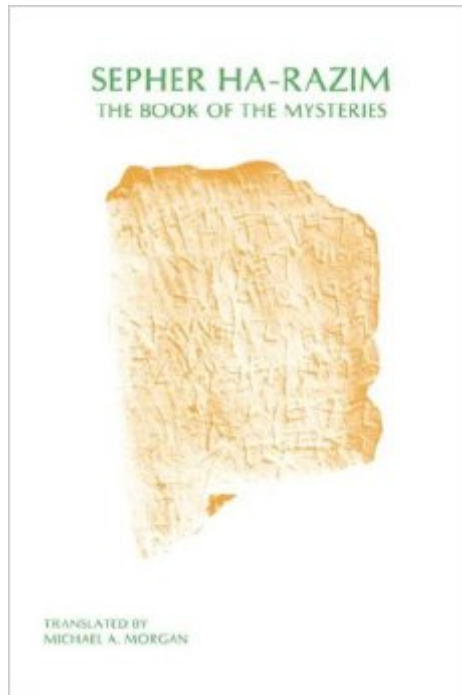


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Sepher Ha-Razim: The Book Of Mysteries (Sssa Special Publication)



Synopsis

This work is an annotated translation of the Margalioth Hebrew text of Sepher Ha-Razim, which makes available for the first time in English this important collection of late antique Jewish magic. Dating to the fourth century C.E., this magical handbook contains instructions and invocations to be used in various magical praxes. A fine example of the syncretistic nature of the Hellenistic world, Sepher Ha-Razim gives some indication of the tensions between a developing/ orthodoxy and a popular religion. The text shows parallels to the Greek magical papyri and an interesting use of Merkabah symbolism.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Noah received "The Book of Mysteries" from an angel. The prophet wrote down the information on tablets of sapphire. Contained in this book were the seven levels of Heaven and their angelic make up. Applicable to man was the ability to call upon these angelic powers in order to heal, raise up a ruler, defeat and adversary and to see into the future. For those interested in the angelic history of the Jewish mystical texts this is a must read book. The information is very syncretistic as it includes invocations to such Greek/Roman deities as Venus and Sol (the Sun God). There are also a few invocations to the moon. For the modern practitioner some of these rituals cannot be performed because they call for the sacrifice of such animals as dogs and lions. No way that one can slaughter an animal these days so some of the rituals must be modified. Something that I found refreshing

was the call for spiritual purification before doing the rituals. Such things would be watching your speech, fasting, abstaining from sex, wine and meat. These bring about spiritual strength. The angels name are written in English transliteration but since Hebrew has no vowels proper pronunciation is rather difficult. The Hebrew in the back makes it easier for someone who can read Hebrew. But the lack of vowelization makes it difficult for the practitioner and researcher alike. For each level of heaven there is a list of the angels names given, the ruling angels and a ritual for each ruling angel depending on how the firmament of Heaven is divided up. Before each ritual the reader will be given a purpose and time that the given angel or ruler can be called to accomplish. There are some sigils contained within. One thing I liked about the rituals is that there are no procedures to follow for casting a circle.

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