Over the last two decades there has been an increasing interest in the influence of medieval Jewish thought upon Spinoza’s philosophy. The essays in this volume, by Spinoza specialists and leading scholars in the field of medieval Jewish philosophy, consider the various dimensions of the rich, important, but vastly under-studied relationship between Spinoza and earlier Jewish thinkers. It is the first such collection in any language, and together the essays provide a detailed and extensive analysis of how different elements in Spinoza’s metaphysics, epistemology, moral philosophy, and political and religious thought relate to the views of his Jewish philosophical forebears, such as Maimonides, Gersonides, Ibn Ezra, Crescas, and others. The topics addressed include the immortality of the soul, the nature of God, the intellectual love of God, moral luck, the nature of happiness, determinism and free will, the interpretation of Scripture, and the politics of religion.

Steven Nadler is the William H. Hay II Professor of Philosophy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he is also a faculty member of the Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies. His previous publications include Spinoza: A Life (Cambridge, 2001), Rembrandt’s Jews (2003), Spinoza’s Ethics: An Introduction (Cambridge, 2006), Volume 1 of The Cambridge History of Jewish Philosophy (co-edited with T. M. Rudavsky, Cambridge, 2009), and A Book Forged in Hell: Spinoza’s Scandalous Treatise and the Birth of the Secular Age (2011).
Contents

Notes on contributors vii
List of abbreviations viii

Introduction 1
Steven Nadler

1 Mortality of the soul from Alexander of Aphrodisias to Spinoza 13
Jacob Adler

2 Spinoza and the determinist tradition in medieval Jewish philosophy 36
Charles Manekin

3 The science of Scripture: Abraham ibn Ezra and Spinoza on biblical hermeneutics 59
T. M. Rudavsky

4 Spinoza’s rejection of Maimonideanism 79
Steven Frankel

5 ‘Ishq, hesheq, and amor Dei intellectualis 96
Warren Zev Harvey

6 Monotheism at bay: the Gods of Maimonides and Spinoza 108
Kenneth Seeskin

7 Moral agency without free will: Spinoza’s naturalizing of moral psychology in a Maimonidean key 128
Heidi M. Ravven

8 Virtue, reason, and moral luck: Maimonides, Gersonides, Spinoza 152
Steven Nadler
“Something of it remains”: Spinoza and Gersonides on intellectual eternity

Julie R. Klein

Hasdai Crescas and Spinoza on actual infinity and the infinity of God’s attributes

Yitzhak Y. Melamed

Bibliography

Index
Contributors

Jacob Adler is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Arkansas.

Steven Frankel is Professor of Philosophy at Xavier University in Cincinnati.

Warren Zev Harvey is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Jewish Thought at Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Julie R. Klein is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Villanova University.

Charles Manekin is Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Yitzhak Y. Melamed is Professor of Philosophy at Johns Hopkins University.

Steven Nadler is the William H. Hay II Professor of Philosophy and Evjue-Bascom Professor in Humanities at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Heidi Ravven is Professor of Religious Studies at Hamilton College.

T. M. Rudavsky is Professor of Philosophy at The Ohio State University.

Kenneth Seeskin is Philip M. and Ethel Klutznick Professor of Jewish Civilization at Northwestern University.
Abbreviations for works by Spinoza

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHG</td>
<td>Compendium grammatices linguæ hebraeæ (Compendium of Hebrew Grammar)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ep</td>
<td>Epistolæ (Correspondence)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethics</td>
<td>Ethica (App = Appendix; ax = axiom; c = corollary; def = definition; dem = demonstration; p = proposition; s = scholium; roman numeral = part)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KV</td>
<td>Korte Verhandling van God, de mensch, en deszelvs welstand (Short Treatise on God, Man, and His Well-Being)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NS</td>
<td>Nagelate Schriften (1677 Dutch translation of OP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP</td>
<td>Opera Posthuma (1677 posthumous edition of Spinoza’s unpublished writings)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPC</td>
<td>Principia Philosophiae Cartesii (Descartes’s Principles of Philosophy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIE</td>
<td>Tractatus de intellectus emendatione (Treatise on the Emendation of the Intellect)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TP</td>
<td>Tractatus Politicus (Political Treatise)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TTP</td>
<td>Tractatus Theologico-Politicus (Theological-Political Treatise)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>