

ON THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE ACADEMIES
OF ISAAC LURIA AND HAYYIM VITAL

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Abstract

This article delves into the profound concept of the Holy Spirit within the Kabbalah teachings of Rabbi Isaac Luria, and its subsequent development by his disciples, with a particular focus on the writings of Rabbi Hayyim Vital. In this perspective, the Holy Spirit is regarded as the objective wellspring for unlocking the enigmatic secrets concealed within the Torah, especially those elucidated in the sacred Book of the Zohar. Through an examination of Luria's teachings and Hayyim Vital's seminal work, "Shaarei Kedusha," a noteworthy contrast emerges in the interpretation of the Holy Spirit. While Luria perceives it as a conduit for receiving hidden revelations, Hayyim Vital portrays the Holy Spirit as a pivotal element in his mystical doctrine, entwining the pursuit of divine revelation with the sublime aspiration of self-perfection, wherein the divine essence merges with the human realm through the holy spirit's embodiment.