

Weiss, Judith (trans). על איחוד הטבע והחסד (*On the Conciliation of Nature and Grace: A Latin Translation and Commentary on the Zohar by Guillaume Postel (1510-1581)*), Jerusalem: Hebrew University Magnes Press, 2017. 373 pp. \$33.00. (9789657759288).

Postel, a French orientalist, mathematician, and mystic visionary, was unique among Christian Hebraists. While the 16th century is marked by Christian interest in Jewish mysticism, all these Christian Hebraists understood the importance of learning biblical and rabbinic Hebrew in their search for the meaning of the Hebrew Bible. Many of these Christian Hebraists had immense respect for Hebraic learning and were defenders of Hebrew books.

In 1547, in Venice, Guillaume Postel, purchased a Zohar manuscript from Daniel Bomberg. That copy was the one he studied together with Mother Johanna and the one he used as the source for his Latin translation of this treatise. Judith Weiss' work makes a most positive contribution to the scholarly treatment of Postel's work by focusing on Postel's commentaries on the Zohar, which are presented in the original Latin together with her Hebrew translation. Weiss also provides introductions and notes, elucidating Postel's unique perception of the Zohar and the mysticism. Postel's Latin translation and commentary on the Zohar is within the context of his elaborate messianic theological understanding which he based on his interpretation of Kabbalistic concepts. Postel produced the first comprehensive though not complete Latin translation of the Zohar. Weiss had done an excellent job in bringing this work to the attention of the scholarly community. Highly recommended for all academic libraries, particularly classicist and theological collections.

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