

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910812117003321
Autore	Arbel Vita Daphna
Titolo	Beholders of divine secrets [[electronic resource] ] : mysticism and myth in the Hekhalot and merkavah literature / / Vita Daphna Arbel
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Albany, N.Y., : State University of New York Press, c2003
ISBN	0-7914-8685-0 1-4175-3741-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (263 p.)
Disciplina	296.7/12
Soggetti	Mysticism - Judaism Hekhalot literature - History and criticism Merkava Jewish mythology
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Based on a doctoral thesis submitted to the Hebrew University, Jerusalem in 1997.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 211-235) and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Front Matter -- Contents -- Preface -- Abbreviations -- Introduction -- The Hekhalot and Merkavah Literature and its Mystical Tradition -- Hekhalot and Merkavah Mysticism -- Mythical Language of Hekhalot and Merkavah Mysticism -- Mystical Journeys in Mythological Language -- The Concept of God -- Literary, Phenomenological, Cultural, and Social Implications -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index of Passages Discussed -- Index of Authors -- General Index
Sommario/riassunto	Beholders of Divine Secrets provides a fascinating exploration of the enigmatic Hekhalot and Merkavah literature, the Jewish mystical writings of late antiquity. Vita Daphna Arbel delves into the unique nature of the mystical teachings, experiences, revelations, and spiritual exegesis presented in this literature. While previous scholarship has demonstrated the connection between Hekhalot and Merkavah mysticism and parallel traditions in Rabbinical writings, the Dead Sea Scrolls, apocalyptic, early Christian, and Gnostic sources, this work points out additional mythological traditions that resonate in this literature. Arbel suggests that mythological patterns of expression, as well as themes and models rooted in Near Eastern mythological

traditions are employed, in a spiritualized fashion, to communicate mystical content. The possible cultural and social context of the Hekhalot and Merkavah mysticism and its composers is discussed.

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