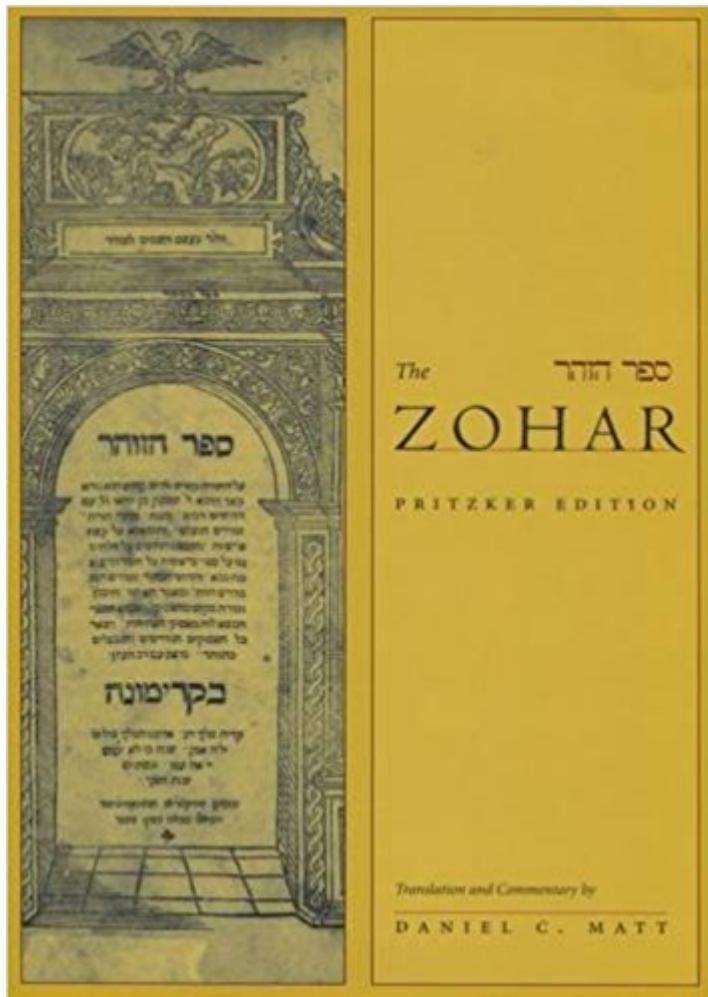


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# The Zohar: Pritzker Edition, Vol. 3



## Synopsis

This third volume of The Zohar: Pritzker Edition completes the Zohar's commentary on the book of Genesis. Here we find spiritual explorations of numerous biblical narratives, including Jacob's wrestling with the angel, Joseph's kidnapping by his brothers, his near seduction by Potiphar's wife, his interpretation of Pharaoh's dreams, and his reunion with his brothers and father. Throughout, the Zohar probes the biblical text and seeks deeper meaning—*for example, the divine intention behind Joseph's disappearance, or the profound significance of human sexuality. Divine and human realities intertwine, affecting one another. Toward the end of Genesis, the Bible states: Jacob's days drew near to die*—*an idiomatic expression that the Zohar insists on reading hyperliterally. Each human being is challenged to live his days virtuously. If he does, those days themselves are woven into a garment of splendor; at death, they "draw near," enveloping him, escorting him to the beyond. Sefer ha-Zohar (The Book of Radiance) has amazed and overwhelmed readers ever since it emerged mysteriously in medieval Spain toward the end of the thirteenth century. Written in a unique Aramaic, this masterpiece of Kabbalah exceeds the dimensions of a normal book; it is virtually a body of literature, comprising over twenty discrete sections. The bulk of the Zohar consists of a running commentary on the Torah, from Genesis through Deuteronomy.*

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## Customer Reviews

"An epochal event. . . . This work of learning will free us from the errors and misrepresentations that have long existed in almost all the popular accounts of the Zohar. We shall have this text in which

the Zohar appears in all of its spiritual depth." (Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg)"Daniel Matt's translation of the Zohar is a masterful approach to one of the most enchanting and intriguing texts of religious literature. . . . This new volume will be read and reread with delight and fervor by teachers and students alike." (Elie Wiesel)"Daniel C. Matt is giving us what I hardly thought possible: a superbly fashioned translation and commentary that opens up the Zohar to the English-speaking world. . . . The lucidity and overwhelming relevance of Matt's Zohar . . . will provide both common and uncommon readers with access to a work capable of changing the consciousness of those who enter it." (Harold Bloom Yale University)

