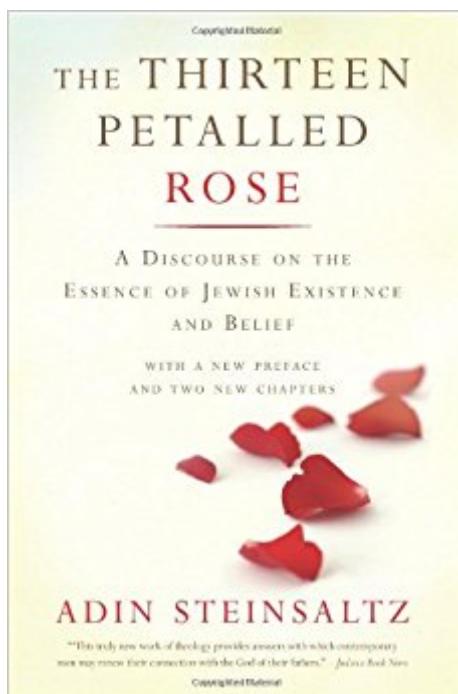


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The Thirteen Petalled Rose: A Discourse On The Essence Of Jewish Existence And Belief



Synopsis

From Madonna's music videos to the glossy pages of celebrity magazines and back to the Lower East Side of Manhattan, Jewish mysticism has stepped into the modern consciousness like never before. In this classic work, world-renowned scholar Adin Steinsaltz answers the major questions asked by modern Jews about the nature of existence in God's universe. The title The Thirteen Petalled Rose is taken from the opening of the classic Jewish text on mysticism, the Zohar, and refers to the "collective souls of the Jewish people," which scholars have likened to the fullness of a rose and its thirteen petals. Along with a new preface by the author, this edition contains a new chapter on prayer that provides the most up-to-date account of the Kabbalistic view of devotion. Another new chapter recounts and interprets the prophet Elijah's Introduction to the Zohar. "Steinsaltz possesses a mind of the quality that occurs perhaps once or twice in a generation, or several generations.... In [The Thirteen Petalled Rose] one can encounter the classical Jewish mystical view of reality, delineated lucidly, concisely, profoundly and, what is so rare, believably. It is an utterly authentic expression of Judaism yet so unknown even among the well-informed and therefore so necessary, so welcome." (Herbert Weiner, Oxford University)

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Customer Reviews

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Text: English, Hebrew (translation) --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz is a Talmudic scholar with a real knack for rendering complex Kabbalistic concepts understandable. Although I have really just begun this study, I recommend his work, among with that of others such as Daniel Matt, to anyone with an interest in Kabbalah. The Thirteen Petalled Rose is a relatively short book of just under 200 pages. Its content is divided into ten sections: Worlds, Divine Manifestation, The Soul Man, Holiness, Torah, The Way of Choice, The Human Image, Repentance, The Search for Oneself, and Mitzvot (commandments). While all of this information was wonderful, I found the author's presentation of the four worlds especially compelling. Traditional Kabbalistic sources describe four known spiritual realms called, from higher to lower, Atzilut (emanation), Beriah (creation), Yetzirah (formation) and Assiyah (action). Steinsaltz expands on these traditional divisions quite clearly noting that there are many levels within each of the known spiritual realms as well as other lower realms not thought of as part of the four worlds as listed above. Steinsaltz begins with our world, the world of action, explaining that this observed world is a part of a vast array of worlds, most of which are spiritual. He points out that these worlds do not exist somewhere else but in another dimension and describes a dynamic relationship between worlds with a very real exchange of influence occurring. He stresses that occurrences in our world impact on other worlds and can affect significant change in the spiritual realms. I could not agree more. The author works through each of the spiritual dimensions in highly coherent way explaining concepts and terminology in original and insightful ways. He explains, 'higher' and 'lower' worlds (for example) in terms of 'nearer' and 'farther' or degrees of 'transparency' to the divine light. And tells us that, as one descends through the worlds materiality becomes greater and a sense of independence is felt with an ever increasing intensity. This blocks the divine light and obscures, per the author, the unchanging essence that lurks beneath the personality. I find Steinsaltz's understanding of divinity, angels, humans and the reality we inhabit impressive. I imagine a reality of not four but almost innumerable levels with good deeds and sacred actions radiating upward and outward, expanding and elevating, and ultimately touching the divinity to which we are all connected. I feel that I have come away from this reading with a clearer understanding of the nature of spiritual beings and the very fundamental differences between angels and man. Additionally I found the text validating on a personal level as it is my deep-seated belief that there are many largely imperceptible dimensions beyond our own limited understanding of what is. I could not recommend this book more highly! You may read the complete review of this wonderful book and others on my blog @ MysticalLiving.com

I find this book to be a little wordy. I also felt that Rabbi Steinsaltz's paraphrasing is a bit over the top. The context is very interesting and leaves the reader wanting to read more. It is hard to put the book down. I would highly recommend this book to those interested in Torah, Kabbala and Talmud / Mishnah

I became interested in this book after reading "On the Road with Rabbi Steinsalz". That book was a compilation of conversations the author had with the rabbi.. easily accessible ideas, philosophies and entertaining, too. The Thirteen Petalled Rose is an insightful book, a discourse on the deep meaning of spiritual concepts esp. in regards to the Kabala, Torah, and such. However, everyone will be able to identify, understand and relate to the concepts presented. They make sense. They relate to many of the other spiritual discourses I've read, as well as other religions.

This book reveals the deepest dialogues between a man and G-d. Only someone with an impeccable commitment to honesty is capable of detecting and translating into words the knowledge transmitted to him by The Source in moments of silence. Reading this book reminds us readers that we all are an essential part of the Universe. This is not a book. It's a gift.

I used to own this book and I guess I lent it to someone. I consider it a reference part of my library. Rabbi Steinsaltz is incredible at explaining Kabbalah to the lay person! He is an allui!

I first read " The Thirteen Petaled Rose" about 5 years ago and have re-read it many times. It is one of my favorite books and reveals a little more wisdom and insight with each reading. Rabbi Adin Even Israel Steinsaltz's wisdom and brilliance is staggering. He is somehow able to take us mere mortals on a journey where we can absorb and resonate with his profound insights and knowledge, offering a glimpse into the meaning of holiness, whereby we too are elevated from wherever we began on our spiritual journey. What i love best about this book is that is written from the perspective of "Ahava, Love" and you will feel that you are experiencing something lovely and profound. Thank you Rabbi Steinsaltz for sharing your teaching with us. I would also recommend any of the Rabbi's other books, they are wonderfully insightful. As for the Thirteen Petalled Rose...this book will give you wings.

Five Stars What more can I say? Read it !!! Learn it !!! Know it !!! Practice it !!! Moshiach is coming !!!!!!

This was the book that made me believe my intuitions were correct about the world and existence because another shared my belief. The position taken from a modern glance at an ancient source of wisdom is mysticism at its finest. I'm proud to share my thoughts on this book, as I am proud of several of his other works (including his works with Talmud).

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