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Loving and Beloved Jewish Literatures in Spanish and
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*Simcha Raz recounts the tales and the Torah of Rabbi
Levi Yitzhak of Berdichev, the most fierce advocate the
Jewish people has ever known. The Disputation of
Barcelona (July 20-24, 1263) was a formal ordered
medieval debate between representatives of Christianity*

and Judaism regarding whether or not Jesus was the Messiah. It was held at the royal palace of King James I of Aragon in the presence of the King, his court, and many prominent ecclesiastical dignitaries and knights, between Dominican Friar Pablo Christiani, a convert from Judaism to Christianity, and Rabbi Nahmanides (Moshe Ben Nachman, Ramban), a leading medieval Jewish scholar, philosopher, physician, kabbalist, and biblical commentator. During the Middle Ages, there were numerous ordered disputations between Christians and Jews. They were connected with burnings of the Talmud at the stake and violence against Jews. At Barcelona, Jews as well as Christians were given absolute freedom to speak their arguments how they wanted, making this unique among disputations. This is the story of Rabbi Levi A. Olan, a prominent liberal mind in American Reform Judaism from the decades of the 1930s through the 1970s, who spoke out on the issues of the day, while struggling to correct the dilemmas that society was inflicting upon its less fortunate members. "One of the greatest religious biographies ever written." – Dennis Prager In this enlightening biography, Joseph Telushkin offers a captivating portrait of the late Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, a towering figure who saw beyond conventional boundaries to turn his movement, Chabad-Lubavitch, into one of the most dynamic and widespread organizations ever seen in the Jewish world. At once an incisive work of history and a compendium of Rabbi Schneerson's teachings, *Rebbe* is the definitive guide to understanding one of the most vital, intriguing figures of the last centuries. From his modest headquarters in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, the Rebbe advised some of the world's greatest leaders and shaped matters of state and society. Statesmen and artists as diverse as Ronald Reagan, Robert F. Kennedy, Yitzchak Rabin, Menachem Begin, Elie Wiesel, and Bob Dylan span the spectrum of those who sought his counsel. *Rebbe* explores

Schneerson's overarching philosophies against the backdrop of treacherous history, revealing his clandestine operations to rescue and sustain Jews in the Soviet Union, and his critical role in the expansion of the food stamp program throughout the United States. More broadly, it examines how he became in effect an ambassador for Jews globally, and how he came to be viewed by many as not only a spiritual archetype but a savior. Telushkin also delves deep into the more controversial aspects of the Rebbe's leadership, analyzing his views on modern science and territorial compromise in Israel, and how in the last years of his life, many of his followers believed that he would soon be revealed as the Messiah, a source of contention until this day. Pocket size: has Bircas HaMazon, Sheva Berachos, Tefillas HaDerech, and the Bedtime Shema. Embark on a path of teshuvah... ????, a path toward greater self-actualization, joy, and faith is one that brings us closer to the source of light within, our neshamah, our soul. With every step of this journey, we uncover more and more of who we are and what we can be. ????, on this path, we discover the great treasures that lie within: our abilities, potential, strengths, and essential holiness. ????, with Reb Zusha of Anipoli... The beloved tzaddik Reb Zusha was an embodiment of unassuming righteousness, sincerity, and down-to-earth holiness, who revealed a derech of teshuvah – a systematic path of “return.” Rooted in positivity, Reb Zusha’s real-world advice empowers us to advance personally and spiritually. This road map is not merely instruction in “how to do teshuvah” but heartfelt and valuable guidance for living consciously in the Presence of Hashem in every area of our lives. Replete with powerful stories and illuminating, practical wisdom of the tzaddikim, Baderech is a vital companion for spiritual “travelers” at every stage, yearning to uncover their own path toward teshuvah. For five decades

