

Preface

With joy and gratitude, I celebrate the completion of the translation of the *Zohar* on the book of Genesis. I feel blessed to have come this far; at the same time, I am anticipating farther reaches of the *Zohar*'s terrain. In the words traditionally recited at the public conclusion of each of the Five Books of Moses: חזק חזק ונתחזק (*Hazaq hazaq ve-nithazzeq*), "Be strong, be strong, and let us be strengthened!"

I remain deeply grateful to the people I thanked initially in the Acknowledgments of the first volume. Here, I wish to express my appreciation to several individuals for their ongoing support.

Margot Pritzker has generously sustained my work throughout this adventure, and she continues to inspire me by her passionate devotion to learning and spreading the Torah of the *Zohar*. Thank you, Margot, for providing me with the unique opportunity to delve into one of the most amazing books ever written and to convey its radiant wisdom.

I am grateful to Rabbi Yehiel Poupko for treasuring the sacred nature of this bold project and for stimulating me to complete it 'speedily in our days.'

Merav Carmeli has combed meticulously through numerous Aramaic manuscripts of the *Zohar*, preparing lists of variant readings. Without her mining this precious raw material, I could not fashion a critical Aramaic text of the *Zohar*, upon which I have based this translation.

The critical Aramaic text corresponding to the first three volumes of *The Zohar: Pritzker Edition* is available at the website of Stanford University Press: www.sup.org/zohar. I want to thank my brother, Rabbi Jonathan Matt, for editing a user-friendly version of this text.¹

Professor Ronit Meroz, of Tel Aviv University, has generously shared with me the data that she has collected relating to hundreds of manuscripts of the

1. For a description of the various online versions of the critical text, see the website. For my methodology in constructing this text, see the website and Volume 1, Translator's Introduction, xv–xviii.

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Zohar, along with her analysis of this data. Her research, funded by the Israel Science Foundation, has provided me with a panoramic picture of the manuscripts, helping me to determine which ones seem most promising. This has benefited all three volumes of the current translation.

My wife, Hana, continues to nourish my being and to reveal depths of meaning in the *Zohar*. Thank you for your joy and wisdom.

Finally, to the One beyond all names: Blessed are You for enlivening and sustaining us, and for bringing us to this moment.

D.C.M.