

Topic	Manichaeism	Lurianic Kabbalah
Precursor	Gnosticism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Gnosis</i> fundamentally opposed to matter in dualistic world ● Divine light trapped in matter ● Light freed, salvation achieved through <i>gnosis</i> (wisdom) ● Hierarchical separation between those who have achieved <i>gnosis</i> and those who have not 	Early Kabbalah <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Matter came into being when Adam sinned by eating the apple ● Good deeds restore world to original state ● Good deeds sometimes included celibacy, fasting, vegetarianism, and asceticism
Founder	Mani <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Born 200s CE in Iran ● Situated on a political and cultural border, was exposed to and incorporated elements of Gnosticism, Zoroastrianism, Buddhism, and Christianity into Manichaeism 	Isaac Luria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Born 1534 in Jerusalem ● Lived in Egypt as a merchant, later Safed (Israel) as a rabbi ● As a merchant, may have encountered traders from Ottoman Empire, Europe, Asian provinces, and beyond
Creation Story	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Before matter/earth, only Father of Greatness and King of Darkness ● Father of Greatness “called” (created) a number of beings, including the Primal Man ● Battle resulted; figures of dark consumed and regurgitated figures of light; light particles fell to Earth ● Adam and Eve (and all subsequent humans) have evil, material bodies which trapped good soul within 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Ein Sof</i> (God) was everything; contracted to allow creation ● <i>Ein-Sof</i> animates Primordial Man with a ten-fold ray of light; each of the ten parts is called <i>Sephirot</i> ● God attempts to contain the <i>Sephirot</i> in vessels, but the light is too strong and shatters the vessels ● Shards of vessels fall to earth and become evil husks of matter that still contain divine sparks within
Restoration of Divine Particles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Father of Greatness created a “cosmic wheel” out of celestial bodies to salvage divine particles ● Human beings, especially the Manichaean “Elect,” work in conjunction with the cosmic wheel to restore the good particles to their rightful place ● To do so, Elect must fast, be abstinent, be sober, and eat vegetarian diets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Tikkun Olam</i>, or the repair of the world, can be achieved through <i>mitzvot</i> - commandments found in the <i>Torah</i> ● By performing <i>mitzvot</i>, humans (and specifically Jews) free the trapped divine sparks
Connection	Gnostic influence on Luria’s Kabbalah is researched, but not Manichaean influence specifically. How could Luria have come into contact with Manichaean ideas? Most likely, Luria’s work as a merchant in Egypt (but maybe in Israel as well).	

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