prior to his death in 1993, Rabbi Joseph Dov Soloveitchik was the unchallenged leader of modern Orthodox Judaism in the United States. His understanding of both traditional Judaism and secular philosophy shaped two generations of rabbinic students at Yeshiva University, and charted a new course for American Orthodox Jews. In *On Repentance*, noted scholar Pinchas Peli has gathered the major points of Rabbi Soloveitchik's teachings on teshuvah (repentance), based on the annual series of lectures on the theme of teshuvah, presented on the anniversary of his father's death. For many Jews, these lectures were the major academic and intellectual event of the year. Outside of his followers however, few were able to experience the genius of Rabbi Soloveitchik. He gave his lectures in Yiddish, and generally refused to publish. Now readers can experience the brilliant thinking of this great teacher and sage. Rabbi Eliezer Berland has been teaching from the wellsprings of Rebbe Nachman of Breslov's Torah for well over 40 years. This compendium of advice was put together from a number of his classes based on Rebbe Nachman's works, particularly the *Likutey Moharan*. In these pages, you will find concise advice on all aspects of life, from happiness through to achieving a good marriage, overcoming anxiety, raising happy, holy children and the right approach to take towards earning a living, as well as many other topics. Identity, family, and community unite three autobiographical texts by New World crypto-Jews, or descendants of Jews who were forced to convert to Christianity in 17th-century Iberia and Spanish America. Ronnie Perelis presents the fascinating stories of three men who were caught within the matrix of inquisitorial persecution, expanding global trade, and the network of crypto-Jewish activity. Each text, reflects the unique experiences of the author and illuminates their shared, deeply rooted attachment to Iberian culture, their Atlantic peregrinations, and

their hunger for spiritual enlightenment. Through these writings, Perelis focuses on the social history of transatlantic travel, the economies of trade that linked Europe to the Americas, and the physical and spiritual journeys that injected broader religious and cultural concerns into this complex historical moment. This volume addresses key conceptual issues and case studies dealing with contemporary Jewish identities amidst globalization processes, with special emphasis on Latin American socio-political, communal, and cultural milieu. The book brings together a variety of disciplinary and theoretical approaches that range from political science to sociology and from art and literature to demography in order to offer the reader a multidimensional and multifocal analysis of the diverse constitutional elements of the Jewish experience. Using as its point of departure the wide horizon of historical trajectories and current challenges, the articles analyze the transnational, regional and local processes that inform the different Jewish Diasporas and Israel. Simultaneously, its content provides a snapshot of the current state of research on collective identity building processes and a lively analysis of the challenges posed by cultural diversity and primordial and civic belongings in the framework of political transitions, as well as new and old forms of expressing through cultural creativity individual and collective identities. This volume is also available in paperback. *Las Escrituras Mesiánicas desde el contexto hebreo desde Bereshit-Genesis hast Hazión-Revelaciones completamente en Español.* Un libro duradero de 1680 paginas cover de imitación de cuero, letra grande leible. *Platforms and Prayer Books* is a remarkable collection of essays that illustrates the Reform Jewish theological enterprise at work. Through lively discussions on theological and liturgical topics, noted scholars and rabbis trace the evolution of Reform Judaism, presenting innovative

approaches and creative interpretations. Visit our website for sample chapters! How have Jews reshaped their identities as Jews in the face of the radical newness called America? Julian Levinson explores the ways in which exposure to American literary culture -- in particular the visionary tradition identified with Ralph Waldo Emerson and Walt Whitman -- led American Jewish writers to a new understanding of themselves as Jews. Discussing the lives and work of writers such as Emma Lazarus, Mary Antin, Ludwig Lewisohn, Waldo Frank, Anzia Yezierska, I. J. Schwartz, Alfred Kazin, and Irving Howe, Levinson concludes that their interaction with American culture led them to improvise new and meaningful ways of being Jewish. In contrast to the often expressed view that the diaspora experience leads to assimilation, *Exiles on Main Street* traces an arc of return to Jewish identification and describes a vital and creative Jewish American literary culture. The first scholarly biography of Levi Yitshak of Berdychiv in English in over thirty-five years. *Defender of the Faithful* explores the life and thought of Levi Yitshak of Berdychiv (1740-1809), one of the most fascinating and colorful Hasidic leaders of his time. It is an intellectual and religious biography, a reading of the development of his thought and career. Featuring examples of Levi Yitshak's extraordinary texts alongside insightful analysis by scholar Arthur Green, *Defender of the Faithful* is a compelling study of both Levi Yitshak's theology and broader philosophy. "Community, Covenant and Commitment, edited by Nathaniel Helfgot, brings to light unpublished manuscripts and material of Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik, the foremost Orthodox Jewish thinker of the 20th century. It includes close to eighty letters and communications, most never published before, on a wide range of communal, political and theological issues that confronted American Jewry in the twentieth century, including Communal and Public Policy

Issues; Academic and Educational Issues; Orthodoxy, the Synagogue and the American Jewish Community; Religious Zionism and the State of Israel; Interreligious Affairs; and Torah, Philosophical and Personal Insights.

