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Autore	Idel Moshe <1947->
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Nota di contenuto	Front Matter -- Front Cover -- Half Title Page -- Title Page -- Copyright Page -- Table of Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- Content -- Abulafia's Theory of Language -- The Meaning of the Torah in Abulafia's System -- Exegetical Methods in the Hermeneutical System of Abulafia -- Back Matter -- Transliteration Note -- Abbreviations -- Notes -- Subject Index -- Author Index -- Index of Cited Works -- Back Cover.
Sommario/riassunto	Abraham Abulafia, the founder of the ecstatic Kabbalah, exposed a mysticism that includes a deep interest in language as a universe in itself, to be studied as the philosophers study nature, in order to attain higher knowledge than natural science and speculative philosophy. The status of Hebrew as the natural, intellectual, and primordial language is discussed against the background of the medieval speculations regarding this topic. Abulafia proposed an elaborate hermeneutical system, unique in the whole Kabbalistic literature, for both its systematic exposition and the eccentric exegetical devices it describes. Various versions of this sevenfold system occur in several manuscripts that are collected and analyzed here in detail for the first time. Torah was regarded by Abulafia as the most important text, reflecting the constitution of the intellectual world and being identical with the Active intellect and even to God Himself. On the other hand, Torah was interpreted in Abulafia's Kabbalah as an allegory to the psychological

processes of the mystic, an approach different from the regular Kabbalistic interpretation of this text as a symbolic corpus reflecting the divine intrasefirotic life. Moshe Idel was Centennial Scholar in Residence at the Jewish Theological Seminary. Currently, he is Associate Professor of Jewish Thought at Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

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