

# Contents

## Acknowledgments — IX

## Foreword: A Maimonidean Kabbalist — XI

by Warren Zev Harvey

- I Introduction: Secrecy and Maimonideanism — 1**
  - 1 Esotericism, Disguise, and Camouflage in a Generation of Discontent: Leo Strauss, Mircea Eliade, and Gershom Scholem — 1
  - 2 Maimonides and Jewish Mysticism — 17
  - 3 The Early Maimonideans — 33
  
- II Abraham Abulafia's Studies and Teaching — 46**
  - 4 Abulafia's Studies of Philosophy and Maimonides's *Guide of the Perplexed* — 46
  - 5 Abulafia's Career as a Teacher of Maimonides's *Guide of the Perplexed* — 70
  - 6 Abulafia: Al-Fārābī, Avicenna, and Averroes — 93
  - 7 Abulafia and Rabbi Abraham ibn Ezra's Books — 102
  
- III Persecution and Secrets — 107**
  - 8 Abulafia: The Art of Writing/Teaching and Persecution — 107
  - 9 Was Abulafia a Particularist Kabbalist? — 125
  - 10 The Torah as a Median Entity — 142
  
- IV The Parable of the Pearl and its Interpretations — 159**
  - 11 Maimonides's Parable of the Pearl and Abulafia's *Or ha-Šekhel* — 159
  - 12 Abraham Abulafia's Version of the Pearl Parable — 161
  - 13 Three Different Narratives in Abulafia's Writings — 166
  - 14 A Commentary on the Parable's Contexts — 170
  - 15 The Secret of Languages: "The Best of the Languages" — 177
  - 16 The Secret of the Two Tablets of Stone — 186
  - 17 Changing Nature by Divine Names — 193
  - 18 On Nature and the Divine Choice — 199
  - 19 The Nature of the Son in the Pearl Parable — 208
  - 20 Messianic Valences in Abulafia's Interpretation of the Parable — 213
  - 21 Universalisation, or the Vertical, Psychological Allegory — 217
  - 22 What is the Pearl? — 244
  - 23 Abraham Abulafia: Was He the Possessor of the Pearl? — 254

## **VIII — Contents**

### **V Abulafia's Kabbalah versus other Kabbalists — 257**

- 24 Prophecy and Individuality — 257
- 25 Individual versus Collective Experiences — 268
- 26 “Phylacteries of the Holy One, blessed be He,” and Phylacteries of Man — 280
- 27 Some Methodological Remarks — 291

### **VI Appendices — 310**

- Appendix A: The Hebrew Original of the Parable of the Pearl — 310
- Appendix B: *Or ha-Šekhel* and Rabbi Nathan the Wise — 318
- Appendix C: Abulafia: From Christian Trinities to Noetic Triads or Vice Versa? — 327
- Appendix D: From Patras to Rome: *Annus Mirabilis* 1279/80 — 344
- Appendix E: Abulafia's “The Mystery of Time” or Supra-Temporality? — 358

### **Abbreviations — 365**

### **Bibliography — 366**

- Primary Sources — 366
- Secondary Sources — 368

### **Index of Sources — 405**

### **Index of Names and Places — 420**

### **Subject Index — 423**