

Gershom Scholem: Master of the Kabbalah | Jewish Lives

Gershom Scholem was one of the most influential scholars of Jewish mysticism in the 20th century. His work on the Kabbalah, the Jewish mystical tradition, revolutionized our understanding of this complex and fascinating subject.



Gershom Scholem: Master of the Kabbalah (Jewish Lives) by Andrew Larocci

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

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Scholem was born in Berlin in 1897. He studied at the University of Berlin, where he was a student of the philosopher Martin Heidegger. Scholem's early work was on the history of Jewish philosophy, but he soon turned his attention to the Kabbalah. He published his first major work on the Kabbalah, *Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism*, in 1941.

Scholem's work on the Kabbalah was groundbreaking. He showed that the Kabbalah was not a monolithic tradition, but rather a complex and evolving body of thought. He also demonstrated the Kabbalah's influence on other

areas of Jewish thought and culture, such as Hasidism and modern Jewish literature.

Scholem's work had a profound impact on the study of Jewish mysticism. He is considered one of the founders of the modern academic study of the Kabbalah. His work has also been influential in other fields, such as religious studies, philosophy, and literature.

Scholem died in Jerusalem in 1982. He left behind a legacy of scholarship that continues to inspire and inform scholars and students of Jewish mysticism today.

The Kabbalah

The Kabbalah is a Jewish mystical tradition that emerged in the 12th century. It is based on the belief that there is a hidden dimension to reality that can be accessed through meditation and other spiritual practices.

The Kabbalah is a complex and multifaceted tradition. It has its own unique cosmology, angelology, and demonology. It also has its own set of mystical texts, such as the *Zohar* and the *Bahir*.

The Kabbalah has been influential in Jewish thought and culture for centuries. It has inspired artists, writers, and musicians. It has also been used by rabbis and other religious leaders to explain the meaning of the Torah and the Talmud.

Gershom Scholem and the Kabbalah

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Gershom Scholem was a brilliant scholar who made a major contribution to our understanding of the Kabbalah. His work is essential reading for anyone who is interested in Jewish mysticism.

I highly recommend Scholem's book, *Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism*, to anyone who is interested in learning more about the Kabbalah. This book is a classic work of scholarship that has had a profound impact on the study of Jewish mysticism.



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