

משבי לארץ הצבי

חייו ויצירתו של רבי אשתורי הפרחי

עמיחי שוורץ

הוצאת
אוניברסיטת
אריאל בשומרון

From Slavery to the Holy Land: The Literary Work of Ashtori Ha-Parhi, Scholar of Land of Israel Studies

Amichay Schwartz

כל הזכויות שמורות
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תמונת הכריכה: קולופון מתוך מהדורת הדפוס הראשונה של הספר כפתור ופרח
(ויניציאה: דפוס מאיר בן יעקב איש פרענץ, שנת 1549 לערך)

עריכת לשון: אב"י וגנרובר
עימוד: שיר רן

Tittle page of the book on Ashtori (Eshtori) Ha Parhi
by Amichay Schwartz

A 2026 edition published by **Ariel University in Samaria** (Kiryat HaMada 3), based on a **facsimile of the first printed edition of Kaftor Va Perah** (Venice, printed by Meir ben Jacob Parenzo, c. 1549), with Hebrew-language editing by Avi Nagrobber and layout by Shir Ran.

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The Book of Kaftor Va Perah ("Button and Flower")

Found in the treasury of the Sage, [called] "Sinai" and "uprooter of mountains" — the great, sharp-minded scholar, who among the wealthy of Egypt is one in whom great and abundant Torah is found. In one place [in the book] like Rabbi Isaac Cohen Shalal, and in it are found most of the novel legal rulings scattered throughout the Land of Israel, its laws as practiced today, and other pleasant legal matters, arranged in their proper order, its chapters being:

Compiled by the young scholar Meir, of the offspring of his [distinguished] lineage.

Faḥ Venetzi'a (Venice edition)

A few notes on this:

- This is a traditional, ornate title-page style (common in early Hebrew printed books), praising the author and describing the book's contents rather than giving plain facts — so some phrases ("Sinai," "uprooter of mountains") are honorific epithets for a great scholar, not literal descriptions.
- "Meir" here refers to the author, **Ashtori (Eshtori) Ha-Parhi**, whose given name was Isaac ben Moses (called "Ha-Parhi"); "Meir" appears to be used here as an epithet/name variant in the colophon tradition.
- **Faḥ Venetzi'a** indicates the **Venice** printing.

Kaftor v'Perach is also an expression in Hebrew meaning - everything is good, excellent. This from the Talmud. Kaftor in modern Hebrew means button - but regarding the menorah - it is often interpreted as knob or bulb or knop --

Kaftor **(Knobs/Bulbs):** Round decorative swellings or bud-like knots along the shaft and branch junctions.

Perach **(Flowers/Blossoms):** Petal-like floral ornamentations placed beneath the lamps.



איור 2: ארץ ישראל בתקופתו של אשתורי הפרחי עם זיהויים שמוזכרים בספר זה (הכנת המפה: ראובן סופר)