This third volume of The Zohar: Pritzker Edition completes the Zohar's commentary on the book of Genesis. Here we find spiritual explorations of numerous biblical narratives, including Jacob's wrestling with the angel, Joseph's kidnapping by his brothers, his near seduction by Potiphar's wife, his interpretation of Pharaoh's dreams, and his reunion with his brothers and father. Throughout, the Zohar probes the biblical text and seeks deeper meaning—for example, the divine intention behind Joseph's disappearance, or the profound significance of human sexuality. Divine and human realities intertwine, affecting one another. Toward the end of Genesis, the Bible states: Jacob's days drew near to die—an idiomatic expression that the Zohar insists on reading hyperliterally. Each human being is challenged to live his days virtuously. If he does, those days themselves are woven into a garment of splendor; at death, they "draw near," enveloping him, escorting him to the beyond. Sefer ha-Zohar (The Book of Radiance) has amazed and overwhelmed readers ever since it emerged mysteriously in medieval Spain toward the end of the thirteenth century. Written in a unique Aramaic, this masterpiece of Kabbalah exceeds the dimensions of a normal book; it is virtually a body of literature, comprising over twenty discrete sections. The bulk of the Zohar consists of a running commentary on the Torah, from Genesis through Deuteronomy.

Those who have purchased the previous two volumes may find this to be no less an endeavor of exegesis and scholarship. What this edition has done is quite simply (for all the effort) bring forth the gem within the text that for many has been hidden for so long a time. With the addition of a .pdf file library, through the Stanford University Press website [...] this edition for the first time puts in reach not only the Aramaic text but a VERY readable translation, with commentary and extensive notes. In particular the highlighting by example of words for explanation (in Hebrew font) is a most welcome addition. Incorporating an extensive bibliography and reference notation, the only possible lack

would be the glossary: that could have been extended just a bit to include colloquialisms of the dialect (but then, that might take up a entire volume itself!... so...) The chance to peer into the culture of the Jews of the period through the reconstructed text, is another aspect of great value in these volumes. The terminologies the nuances of form, these subtleties are very valuable to any student wishing to get a better grip on the meaning of the intimations of the dialogue, and this opportunity is well afforded us in these volumes. In closing, if you want to study the Zohar and you are looking for a ready source of analytical work.., that provides text and translation, this is the series to get into your library. As I have stated before I am not a Hebrew scholar, however I research a great deal of Hebrew (Torah study) literature, and a vast portion of that literature is still out of reach due to out-of-print tomes or manuscripts not being published for ready distribution to a general audience either with a reliable translation or a proper Hebrew text accompanying that translation. Daniel Matt and colleagues have brought to light one very important part of that body of literature. AND THAT (!) in and of itself should be commended and appreciated by any who have a desire to study the depths of the Torah, Kabbalah and Jewish mystical literature. I would like to thank the editor and those that have pursued the long arduous task of putting this edition into the hands of those of us who wish to 'dig deeper'. Manuel Colunga-Hernandez

I am a big fan of this translation, the commentary, the heart, soul and depth of learning that goes into these. Huge acknowledgements and thanks to Professor Matt for his work and contribution b'H.

perfect, mint condition, thanks very much

Actually posted on behalf of my husband who says this is amazing knowledge....

this series, I have read 1 - 4 so far, has been incredible. the wisdom hidden between the lines (which is really only viewable in Hebrew) has been tremendously insightful, the nuances of the words is so so deep, more than most can imagine. it's really easy to see why at one time the catholic church wanted to ban the bible and quran and institute this, though I am glad they didn't. The reason I say that is because true understanding will never come in only one language and in one series of books, but rather a conglomeration of all, but this series is probably the MOST enlightening of all of them. I would recommend this series to anyone interested in the faith. the only complaint I have about the series is that as a homeless and disabled man myself it hurts me to carry one of these on my back, and god knows I couldn't carry 2 or 3 as genesis and exodus are both 3 volumes each. this REALLY

needs put on the kindle, I can't keep buying the hardbacks, my back is growing soft from them, I am physically in pain from it, I wish Daniel C. Matt and Stanford press would show some compassion and put it on the kindle, but I guess they are worried about their "profits" and not their prophets.

Everything ok.....no complaints

perfect

Daniel Matt has given us a lovely commentary on many of our favorite stories in Genesis. If you are a student of Kabbalah or simply enjoy a literate presentation of beautiful, ancient scripture, you will thoroughly enjoy this volume. Buy it with confidence. Enjoy!

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