*Considers the question "Who is a Jew?"— a critical rhetorical issue with far-reaching consequences for Jews and non-Jews alike Hatzaad Harishon ("The First Step") was a New York-based, multiracial Jewish organization that worked to increase recognition and legitimacy for Black Jews in the sixties and seventies. In *Stepping into Zion*, Janice W. Fernheimer examines the history and archives of Hatzaad Harishon to illuminate the shifting definitions and borders of Jewish identity, which have critical relevance to Jews of all traditions as well as to non-Jews. Fernheimer focuses on a period when Jewish identity was in flux and deeply influenced by the Civil Rights and Black Power movements. In 1964, white and Black Jews formed Hatzaad Harishon to foster interaction and unity between Black and white Jewish communities. They raised the question of who or what constitutes Jewishness or Jewish identity, and in searching for an answer succeeded—both historically and rhetorically—in gaining increased recognition for Black Jews. Fernheimer traces how, despite deep disagreement over definitions, members of Hatzaad Harishon were able to create common ground in a process she terms "interruptive invention": an incremental model for rhetorical success that allows different groups to begin and continue important but difficult discussions when they share little common ground or make unequal claims to institutional and discursive power, or when the nature of common ground is precisely what is at stake. Consequently, they provide a practical way out of the seemingly incommensurable stalemate incompatible worldviews present. Through insightful interpretations of Hatzaad Harishon's archival materials, Fernheimer chronicles the group's successes and failures within the larger rhetorical*

history of conflicts that emerge when cultural identities shift or expand. *A Travel Guide to the Jewish Caribbean and South America* is a tremendous work encompassing history, culture, and modern travel to some of the most important sites in these places. This is a practical, anecdotal, and adventurous journey including kosher restaurants, cafes, synagogues, and museums, plus cultural and heritage sites. Though many understand American Jewish history as beginning with the East European mass immigration of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Jews in the Americas planted roots as early as 1654, when twenty-three Jews fleeing the Inquisition arrived in New Amsterdam. While the European roots of American Jews are often explored, less discussed are the still-vibrant Jewish communities throughout the Caribbean and Latin America. Explored here are the oldest surviving synagogue in the Western Hemisphere, Mikve Israel in Curaçao; the largest Jewish community in the Caribbean, in Puerto Rico; the three synagogues in Havana, Cuba; the Israeli cafe in Cuzco, Peru, near the historic Inca site, Machu Picchu; and other Jewish sites from Buenos Aires to Mexico City. Also included are general travel information and tips. "In Search Of Holiness" is based upon a selection of articles from the extensive writings of the late Rabbi Ephraim Levy Gastwirth - communal leader, educator and philosopher. His deep insight, knowledge and reflective style provides an unusual perspective on twentieth century Anglo-Jewry. Sir Jonathan Sacks, Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of Great Britain the Commonwealth comments: "Rabbi Ephraim Gastwirth was one of the great teachers of Anglo Jewry. "In Search Of Holiness" is how he lived his days ... fulfilling the teachings of the Torah. Its words were constantly on his lips and because he loved them, he inspired that love in those he taught." Dayan Chanoch Ehrentrau, Rosh Bet Din, London comments: "Rabbi Ephraim Gastwirth was a Torah

personality ... who came to grips with the problems of his time. He pierced the superficialities of everyday concerns to reach endless individuals, assisting them to achieve high standards of holiness in their lives." This volume offers a thorough introduction to Jewish world literatures in Spanish and Portuguese, which not only addresses the coexistence of cultures, but also the functions of a literary and linguistic space of negotiation in this context. From the Middle Ages to present day, the compendium explores the main Jewish chapters within Spanish- and Portuguese-language world literature, whether from Europe, Latin America, or other parts of the world. No comprehensive survey of this area has been undertaken so far. Yet only a broad focus of this kind can show how diasporic Jewish literatures have been (and are) - while closely tied to their own traditions - deeply intertwined with local and global literary developments; and how the aesthetic praxis they introduced played a decisive, formative role in the history of literature. With this epistemic claim, the volume aims at steering clear of isolationist approaches to Jewish literatures. This book tells the story of the formation of classical Judaism and orthodox Christianity as parallel yet interlocking histories. Here, in a series of chapters written by leading scholars in this country and in Israel, the reader is offered a general account of how, during the first six centuries of the Common Era, Judaism and Christianity took the form we recognize today. Covenant and the Jewish Conversion Question reevaluates conversion and Jewish identity through the lens of Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik's dual conception of the Covenants of Fate and Destiny. By studying an array of key rabbinic texts through this lens, the book explores the boundaries and interplay between these biblical covenants through apostasy, holiness and the key elements relating to conversion law. This understanding provides a relevant framing

