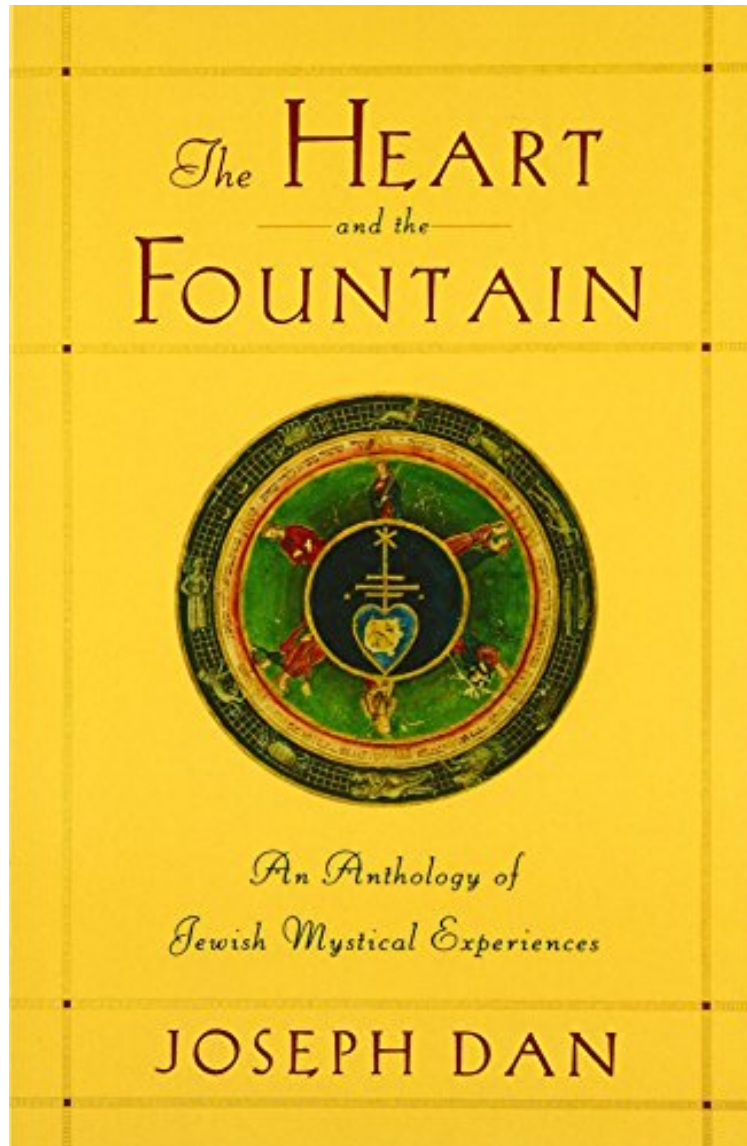


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# The Heart and the Fountain: An Anthology of Jewish Mystical Experiences

*From Joseph Dan*

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#1213440 in Books Joseph Dan 2003-10-30Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 6.10 x .80 x 9.20l, 1.05 #File Name: 0195139798336 pagesThe Heart and the Fountain An Anthology of Jewish Mystical Experiences | File size: 78.Mb

**From Joseph Dan : The Heart and the Fountain: An Anthology of Jewish Mystical Experiences** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Heart and the Fountain: An Anthology of Jewish Mystical Experiences:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. 1 of 3 in the a class on Western Mysticism this one is my fav. By Joel Blair A great sampling of brilliance. Dan does his own translations in much of this and makes his comments and introductions informative and readable. Scholars sometimes forget that real people are reading the writing. This one does not. Dan inspires a more complete look into every mystic. He inspired me to fall in love with Baileik20 of 21 people found the following review helpful. Illuminating By Kerry Walters Too frequently in this day and age, when the word "mysticism" is used, what comes to mind is either New Age razzamatazz or Christian unitive experiences such as those described by John of the Cross or Theresa of Avila. The first trivializes mysticism, the second reduces it to but one kind of experience. In either case, a long, hallowed, and cross-cultural relationship with God is distorted. Joseph Dan's new anthology on Jewish mysticism is a gem. In its 50-page Introduction--which by itself is worth the price of the book--he carefully points out that there's more to mysticism than merely unitive experiences, carefully distinguishes the mystical from the religious (without implying that one is "better" than the other), and explores the relationship between mysticism and language. More specifically, in regards to the Jewish mystical tradition, Dan points out that it's as foolish to identify Kabbalah with Jewish mysticism (a near-ubiquitous confusion) as it is to identify Sufism with Islamic mystical experience. Different historical periods and different temperaments have given rise to a variety of Jewish mystical approaches. The virtue of this excellent anthology is to allow these different voices to speak. Dan offers selections in chronological order, ranging from the earliest Temple writings through the medieval Zohar to modern Hasidism to contemporary Israeli poetry-mysticism. A beautiful, revelatory book, both for those who know nothing about the Jewish mystical tradition and for those looking for a convenient compendium. Enthusiastically recommended.

Joseph Dan is one of the world's leading authorities on Jewish mysticism. In this superb anthology, Dan not only presents illuminating excerpts from the most important mystical texts, but also delves into the very meaning of mysticism itself. Dan takes readers through the historical development of Jewish mysticism, from late antiquity to the modern period. He explores the Kabbalah, the esoteric tradition that delves into the secrets delivered by God to Moses on Mount Sinai, the emergence of Hasidism, and much more. He presents the great texts, from Hekhalot Rabbati, "The Greater Book of Divine Palaces," set in the temple in Jerusalem; to the apocalyptic vision of Abraham Abulafia in the thirteenth century; to the Zohar, perhaps the best-known volume of all. For each piece, he offers an extended introduction that deftly places the work in the context of its time and its antecedents. "Mysticism is that which cannot be expressed in words, period," Dan writes. In this remarkable volume, he guides us through that seemingly impenetrable barrier to show how the inexpressible has been expressed in some of the most profound and challenging writing in existence.