

We will begin with באר הגולה dealing with questions about *Torah she'b'al Peh* and will include general survey of traditional *aggada* interpretation. Next major topic is section on prayer. Rest of term is open to suggestion. Our focus will be on textual analysis of Maharal and his approach to *aggada*. For overview of my approach, see Carmy, "Learning from Maharal: A Non-Mystical Approach with Illustrations from *Gevurot Hashem* and Other Works" (in *Books of the People*, ed. S. Halpern).

Background to Be'er haGola in על מבט חדש עם הנוצרים--מבט חדש על בפר באר הגולה, תרביץ נה, ב 253-260

anthology on approaches to *aggada* (עורך): מבחר דברי מבוא לאגדה ולמדרש, משל חכמי ימי הביניים

Several short written assignments during the term, mostly devoted to preparatory analysis and exploratory comparison. The culminating paper (8-10 pages) should be on some aspect of Maharal or to other treatments of the topics addressed in the course.

*First written assignment:* will examine Maharal on *mishnayot* in *Avot*—details on the way with comparison to other commentators: Major authors on *Avot* include Rashi, Rambam, R. Yonah (printed with Talmud); Bartenura, Tosafot Yom Tov (=student of Maharal); *Tiferet Yisrael* (early 19<sup>th</sup> century) [printed in standard *Mishnayot*]; R. Bahye (14<sup>th</sup> century Spain); *Midrash Shmuel* (16<sup>th</sup> century anthology). For Maharal's דרך החיים see [wikisource.org](https://www.wikisource.org/wiki/מהר) (מהר"ל) with links to Hartman edition at the end of the article.

*Primary works:* Maharal's writings are available online. גור אריה (=Rashi on Humash) was first to be published; חידושי אגדה (in two versions) the last. גבורות ה' (=Pesah) is part of trilogy also including תפארת ישראל (Shavuot) and נצח ישראל (Exile and redemption=Tisha B'Av). on "ethics, prayer, Torah study et al). Volumes on Hanukka and Purim (נר מצווה and אור חדש) are not in the "standard" editions. Recent editions are rich in footnotes, especially Y. Hartman's.

Hartman's באר הגולה Volume 1 can be found at [באר הגולה - ברכך ראשון - יהודה ליווא בן בצלאל \(מהר"ל מפרג\) -](https://www.hebrewbooks.org/page32of591) (page 32 of 591) ([hebrewbooks.org](https://www.hebrewbooks.org)) [starting after editor's preface] First 4 chapters.

Volume 2= chapters 5-7 at [באר הגולה - ברכך שני - יהודה ליווא בן בצלאל \(מהר"ל מפרג\) -](https://www.hebrewbooks.org/page8of583) (page 8 of 583) ([hebrewbooks.org](https://www.hebrewbooks.org)) (ערוך)

**Shorter excerpts will be distributed in class if not available online. For longer sections, you are expected to bring text or screen versions.**

*Secondary Works:* Here are are a few with my brief comments--

Jacob Katz, *Exclusiveness and Tolerance* (more fully documented in גויים לגויים);

Kleinberger, מפראג, ל"ה מהר"ל משנתו החינוכית של מהר"ל מפראג (old book, general discussion of Maharal)

David Sorotzkin, , המהר"ל מפראג וצמיחתו של המודרניזם האורתודוקסי המוקדם , בהגות היהודית, קבלה, 14

See also E. Reiner, ed., **מהר"ל: אקדמות** (Jerusalem, 2015) (essays by several hands)

A. Putik ed., *Path of Life: Rabbi Judah ben Bezalel, ca 1525–1609* (Prague, 2009), 29–83;

Meir Seidler, ed., *Rabbinic Theology and Jewish Intellectual History: The Great Rabbi Loew of Prague* (London and New York, 2013).

Y. Elbaum, **פתיחות והסתגרות (Literary-Religious Production in Poland and the German Lands in Late Sixteenth Century)** 1990, is the best overview of Maharal's literary productivity in its general historical context.

*Availability:* YC: M;W; T;Th 5th Floor Library and other haunts (usually 10 AM-6:30 PM)

Feel free to reach me by phone 1-718-252-0496<tel:1-718-252-0496 (best time--10-12 P.M.) to discuss course material or any other constructive matters. Address: 915 E. 17 St. Brooklyn NY 11230. E-mail: [carmy@yu.edu](mailto:carmy@yu.edu) As usual, the goal of our working together is our growth as thinking religious individuals.