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בס"ד

Sept 9th 2009

Samantha Kirk

Editorial Administration

University Press of America

4501 Forbes Blvd., Suite 200

Lanham, Maryland 20706

Dear Samantha,

Here is the camera ready copy of the Sefer Yetzira English/Hebrew manuscript.

It has been a labor of love so far, a huge effort to produce. I hope it meets the specs and guidelines of UPA.

I look forward to hearing your feedback.

Please inform the editorial dept that the book is a Hebrew as well as English text, and it is probably not a good idea for anyone not intimately familiar with the vagaries of bilingual direction and dual-alphabet texts to attempt any page changes or justification. I'm happy to send replacement pages where and if needed. I'm including a CD with a Microsoft Publisher (.pbl) file containing the text, as specified in the author handbook.

Thank you for your encouragement and help so far.

Yours truly,

J. Hershy Worch

* **Title of the work**: Sefer Yetzira - Chronicles of Desire
* **Name on Contract**: J. Hershy Worch
* First Edition
* **About the Author**: J. Hershy Worch was born in Manchester, England in 1995 and ordained in 1992 by Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach. He has served as rabbi of Congregation Ohave Shalom of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, and currently resides in Los Angeles, California where he teaches Jewish texts at the Open Yeshiva - Yeshiva Ateret Tzvi. Previously published works include Sacred Fire: Torah from the Years of Fury 1939-1942, The Kabbalist Haggadah - A Handbook of the Seder, and My Soul Thirsts - A Collection of Hasidic Songs.
* **Summary:**

Sefer Yetzira is a sacred book of great antiquity and power, one of Judaism's oldest texts after the Bible. In this new translation and commentary Rabbi Worch leads us step-by-step to the innermost chambers of Jewish mysticism. We are allowed to listen in to the arguments between Moses and God, to the whispered dialogue between Rabbis Akiba and Ishmael, and to those fervid and passionate practitioners of whose ecstasies these pages remain redolent.

In the beginning was God’s desire for us. Sefer Yetzira describes the process whereby desire materializes in the Breath of God and thence into the Ten Sephirot and Twenty Two Letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Commentaries to the Sefer Yetzira, down the ages, have reflected the spirit and yearning of those times, the genius and romance of the zeitgeist, be it philosophical, mathematical or contemplative. This commentary reflects the strikingly mystical qualities of Hasidism and the post-modern approach to text. Here we read how to listen for the breath of the Living God, how to hear it and breathe it back, in the mystery of our sacred kisses.

* **Comments and endorsements:** There are no recognized authorities in the translation or practice of Sefer Yetzira, since the death of Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan in 1983.
* **Table of Contents:**

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