

שני תרגומים קדומים לרב סעדיה גאון: פתרון ספר האמונות וחרצב הבינות ופירושו
לספר יצירה, הוצאת כרוב, לוס אנג'לס תש"פ.

*Two Early Translations to Sa'adia Gaon: Book of Doctrines and Beliefs
and his Commentary on Sefer Yetzirah.*

(Sources and Studies in the Literature of Jewish Mysticism 57); 2019,
408 pages, ISBN 978-1-933379-77-7, in Hebrew.

Two major books by Rav Sa'adia Gaon, originally written in Arabic, are presented here in their early Hebrew translations. The translation to *Book of Doctrines and Beliefs*, the first comprehensive book of Jewish philosophy, was translated, as it appears in the text, in 988 A.D., 55 years after its completion by Sa'adia. It was mistakenly regarded by scholars as a "Paraphrase" to Sa'adia's book, but it is a very accurate translation, though it includes many additions to its source, that expands and explains Sa'adia's composition. It reveals a most unique stratum of Hebrew that belongs to the Kalirian school of Hebrew *piyyut* and provides some highly creative terms, rich vocabulary and unique linguistic forms and roots in this extensive piece. It was known in German pietism and in southern France by early Middle Ages.

The second translation of Saadia's *Commentary on Sefer Yetzira*, that preceded his mentioned book by two years, was translated by R. Moshe ben Yosef haDayyan of Lucena, probably toward the end of the 12th century in Langedouc. It was known to early kabbalists who developed, among other issues, their theory of the effect of pronunciation of divine Names in the air, based on Sa'adia's ideas.

Details and purchase at www.Cherub-press.com