

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910818916403321
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Titolo	Ascensions on high in Jewish mysticism : pillars, lines, ladders // Moshe Idel
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Budapest ; ; New York, : Central European University Press, 2005
ISBN	978-615-5053-78-8 9786155053788 978-6-15505-378-8 615-5053-78-2 1-281-26859-3 9786611268596 1-4175-7454-2
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (259 p.)
Collana	Pasts incorporated ; ; v. 2
Disciplina	296.7/1
Soggetti	Cabala - History Ascension of the soul Columns - Religious aspects - Judaism Mysticism - Judaism Hasidism
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	On diverse forms of living ascent on high in Jewish sources -- On cosmic pillars in Jewish sources -- The eschatological pillar of the souls in zoharic literature -- Psychanodia and metamorphoses of pillars in eighteenth-century Hasidism -- The neoplatonic path for dead souls : medieval philosophy, Kabbalah and renaissance.
Sommario/riassunto	Ascensions on high took many forms in Jewish mysticism and they permeated most of its history from its inception until Hasidism. The book surveys the various categories, with an emphasis on the architectural images of the ascent, like the resort to images of pillars, lines, and ladders. After surveying the variety of scholarly approaches to religion, the author also offers what he proposes as an eclectic approach, and a perspectivist one. The latter recommends to examine

religious phenomena from a variety of perspectives. The author investigates the specific issue of the pillar in Jewish mysticism by comparing it to the archaic resort to pillars recurring in rural societies. Given the fact that the ascent of the soul and pillars constituted the concerns of two main Romanian scholars of religion, Ioan P. Culianu and Mircea Eliade, Idel resorts to their views, and in the Concluding Remarks analyzes the emergence of Eliade's vision of Judaism on the basis of neglected sources.
