

# Contents

## **Introduction — 1**

- A The Study of Mystical Techniques in Jewish Mysticism — 1
- B The Study of Imagery Techniques — 5

## **Section I: Imaginative Models**

### **Chapter One: Models of Imagination — 17**

- A Models of Imagination in Western Philosophy — 18
- B Models of Imagination in Jewish Thought — 23
  - R. Judah Halevi — 26
  - Maimonides — 31
  - R. Naḥman of Bratslav — 41
- C Conclusion — 47

## **Section II: Parameters for Mystical Praxis**

### **Chapter Two: Empowerment — 53**

- A Defining the Concept “Mysticism” — 53
- B Empowerment — 61

### **Chapter Three: Prophecy, Ecstasy, and Mysticism — 67**

- A Two Models of Prophecy — 67
  - The Notion of Biblical Prophecy in Rabbinic Literature — 75
  - Biblical Prophecy through the Prism of Prophetic Kabbalah — 78
  - Prophecy in the New Testament and Medieval Christian Theology — 79
  - The Limitation and Expansion of Prophecy in Medieval Jewish Rationalist Thought — 81
- B Kalonymous Kalman Shapira’s Conception of Prophecy: A Third Model — 83
  - The Twentieth-Century Quest to Renew Prophecy in the Teachings of Shapira — 90
  - Shapira’s Attempts to Actualize Prophecy in the Twentieth Century — 93
- C Conclusion — 95

## **Section III: Imagery Techniques**

### **Chapter Four: Imagination as an Empowering Factor in R. Kalonymous Kalman Shapira's Thought — 99**

- A Introduction: Imagination in R. Kalonymous Kalman Shapira's Thought — 99**
  - Biographical Introduction — 99**
  - R. Kalonymous Kalman Shapira's Books — 102**
  - Maḥshavah (Thought), Imagination, and Visualization in R. Kalonymous Kalman Shapira's Teaching — 103**
  - R. Kalonymous Kalman Shapira's Imagery Techniques and His Imaginal-Literary Style — 107**
- B Imagination as an Empowering Factor of Anomian Experiences — 116**
  - Dance and Imagery — 117**
  - Melody and Imagination — 126**
  - Hitbodedut and Imagination — 133**
  - Speaking Out Loud and Imagination — 137**
  - Writing and Imagination — 140**
  - Conclusion — 142**
- C Imagination as an Empowering Factor in Nomian Experiences — 142**
  - Introduction — 142**
  - Torah — 145**
  - Intensification of Biblical Stories — 146**
  - Prayer — 149**
- D Imagination as Empowering the Experience of Sacred Time: Sabbath and Festivals — 156**
  - Introduction — 156**
  - Sabbath — 160**
  - Passover — 165**
  - Hanukkah — 167**
- E Imagination as Empowering Emotions — 170**
  - The Imagination as a Self-Empowering Factor — 170**
  - Visualizing Distress and Worry as Intensifying Factors for Seeking God — 173**
  - Visualizing the Day of Death — 176**
  - Spiritual and Theurgical Worry — 183**
  - The Imagination as an Intensifying Factor of Self-Sacrifice Experiences — 186**
- F Conclusion — 189**

- G Addendum – *Ṣaddiq* Imagery Techniques: “One Longing to Seek God’s Face” — 191
  - The *Ṣaddiq*’s Status in Shapira’s Thought — 191
  - Visualizing the *Ṣaddiq* — 194

## **Chapter Five: Imagination as a Prophetic Factor: The Yearning for Prophecy in the Twentieth Century — 198**

- A Preface — 198
- B Prophetic Imagination in the Teachings of R. Zadok ha-Kohen of Lublin and R. Abraham Isaac ha-Kohen Kook — 200
- C Imagination and Prophecy in R. Kalonymous Kalman Shapira’s Thought — 209
  - Nefesh Geluyah* (A Revealed Soul) — 209
  - Gilui ha-Nefesh (Revelation of the Soul) and Prophecy — 211
  - Prophecy and Imagination — 213
  - Imagination as a Technique for Illustrating God — 219
  - The Visualization of God and Corporealization in Shapira’s Thought — 226
  - Heavenly Imagery Techniques: Imaginal Substitutions — 232
  - “To Visualize the Holy Name”: Outflanking Imagination – Imagination within Imagination — 234
  - Visualizing God’s Name as a Technique for the Acquisition of Prophecy — 239
- D The Silencing Technique — 241
- E Categorization of Imagery Techniques — 244
- F Conclusion — 248

## **Chapter Six: A War of Imaginations: Imagery Techniques in R. Menaḥem Ekstein’s Teachings — 250**

- A Biographical Introduction — 250
- B The Book and Its Sources — 259
- C The Bifurcated Soul and Self-Awareness — 262
- D Self-Awareness and Imagination — 266
- E War of Imaginations — 267
- F Integration (Hitkallelut) — 275
- G Ecstasy and Amazement — 281
  - The Sublime — 281
  - The Sublime and the Sense of Astonishment — 284
  - The Sublime and the Imagination in Ekstein’s Teachings — 288

- H *Rašo va-Shov* (Running and Returning): Numerous Scenes and Their Successive Progression — 294**
- I The Technique of “Negative Commandments” (Lav) — 300**
- J Autoscopy and Self-Visualization in Menaḥem Mendel Ekstein’s Teachings — 302**
  - Autoscopic Phenomena — 302**
  - Neurocognitive Models of Autoscopic Phenomena — 305**
  - Autoscopy in Ekstein’s Teachings — 308**
  - The Heautoscopy Model and Its Characterization in Ekstein’s Imaginal Self-Visualization Techniques — 310**
- K Between Kalonymous Kalman Shapira and Menaḥem Ekstein — 311**
- L Imagery Techniques in Twentieth Century Hasidism — 314**

**Chapter Seven: War of the “Senses:” Imagination in the Musar Movement — 318**

- A Introduction — 318**
- B The Conception of Imagination in Israel Lipkin of Salant’s Teaching — 321**
- C Ecstasy and the Battle of the Senses: The Development of the Imagination in the Musar Movement — 324**
- D Between the Musar Movement and Hasidism — 340**
- E Conclusion — 340**

**Section IV: Adventures of Ideas: West and East**

**Introduction: Similar Thought Patterns — 345**

**Chapter Eight: “My Heart is in the East and I am at the Ends of the West”: Imagery Techniques in Light of the West — 348**

- A Imagery Techniques in Light of Mesmerism and the Unconscious — 348**
  - Franz Mesmer: His Life, Thought and Influence — 348**
  - Mesmerism and the Jewish World — 354**
  - Menaḥem Ekstein, Mesmerism, and Imaginative Technique — 359**
  - Imagery Techniques and Modern Psychology — 363**
  - Vienna: Authority and Mysticism — 367**
  - Vienna: The Meeting Place of Hasidic Psychology and Western Psychology — 370**

- B Transformation of Traditional Concepts into Modern Concepts and the Translation of Kabbalah into Psychological Terminology — 373**
- C The Unconscious and the Occult — 380**
- D The Idea of the Unconscious in the Musar Movement — 387**

**Chapter Nine: “A Voice Calls from the East:” Imagery Techniques in Light of the East — 396**

**Afterword — 406**

**Bibliography — 408**

Primary Rabbinic, Kabbalistic, Hasidic Sources — **408**

Philosophical and Secondary Sources — **413**

**Index of Persons — 439**

**Subject Index — 442**