device to deal with the conversion and Jewish identity crises faced in the State of Israel and beyond. This inspirational book features the insights of top scholars, professionals, politicians, authors, and community and religious leaders covering the entire denominational spectrum of Jewish life in America today. Since the late 1700s, when the Jewish community ceased to be a semiautonomous political unit in Western Europe and the United States and individual Jews became integrated—culturally, socially, and politically—into broader society, questions surrounding Jewish status and identity have occupied a prominent and contentious place in Jewish legal discourse. This book examines a wide array of legal opinions written by nineteenth- and twentieth-century orthodox rabbis in Europe, the United States, and Israel. It argues that these rabbis' divergent positions—based on the same legal precedents—demonstrate that they were doing more than delivering legal opinions. Instead, they were crafting public policy for Jewish society in response to Jews' social and political interactions as equals with the non-Jewish persons in whose midst they dwelled. Pledges of Jewish Allegiance prefaces its analysis of modern opinions with a discussion of the classical Jewish sources upon which they draw. Find inspiration for a satisfying spiritual life of practice through the combination of contemporary mindfulness meditation and classical Hasidic spirituality. The soul yearns to feel connected to something greater and to know happiness despite personal suffering and seemingly endless need. Surprisingly, the perspectives of the late eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Hasidic spiritual teachers offer a radically different Jewish theology that speaks directly to today's spiritual seekers whose faith has been shattered by both modernity and the Holocaust. These masters taught of interdependence, interconnectedness, selflessness, service and joy,

anticipating the insights of contemporary science and twenty-first-century spirituality. Bringing together the teachings of beloved Hasidic master Rabbi Levi Yitzhak of Berdichev (1740–1809) and the practice of mindfulness meditation, Rabbi Jonathan P. Slater reveals a new entrance into Jewish spiritual life. Covering the Five Books of Moses, these two volumes present accessible translations of selections from *Kedushat Levi*, R. Levi Yitzhak's Hasidic Torah commentary, which emphasizes our spiritual capacity to transform consciousness and so our life experience. The selections are paired with Rabbi Slater's commentaries to illuminate their message.

In 1638, a small book of no more than 92 pages in octavo was published “*appresso Gioanne Calleoni*” under the title “*Discourse on the State of the Jews and in particular those dwelling in the illustrious city of Venice.*” It was dedicated to the Doge of Venice and his counsellors, who are labelled “*lovers of Truth.*” The author of the book was a certain Simone (Sim?a) Luzzatto, a native of Venice, where he lived and died, serving as rabbi for over fifty years during the course of the seventeenth century. Luzzatto's political thesis is simple and, at the same time, temerarious, if not revolutionary: Venice can put an end to its political decline, he argues, by offering the Jews a monopoly on overseas commercial activity. This plan is highly recommendable because the Jews are “*wellsuited for trade,*” much more so than others (such as “*foreigners,*” for example). The rabbi opens his argument by recalling that trade and usury are the only occupations permitted to Jews. Within the confines of their historical situation, the Venetian Jews became particularly skilled at trade with partners from the Eastern Mediterranean countries. Luzzatto's argument is that this talent could be put at the service of the Venetian government in order to maintain - or, more accurately, recover - its political importance as an intermediary between East and

West. He was the first to define the role of the Jews on the basis of their economic and social functions, disregarding the classic categorisation of Judaism's alleged privileged religious status in world history. Nonetheless, going beyond the socio-economic arguments of the book, it is essential to point out Luzzatto's resort to sceptical strategies in order to plead in defence of the Venetian Jews. It is precisely his philosophical and political scepticism that makes Luzzatto's texts so unique. This edition aims to grant access to his works and thought to English-speaking readers and scholars. By approaching his texts from this point of view, the editors hope to open a new path in research into Jewish culture and philosophy that will enable other scholars to develop new directions and new perspectives, stressing the interpenetration between Jews and the surrounding Christian and secular cultures. The collection consists of an illuminated book presented to Rabbi Levy when he left the First Hebrew Congregation (Temple Sinai) of Oakland; the book was signed by D. Magnes. Beginning in late 1964, after the passing of his mother, Rebbetzin Chana, the Rebbe began dedicating a segment of his weekly Shabbat public gatherings to the study of Rashi's classic biblical commentary. What soon emerged was an innovative method for both the study and analysis of the Bible's pre-eminent commentator, and Bible study itself. These talks continued for more than twenty-five years. The publication of *Studies in Rashi* aims to open this unique dimension of the Rebbe's scholarship to the ever-growing numbers of English speaking students aspiring to serious textual study. The essays were translated by Rabbi Y. Eliezer Danzinger, and are fully annotated in Hebrew and English. The volume is further enhanced with a detailed bibliography and comprehensive index.

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