
- Avinoam J. Stillman
- Avivah Gottlieb Zornberg



BE-RON YAḤAD

Edited by Ariel Evan Mayse and Arthur Green



BE-RON YAḤAD



Studies in Jewish Thought and
Theology in Honor of Nehemia Polen

Edited by

Ariel Evan Mayse and Arthur Green

BE-RON YAḤAD



Studies in Jewish Thought and
Theology in Honor of Nehemia Polen

Edited by

Ariel Evan Mayse and Arthur Green

BOSTON
2019

Contents

Reading in Harmony: An Introduction <i>Ariel Evan Mayse and Arthur Green</i>	xi
Judaism as a Path of Love <i>Avraham Yizhak (Arthur) Green</i>	1
To Be or Not to Be: A Tale of Five Sisters <i>Avivah Gottlieb Zornberg</i>	27
From the Cleft of the Rock: The Eclipse of God in the Bible, Midrash, and Post-Holocaust Theology <i>Rachel Adelman</i>	50
The Unexpected Impact of Sections and Subsections in a Translation of <i>Va-Yiqra Rabbah</i> : A Case Study <i>Chaim Milikowsky</i>	74
From Leviticus to Latkes: The Origins of Hanukkah's Miraculous Oil and the Meaning of the Festival <i>Michael Rosenberg</i>	89
Between Tradition and Innovation: The Pedagogical Possibilities of the <i>Penai Yehoshua</i> <i>Jane L. Kanarek</i>	103
Rediscovering the Covenant: The Contemporary Hasidic Thought of Rabbi Shmuel Berezovsky of Slonim <i>Alon Goshen-Gottstein</i>	118
Protest or Discernment? Divine Limitation and Mystical Activism in the <i>Qedushat Levi</i> <i>Or N. Rose</i>	155

Leadership as Individual Relationships: A Close Study of the <i>No'am Elimelekh</i> <i>Ebn Leader</i>	177
Letter to Riga: Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak Schneersohn's Meditative System for a Young Woman <i>Naftali Loewenthal</i>	203
Hasidic Women: Beyond Egalitarianist Discourse <i>Tsippi Kauffman</i>	223
Prophecy and Imagination in the Teachings of R. Tzadoq ha-Kohen of Lublin, R. Abraham Isaac ha-Kohen Kook, and R. Kalonymous Kalman Shapira <i>Daniel Reiser</i>	258
Poetics of Exegesis in the <i>Sefat Emet's</i> Homilies: Semantic Innovations for Discernment and Disclosure <i>Elie Holzer</i>	281
Transcendent God, Immanent Kabbalah: Prolegomena to the Hasidic Teachings of R. Avraham ha-Malakh <i>Avinoam J. Stillman</i>	311
Losing the Princess: Returning to Self: An Archetypal Mapping of the Soul <i>Aubrey L. Glazer</i>	331
Caring for the Graves of the Righteous: The Holocaust in Rabbi Shlomo Yosef Zevin's <i>Sippurei Hasidim</i> <i>Avraham Rosen</i>	353
"Like a Moth to the Flame": The Death of Nadav and Avihu in Hasidic Literature <i>Ariel Evan Mayse</i>	365
Index	407