

Porat, Oded. ספר ברית המנוחה = *Book of Covenant of Serenity*. Jerusalem: Magnes Press, 2016. 601 pp. \$50.00. (9789657755310). Hebrew.

Berit Menuhah is one of the most cryptic and mystifying works in Jewish mysticism. It contains elaborate names of angels, esoteric interpretations based on the *nikkud* (symbols of Hebrew punctuation), creative acronyms, mythical images and practical magic. First printed in 1648, it is found in a number of manuscripts, which often differ widely from each other and contain unique passages that may or may not have been part of the original work. Oded Porat, an accomplished young Kabbalah scholar, has prepared a critical edition that attempts to present this work in all its complexity. Besides a critical text (including editorial emendations) and textual variants, this new edition includes extensive footnotes that compare the themes and images in the work with similar concepts throughout and beyond the Kabbalistic corpus. The edition is preceded by an extensive introduction that places this work into a historical and phenomenological context.

The breadth of Porat's familiarity with kabbalistic literature, in print and manuscript, and with the huge scholarly literature that has grown around it in recent years, is nothing short of breathtaking. While the book remains cryptic and challenging, it can now be studied with all the assistance that the best of modern scholarship can provide.

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