

ABSTRACT

## THE LURIANIC ZIMZUM REVISITED

Barak Hoffman

This article discusses the topic of the Zimzum in the Lurianic Kabbalah, the main goal of the article is to describe the different versions of the Zimzum that we find in the Ari disciples writings and to understand why we have many versions and which version is more faithful to the Ari himself.

The article contains four different sections. In the first section I describe the Zimzum according to Rabi Yosef Ibn Tabul, one of the main disciples of the Ari. In the second section I describe the Zimzum according to Rabi Hayim Vital, the main disciple of the Ari, and I bring evidence that two versions of zimzum that can be found in 'Drush shemasar Rabbi Hayim Vital L Rabbi Shlomo Sagis' and 'Kitzur seder hazilut' are difficult to be related to Vital himself. In addition I show that the version in the book 'Mevo She'arim' is not essentially different from the version in 'Etz Hayim' the Main book of Vital and I came up with a theory to explain the differences we can find between the two. In the third section I discuss the different solutions of Researchers before me to the questions of the article and I reject their solutions. In the fourth section I suggest my own solution that Tabul did not stay faithful to the Ari's teachings and continued to develop his own version of the Zimzum.