

**RABBI ABRAHAM ISAAC
KOOK AND
JEWISH SPIRITUALITY**

**Edited by Lawrence J. Kaplan
and David Shatz**



**NEW YORK UNIVERSITY PRESS
NEW YORK AND LONDON**

Contents

Acknowledgments	vii
Note on Transliterations and Citations	ix
Contributors	xi
Introduction	
<i>David Shatz and Lawrence J. Kaplan</i>	i

PART ONE

Rav Kook and the Many Streams of Jewish Tradition

1. Rav Abraham Isaac Kook and the Jewish Mystical Tradition <i>Lawrence Fine</i>	23
2. Rav Kook and the Jewish Philosophical Tradition <i>Lawrence J. Kaplan</i>	41
3. Rav Kook: Neither Philosopher nor Kabbalist <i>Marvin Fox</i>	78
4. Poetry of Spirituality <i>Jerome I. Gellman</i>	88
5. Halakhah, Metahalakhah, and the Redemption of Israel: Reflections on the Rabbinic Rulings of Rav Kook <i>Michael Z. Nehorai</i>	120

PART TWO

Faith, Culture, and Pluralism: The Perspective of Harmonism

6. Harmonism, Novelty, and the Sacred in the Teachings of Rav Kook <i>Norman Lamm</i>	159
---	-----

7. Tolerance and Its Theoretical Basis in the Teaching of Rav Kook <i>Benjamin Ish-Shalom</i>	178
8. Dialectic, Doubtters, and a Self-Erasing Letter: Rav Kook and the Ethics of Belief <i>Shalom Carmy</i>	205
9. Immortality, Natural Law, and the Role of Human Perception in the Writings of Rav Kook <i>Tamar Ross</i>	237

PART THREE

Zionism, Messianism, and the State of Israel

10. The Land of Israel and Historical Dialectics in the Thought of Rav Kook: Zionism and Messianism <i>Ella Belfer</i>	257
11. Zion and Jerusalem: The Jewish State in the Thought of Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook <i>Jerome I. Gellman</i>	276
12. Zionism As a Return to Mount Sinai in Rabbi Kook's Thought <i>Warren Zev Harvey</i>	290
13. What Would Rav Kook Have to Say about the State of Israel Today? <i>Tamar Ross</i>	301

Bibliography <i>Robert Carroll</i>	309
Index of Names, Terms, and Topics	325
Index of Passages from Rav Kook's Writings	341