



האיגוד העולמי
למדעי היהדות (ע"ר)

World Union
of Jewish Studies

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פרופ' משה אידל
Prof. Moshe Idel

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ד"ר יעקב דויטש
Dr. Yaacov Deutsch

To the Matanel Foundation
Shalom,

I am honored to present to you a summary of our activities regarding the awarding of the Matanel Prize for the Best Book in Jewish Thought for 2013-2014. The process of choosing the winner started with a Call for Papers, which invited authors to submit their books. The Call for Papers was sent to the World Union of Jewish Studies mailing list (over 4,000 people), to universities in Israel and around the world, and to central websites in the field of Jewish Studies (Humanities Network, H-Judaic). In addition, an advertisement was published in the newspaper Ha'aretz, and posters with the Call for Papers were sent to universities throughout Israel. Eventually we received thirty books, three of which did not fulfill the basic terms. After receiving the books, we chose a judging committee, chaired by Prof. Moshe Idel. The other members were Prof. Tamar Ross from Bar-Ilan University, Prof. Menachem Lorberbaum from Tel Aviv University, Dr. Yossi Chajes from Haifa University, and Prof. Hava Tirosh-Samuelson from University of Arizona. The committee members received the books, and at the first stage were asked to choose their seven favorites.

After another discussion, in which the judges pointed out the advantages and disadvantages of each book, they voted and decided on the two winning books:

Richard S. Lewis: And before Honor – Humility: The Ideal of humility in the Moral Language of the Sages

Daniel Reiser: 'Vision as a Mirror': Imaginary Techniques in Twentieth Century in Jewish Mysticism

The Matanel Prize Presentation Ceremony took place on Monday, December 29th, 2014, in the Rabin building at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Over 50 guests attended the event. Matanel Foundation representative Dr. Shmuel Vigoda greeted the audience and the judges explained the reasons for giving the prize to each winner behind choosing the two winners. The awardees gave short lectures about their books and Prof. Idel gave a lecture on "Jewish Thought Today".

The expenses of the World Union of Jewish Studies for taking care of the choosing process and the organization of the presentation ceremony are as follows:

Sending the books to the committee members, including sending them to Prof. Tirosh-Samuelson in Arizona: 1130 NIS
Printing CFP and presentation posters: 250 NIS
Refreshments for the presentation ceremony: 5,000 NIS
Two advertisements in the Ha'aretz newspaper: 9,400
Flowers for the presentation ceremony: 150 NIS
Total: 15,930 NIS

World Union of Jewish Studies

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I would like to thank the Matanel Foundation for choosing the World Union of Jewish Studies as a partner for awarding the prize. We hope the tradition of the Matanel award for the best book in Jewish thought, which started last year, will continue in the future. We are looking forward to continuing the joint activity with the Matanel Foundation

Best Regards,

יעקב דויטש

Executive Director
World Union of Jewish Studies