

The Way Into
Jewish
Mystical
Tradition

Lawrence Kushner

דרך למוד דרך למוד
דרך למוד

JEWISH LIGHTS Publishing
Woodstock, Vermont

Contents

Acknowledgments	xv
Introduction	1
Part One	
1. Presence	9
1. God's presence is the fullness of all the world	
2. The power of the Creator within each created thing	
3. There is no place without God's presence	
4. The light of the Divine Presence is everywhere	
2. Nothing	17
5. My help will come from Nothing	
6. Every moment God sustains all creation!	
7. God is God and there is nothing else	
8. Upper unity, lower unity	
9. Something from Nothing	
10. Attaining the level of Nothingness	
3. Name	35
11. One Without End	
12. The Name of Being, the Ineffable Name	
13. The entire Torah is composed of Names of God	
14. Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth	

Part Two

4. Truth

51

15. Each day the Torah calls us in love
16. The whole world is made of letters
17. God created the world with the Torah
18. The sound of almost breathing
19. How to say (your own) Torah

5. Organism

71

20. The inverted tree
21. *Sefirot*
22. The worlds of separation and unity
23. *Ayn Sof* withdrew itself
24. I have created, I have formed, I have even made
25. Those who walk within rivers of fire

6. Consciousness

87

26. Hidden light
27. The business with Ezekiel's chariot
28. The four who entered the orchard
29. The other side
30. I will surely hide My face
31. The secret wisdom of Kabbalah

Part Three

7. Person	107
32. Self	
33. No two human beings are alike	
34. Returning to your source	
35. Descent for the sake of ascent	
36. Self-annihilation	
37. A human being who contains all creation	
8. Deed	119
38. Restoring the universe	
39. <i>Unio Mystica</i>	
40. For the sake of unifying God	
41. Awakening below causes awakening on high	
42. Our service fulfills a cosmic need	
43. To sense the sacred	
9. Yearning	137
44. It's all from the One of Blessing	
45. I have set the Lord before me continually	
46. Every single utterance is an entire universe	
47. Rapture	
48. The time of the Messiah	
49. Shabbat: A taste of the world to come	
50. You shall be holy	
Epilogue	157
Notes	165
Glossary	169
Suggestions for Further Reading	173
Index	177
About Jewish Lights Publishing	193