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Shamati (I Heard)



Synopsis

Among all the texts and notes of Rabbi Baruch Shalom Halevi Ashlag (the Rabash), there was one special notebook he always carried. This notebook contained the transcripts of his conversations with his father, Rabbi Yehuda Leib Halevi Ashlag (Baal HaSulam), author of the Sulam (Ladder) commentary on The Book of Zohar and of many other works on Kabbalah.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 12 hours and 33 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Laitman Kabbalah Publishers

Audible.com Release Date: June 5, 2012

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B00893HCXS

Best Sellers Rank: #17 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism #62 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism > Kabbalah & Mysticism #199 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism > Sacred Writings

Customer Reviews

From its beginnings as a hand written notebook by Rav Baruch Shalom HaLevi Ashlag (Rabash) of the wisdom he heard from his father, Rav Yehuda Ashlag (Baal HaSulam) to this lovely paperback book including the content of all those handwritten pages, Shamati (which means "I Heard") come to us as an essential book of Kabbalah. The notebook written by Rabash was passed on to his long time student and personal assistant, Michael Laitman, who saw to it that the wisdom in that notebook was published for the whole world to read. Rav Laitman carries on this teaching lineage by using the teachings of Baal HaSulam in his organization, Bnei Baruch. There are 243 articles of Shamati, and each one carries with it the essence of Baal HaSulam and his spiritual attainment. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to study these articles over and over again to plumb the depths of their meaning. There are always situations, or questions or concepts that need clarifying, answered or described to us. The answers are here in the Shamati articles. I cannot count how many times I have used this book to provide what I or someone else needed to hear in order to work through a mood or a state and bring balance. The first article, "There is None Else Besides Him,"

sets the tone for this book in that we are reminded that all comes from Him, and is intended only to bring us Light. This wonderful book does just that to all who seek the wisdom that is written on its pages.

This is a rich collection of shorter teachings by the illustrious 20th century master kabbalist, Rabbi Yehuda Ashlag, author of the "Sulam" Hebrew translation-commentary on the Zohar. These teachings were preserved by Rav Ashlag's son, the late Rabbi Baruch Shalom Ashlag, of blessed memory, in a notebook which was later published by his student, Rabbi Dr. Michael Laitman. The book is tastefully designed and typeset, no doubt with great effort on the part of the team involved. However, the text reads like it was translated by someone for whom English is a second language. To me, this made it difficult to read and to follow. So I bought the Hebrew original, which is a combination of rabbinic Hebrew (lashon hakodesh) and modern Hebrew (Ivrit). If one can go straight to the original, I would recommend that he or she do so. I'm sorry to say this, because the book is a deep and important work, but it is also an example of the Talmudic Sages' remark that "all beginnings are difficult." I hope that the Bnei Baruch publishing society will create a more successful revised edition someday.

In the appendix of one of Dr. Laitman's books, the book of Shamati is not listed as beginner, intermediate or advanced reading. It is the one selection listed under textbook, and although I can see why, it is similar to referring to the Bible as a textbook. Instructional yes, but like the Bible, Shamati is a "Holy" book. Shamati is meant for the serious Kabbalah student and by that I mean the students of Bnei Baruch. There is a special reverence to this book, even when you do not understand all that you are reading. We are taught that the purpose of our study is not knowledge, but to attract the Light that corrects. Just having this book in your presence, you can almost sense the Light beaming down. I cannot imagine a student who would not want Shamati on their bedside reading table.

A collection of commentaries made by Rabbi Yehuda Ashlag by his son, Rabbi Baruch Ashlag - mostly made between 1942 and 1950. The commentaries are focused on excerpts from the Torah, The Talmud, other Mishnah and the Zohar. The level is extremely deep and sublime, and candidly probably requires a teacher and years of study to fully understand and appreciate. There are no training wheels with this book - you are on a motorcycle. A motorcycle that, in all candor, I don't understand and am obviously not ready to ride. If you are interested in the Ashlag's work, and feel

very confident in your knowledge of Torah, then you may find this book digestable. If you are a Kabbalah student and are looking for some readings to draw light, this book is certainly for you. Just don't get too frustrated with the level it is written at. If you are not either of these, focus on the fundamentals first.

Read it, cherish it. There is not another book in the world like this. It will change you as you read it whether you understand it or not.

This is indeed a holy book in means that it is "separate" from reality. This is a means for opening sensations within oneself and understanding the way of thinking of this great kabbalist. These essays have deep meanings and most of the time I read them again and I find stuff that I have missed the first time. This book is a must for those interested in finding what they truly seek..."True Kabbalah"

I love this book. It's not a matter of understanding it in the literal sense. If you read a little each day, you find that understanding finds you.

Shamati means 'I heard'. This book is a collection of 'conversations' between Baruch Ashlag and his father, Yehuda Ashlag. Yehuda Ashlag was known as The Baal Hasulam (master of the ladder) and was the greatest kabbalist of our times. I know of no other book like this in the world. It is not meant as an introduction to Kabbalah. It was compiled by Michael Laitman and is used by serious students who study this great wisdom.

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