

## REVIEWS OF THE MIRACLE TREE

**By Gareth Knight** author and leading British Qabalist: *Having studied the Qabalistic Tree of Life for most of my days, written books about it, and trained all my students on its principles, I think the last word on it as a practical system that works is undoubtedly R J Stewart's "The Miracle Tree". Stripped of surplus glamour, pedantry and philosophising it is a step by step guide on its use as a personal system of spiritual development, enlightenment and use of the magical imagination. I only wish I had had something as clear cut and practical when I was first setting out on the Path!*

**By Caitlín Matthews** author and internationally acclaimed expert on spiritual traditions: *I have studied qabala (QBL hereafter) from end to end since 1971 - from the Hebrew sources of the Zohar and its commentaries to the gentile magical and Neo-Platonic end of things, from academic to popular. The Miracle Tree is simply the best introduction to the power of the QBL ever written, from the hands of a master who has walked these paths and met the beings who are to be discovered there. Most QBL books have yards of diagrams and lengthy lists in Hebrew but are very short on practical applications: this book cuts to the chase and enables us to walk those paths personally and find out for ourselves. No phony gurus, no vast outlay of money, no mystification, just the straight-forward introduction to the QBL that you've been looking for. Having said that, it is still your own engagement with the teachings alone will bring you to wisdom. QBL is a path you have to walk yourself: when you set foot on the tree, you will be joined by those companions who have studied before you, so you will not be alone. This is a powerful book that unlocks the tree of life and enables you to eat of its fruit.*

**By DE:** *Once again, R. J. Stewart succeeds in cutting through the excessive intellectualization and seemingly endless charts of correspondences that characterize much Qabalah and occult writing generally. Here he has produced a book with clear practical exercises which a beginner can use immediately and which a more experienced practitioner can readily adapt -- and both will achieve definite results. These techniques work, as I have proved to myself in solitary and group work. "Almost all spiritual or transformative traditions," Stewart notes, "are oral and experiential rather than merely written; they often depend upon being there, rather than reading about being there." Hence the book's emphasis on immediately grounding the ideas in practices or "forms," as Stewart terms them, a helpful designation that suggests, as Stewart intends, the martial arts and their basic dozen or so elements on which one can build a sophisticated and powerful art. "Qabalah works by holisms rather than by summary or analysis of its component parts, and Qabalistic literature has often suffered because of its neo-scientific emphasis upon details and parts that neglects the whole." In 250 pages Stewart keeps that whole before our attention. His three decades of experience with Qabalah and with writing and teaching generally shine through in this text.*

**By Siobhan Houston :** *author on Celtic tradition and mysticism*

*Everything I have read of Stewart's is wonderful and this book is no exception. A forward-thinking theorist and philosopher of magic, Stewart delves into the heart of Qabalah (the word means "the receiving" in Hebrew) and shows the archetypal nature of this tradition. Even though I am Jewish (and Irish-American) and know some Hebrew, I appreciate that this system does not employ the Hebrew names for the emanations of the Tree. Using the English makes the work so much more approachable, especially for those of us a bit burnt out on the Christian Qabalah systems of the Victorian period, i.e., Golden Dawn. Too many of these magical systems with Victorian roots rely on endless charts and correspondences in an attempt to approach Qabalah intellectually. Stewart is one of the few teachers who understands the Qabalah must be experienced on all levels of being, including the physical. Indeed, "We are the Tree of Life"--we don't have to memorize vast quantities of information to activate what already exists in us. In my opinion, this approach is especially useful for those, like myself, who are working transtraditionally and/or who come from a mixed ethnic background.*