



The Book of Formation or Sepher Yetzirah: Attributed to Rabbi Akiba Ben Joseph

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The Sepher Yetzirah or "Book of Formation," although very short, is probably the most important of the Kabbalistic texts. Its secrets were passed on in the Hebrew oral tradition until it was written down in the 2nd century BCE. It lays out the principles of Kabbalistic cosmology and the Tree of Life, how humankind (the microcosm) reflects the Divine (the macrocosm). It also sets forth the Hebrew doctrine of Logos--the creation of the world in numbers, letters, and sound, and therefore is a seminal text for all serious magicians. Stenring has made a word-for-word translation from several texts, choosing only those parts which he believed to be authentic. He reveals the text's secrets in his diagrams, tables, and extensive notes. His "Master Key" to the theoretical and practical Kabala is a diagram of the correspondences between the English and Hebrew alphabets and is not found in other translations of the Sepher Yetzirah. Also unique in this translation is Stenring's assignment of certain tarot cards to the paths on the Tree of Life. Several authors have done this before, but Stenring asserts that he arrived at his correspondences on his own. The introduction by Waite surveys the historical background of the Sepher Yetzirah translations and the import of this foundational Kabbalistic text. R.A. Gilbert's foreword provides background information on Waite's interest and involvement with Stenring's translation.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

R. A. Gilbert's foreword provides background information on Waite's interest and involvement with Stenring's translation.

Knut Stenring was a Swedish Hebrew scholar. He published this work in 1923.

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