

NEW BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

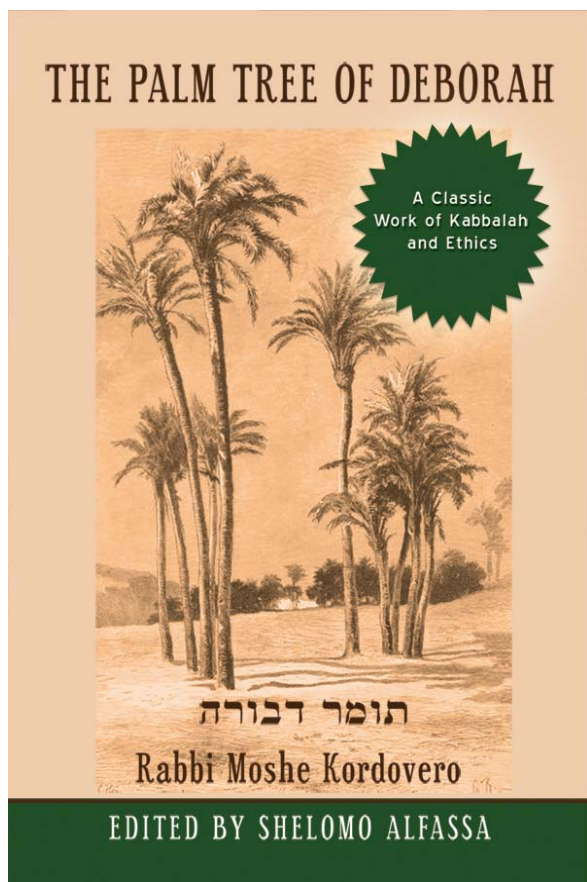
'The Palm Tree of Deborah'

A Classic Jewish Work of Kabbalah and Ethics

Edited by Shelomo Alfassa

ISBN 978-0-9763226-1-0 Published by ISLC / Soft Cover \$15.99 112 Pages

NEW YORK (January 5, 2010) - *'The Palm Tree of Deborah'* (*Tomer Deborah*) is an ethical discourse devoted to the doctrine of the imitation of God. It was penned by the kabbalist and scholar, the Spanish rabbi of Ottoman Palestine, Rabbi Moshe Kordovero, an authority and intellectual well versed in Judeo-Arabic philosophy. Kordovero proceeds systematically through the various known attributes of God (the *sefirot*) and explains how we as humans can work on improving ourselves by imitating those attributes to the best of our ability.



He desired to give a complete intellectual system to kabbalistic theology. Influenced by the earlier success of Jewish philosophy in articulating a rational study of Jewish thought. His was the first accepted, complete systemization of the esoteric ideas of kabbalah. It was the first work to philosophically attempt to make the doctrine of the *sefirot* into the ethical foundation of thought and action.

This work was first published in Venice in 1588. The book takes its name from a passage in the *Book of Judges* (4:5) “As she sat under the palm-tree of Deborah between Ramah and Beth-El in the hill-country of Ephraim; and the children of Israel came up to her for judgment.”

From the book: “It is proper that a man desire the well-being of his neighbor and that he speak no evil of him nor desire that evil befall him. Just as the Holy One, Blessed is He, desires neither our disgrace nor our suffering because we are His relatives, so too, a man should not desire to witness evil befalling his neighbor nor see his neighbor suffer or disgraced. -- Attribute 3.

About the editor: Shelomo Alfassa oversees Special Projects for the *American Sephardi Federation* at the *Center for Jewish History* in New York. From 2006-2009 he was the U.S. Director of *Justice for Jews from Arab Countries*. He is the founder and former Executive Director of the *International Sephardic Leadership Council* and served as former Director of Research and Development for *Sephardic House*. He is the author and editor of several books on Jewish topics.

To Order Visit: alfassa.com/palmtree.html