

ORIENTAL MS.
12,983.

BRIT. MUS.

PEREK SHIRAH.
HEBREW.



PEREK SHIRAH
A CHAPTER OF SONG

British Library MS Or. 54 (OR. 12,983)

A STRICTLY LIMITED EDITION OF 550 COPIES

PEREK SHIRAH is a cosmic hymn to the Creator, in which all of creation, including the winds, clouds, all species of birds, mammals and fish sing praises for their very existence. It opens with the promise that all who recite it 'are assured of a place in the World to Come' and ends with the hope that their study will be transformed into good deeds that will win heavenly reward. The praises are expressed in the form of scriptural quotations, reflecting the Jewish belief in the interdependence of study and prayer. This tenth-century work also reflects an acute awareness of the spiritual dimension of nature and the environment.

This charming Hebrew and Yiddish manuscript was written probably in the eighteenth century by an artist of the Moravian School.

Its vellum leaves contain exquisite miniatures of many of the 'worshippers' within magnificent scenes from nature.

The facsimile is printed on an especially milled paper in up to seven colours and is bound in aged vellum. The companion volume, printed on Fabriano Ingres, contains a short introduction by Malachi Beit-Arié, Emeritus Director of the Jewish National Library, Jerusalem, explaining the origins of the Perek Shirah text; a translation of the text by Jeremy Schonfield, a lecturer at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies; and a description of the manuscript by Emile Schrijver, a specialist in eighteenth-century Hebrew manuscripts at the Institute of Jewish Studies in Amsterdam.

Facsimile:
Companion Volume:

34 pages 130 x 80mm (5 1/8 x 3 1/8")
56 pages 130 x 80mm (5 1/8 x 3 1/8")

פרק שירה

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