

## Reviews of Nonfiction Titles for Adults

Weiss, Judith, **ספר טעם הטעמים** *Ta'am HaTe'amim or Universal Oral Law: A Hebrew Renaissance Kabbalistic Mission Treatise by Guillaume Postel*. Jerusalem: Magnes Press, 2018. 174 pp. (9789657763124). In Hebrew.

Weiss, a scholar of Kabbalah, has produced an annotated edition of an original 1552 messianic work composed by the French Catholic orientalist mystic, Guillaume Postel (1510-1581). Postel's work, which was previously unknown, was written in Hebrew and aimed at Jewish readers. As a Catholic Hebrew work, it provides a special chapter in the history of Christian polemics and another means of understanding the Jewish-Christian dialogue in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Throughout the book, Postel refers to historical events from his unique perspective, which is comprised of apocalyptic millenarianism and Gallic nationhood, based on Jewish Kabbalistic sources. Amongst these is the description of Joan of Arc, the 15<sup>th</sup> century woman whose image was considered by Postel as the ideal of Gallic feminine nationhood and whose picture adorns the book cover. All these ideas are given messianic significance by Postel.

Recommended for libraries holding Christian polemical literature, the history of Kabbalah and messianism, and Christian Jewish relations in the time of the Renaissance and rise of the Reformation.

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