

Summary

The Meaning of Symbols in Kabbala and Chasidism

The aim of this thesis is to analyze the meaning and the role of symbols in the stories of Eastern European Chasidism. Chapter 1 aims to define two possible definitions of the symbol, based upon the work of Umberto Eco. It also reveals strategies, which could be potentially used by authors describing their mystical experiences. Chapter 2 deals with Judaism as origin of Eastern European Chasidism and describes teachings of Lurianic Kabbalah, which are comprised in Chasidism. Chapter 3 analyzes character of Chasidism and finally Chapter 4 offers a decoding 'map', which could be used as a solid base for a new interpretation model.