Catarist Darkness, Sephiroic Light.

Albigensians and Kabbalists in Languedoc (12th – 13th Centuries)

An undeniable medieval historical evidence points to the coexistence of the Catarist and Jewish communities in Languedoc, during the 12th – 13th centuries. As long as the Catarist dualistic theology and the system of thinking of the Kabbalah have in common the geographical space and the historical period of their emergence, the problem of reciprocal influences or of spiritual autarchy presents itself to a sorrow historiographical investigation, from the perspective of the history of culture and the history of religions. Among various primary and secondary sources, quoted in this study, two major bibliographical witnesses are brought out in bold relief: Abraham Abulafia invoking the dualistic terminology of Interrogatio Iohannis in his Commentary on Sefer Yetsirah, and Jean de Lugio quoting Solomon Ibn Gabirol's Fons vitae or Meqor hayyim in Liber de duobus principiis. The information presented and elucidated through exegesis are summed up in two diverging hypotheses which underline either the arguments in favor of a Catarist-Kabbalistic bibliographical proximity, or the arguments against a Catarist-Kabbalistic religious dialogue.