THE DREAM OF THE POEM

Hebrew Poetry from Muslim and Christian Spain 950–1492



TRANSLATED, EDITED, AND INTRODUCED BY

PETER COLE

THE DREAM OF THE POEM



THE LOCKERT LIBRARY OF POETRY IN TRANSLATION

Editorial Advisor: Richard Howard

For other titles in the Lockert Library, see p. 547

THE DREAM OF THE POEM



Hebrew Poetry

FROM MUSLIM AND CHRISTIAN SPAIN

950-1492

Translated, Edited, and Introduced by

PETER COLE

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS

PRINCETON AND OXFORD

COPYRIGHT © 2007 BY PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS

PUBLISHED BY PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS, 41 WILLIAM STREET, PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY 08540
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM: PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS, 3 MARKET PLACE,

WOODSTOCK, OXFORDSHIRE OX20 1SY

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CATALOGING-IN-PUBLICATION DATA

THE DREAM OF THE POEM: HEBREW POETRY FROM MUSLIM & CHRISTIAN SPAIN, 950-1492 /

TRANSLATED, EDITED, AND INTRODUCED BY PETER COLE.

P. CM. — (LOCKERT LIBRARY OF POETRY IN TRANSLATION)

INCLUDES BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES.

ISBN-13: 978-0-691-12194-9 (CL. : ALK. PAPER)

ISBN-10: 0-691-12194-X (CL. : ALK. PAPER)

ISBN-13: 978-0-691-12195-6 (PB. : ALK, PAPER)

ISBN-10: 0-691-12195-8 (PB. : ALK. PAPER)

1. HEBREW POETRY, MEDIEVAL—SPAIN—TRANSLATIONS INTO ENGLISH. I. COLE, PETER, 1957-II. SERIES.

PJ5059.E3D74 2007

892.4'12080946—DC22 2006043894

BRITISH LIBRARY CATALOGING-IN-PUBLICATION DATA IS AVAILABLE

GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGMENT IS DUE TO THE EDITORS OF THE FOLLOWING LITERARY

JOURNALS AND VOLUMES, WHERE SOME OF THESE POEMS FIRST APPEARED: AGNI REVIEW, DER

BRENNER, CONJUNCTIONS, DARK AGES, FASCICLE, GRAND STREET, LVNG, PARNASSUS IN REVIEW,

PEN-AMERICA JOURNAL, POETRY, POETRY INTERNATIONAL, SCRIPSI, SULFUR, WORDS WITHOUT BORDERS,

THE MIRACLE OF MEASURE (TALISMAN), SELECTED POEMS OF SHMUEL HANAGID, SELECTED POEMS OF

SOLOMON IBN GABIROL (PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS), THE DEFIANT MUSE (FEMINIST PRESS),

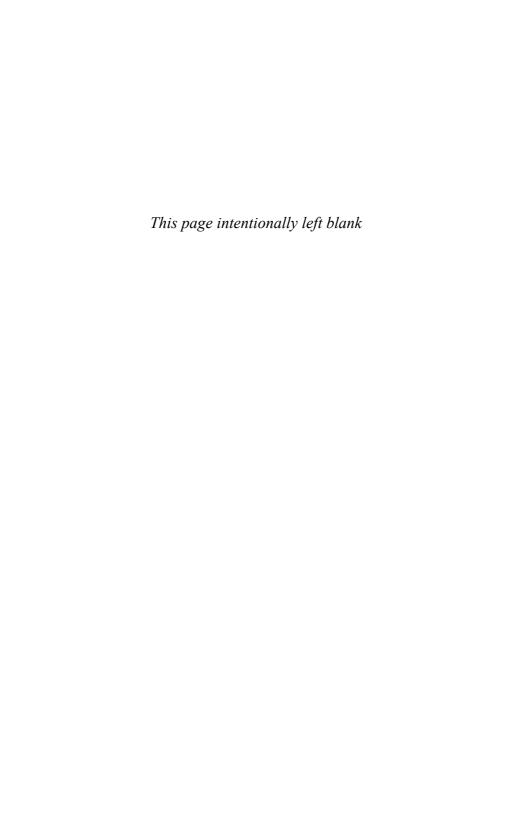
AND WORLD POETRY (NORTON).

THIS BOOK HAS BEEN COMPOSED IN DANTE TYPEFACE PRINTED ON ACID-FREE PAPER. $^{\circ}$ PUP.PRINCETON.EDU PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

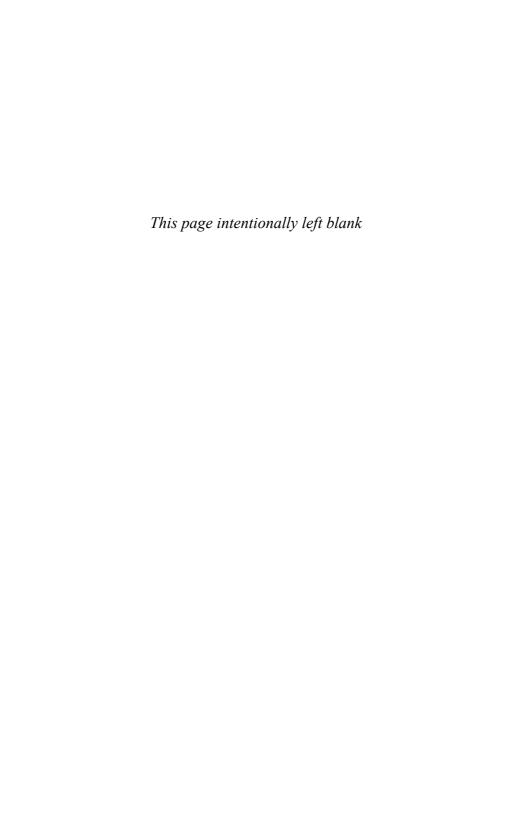
THE LOCKERT LIBRARY OF POETRY IN TRANSLATION IS SUPPORTED BY A BEQUEST FROM CHARLES LACY LOCKERT (1888–1974) For Adina, for everything





Andalus . . . might be here or there, or anywhere . . . a meeting place of strangers in the project of building human culture. . . . It is not only that there was a Jewish-Muslim coexistence, but that the fates of the two people were similar. . . . Al-Andalus for me is the realization of the dream of the poem.

—Mahmoud Darwish



₹ CONTENTS №

To the Reader	xxi
Acknowledgments	xxiii
Introduction	1
PART ONE	
Muslim Spain (c. 950–c. 1140)	
DUNASH BEN LABRAT	23
Fragment	24
Blessing for a Wedding	24
Drink, He Said	24
THE WIFE OF DUNASH	27
Will Her Love Remember?	27
YITZHAQ IBN MAR SHA'UL	28
A Fawn Sought in Spain	28
YOSEF IBN AVITOR	30
Lament for the Jews of Zion	31
A Curse	32
A Plea	33
Hymn for the New Year	33
YITZHAQ IBN KHALFOUN	35
Love in Me Stirs	35
A Gift of Cheese	36
SHMU'EL HANAGID	37
On Fleeing His City	38
The Miracle at Sea	40
The Apple	44
The Gazelle	45
Jasmine	45
In Fact I Love That Fawn	45
Mixed in Spain	46
Your Years Are Sleep	46
The House of Prayer	47