



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

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

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

Joseph Dan is one of the worlds 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 bestknown 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.



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