**Jewish Philosophical Ethical Primary Texts**

**Medieval Sources on Ethics**

Maimonides, Shemoneh Perakhim (The Eight Chapters)

Maimonides, Hilchot Deot, Laws of Character Traits in MT.

Maimonides, Hilchot Teshuvah, Laws of Repentence in MT.

Chovot ha-Levavot ('Duties of the Heart') by Bahya ibn Paquda.

Ma'alot ha-Middot by Yehiel ben Yekutiel Anav of Rome.

Orchot Tzaddikim (The Ways of the Righteous) by an anonymous author.

Kad ha-Kemah by Bahya ben Asher.

Shaarei Teshuvah (The Gates of Repentance) by Rabbi Yonah Gerondi

Menorat ha-Ma'or by Israel Al-Nakawa b. Joseph of Toledo

Menorat ha-Ma'or by Isaac Aboab

Chassidei Ashkenaz (literally "the Pious of Germany") was a Jewish movement in the 12th century and 13th century founded by Rabbi Judah the Pious (Rabbi Yehuda HeChassid) of Regensburg, Germany

**Modern Sources on Jewish Ethics**

I. Works of the Ramhal especially the Mesillat Yesharim (The Path of the Just) but also see:

- Ma'aseh Shimshon ("The Story of Samson")
- Lashon Limudim ("A Tongue for Teaching")
- Migdal Oz ("A Tower of Strength")
- Zohar Kohelet ("The Zohar to the Book of Ecclesiastes")
- Shivim Tikunim ("Seventy Tikkunim") which parallels the seventy Tikkunei Zohar
- Zohar Tynyanah ("A Second Zohar") no longer exists
- Klallot Haillan or Klalut Hailan ("The Principle Elements of The Tree [of Life]") a synopsis of the ARI's basic work of Kabbalah
- Ma'amor Hashem ("A Discourse on God")
- Ma'amor HaMerkava ("A Discourse on The Chariot")
- Ma'amor Shem Mem-Bet ("A Discourse on the 42 letter Name [of God]")
- Ma'amor HaDin ("A Discourse on [Divine] Judgment")
Ma'amor HaChochma or Ma'amor Ha'hokhma ("A Discourse on Wisdom") focuses on Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Passover from a Kabbalistic perspective

Ma'amor HaGeulah ("A Discourse on The Redemption" or "The Great Redemption")

Ma'amor HaNevuah ("A Discourse on Prophecy")

Mishkanei Elyon or Mishkane 'Elyon ("Exalted Towers") a Kabbalistic understanding of the Holy Temple with a depiction of the third Temple's dimensions

Ain Yisrael ("The Well of Israel")

Ain Yaakov ("The Well of Jacob")

Milchamot Hashem ("The Wars of God") which defends Kabbalah against its detractors

Kinnaot Hashem Tzivakot or Kinat H' Tsevaot ("Ardent [Defenses] for The L-rd of Hosts") offers details about the redemption and the Messiah.

Adir Bamarom ("[God is] Mighty on High") a commentary on the Iddrah Rabbah ("The Great Threshing Room") section of the Zohar

Iggrot Pitchei Chochma v'Da'at or Klale Pit'he 'Hokma Veda'at ("Letters [to Serve] as an Opening to Wisdom and Knowledge") spells out and explains certain erudite principles of the Jewish faith according to the Kabbalah

Sefer Daniel ("The Book of Daniel"), an esoteric commentary to this Biblical work

Tiktu Tephilot ("515 Prayers") focuses on prayers for the revelation of God's sovereignty

Kitzur Kavvanot ("Abbreviated Intentions") allows the reader an overview of the ARI's recorded prayer-intentions

Ma'amor HaVechuach ("A Discourse [that serves as] The Argument") pits a Kabbalist against a rationalist as each tries to defend his way of thinking

Klach Pitchei Chochma or Kala'h Pitkhe 'Hokhma ("138 Openings to Wisdom") one of Ramchal's most important works in that it lays out his thinking about the symbolic nature of the Ari's writings and Ramchal's own explanations of those symbols

Areichat Klallot HaEilan ("A Dictionary of The Principle Elements to The Tree [of Life]")

Klallim ("Principle Elements") a series of short and pithy presentations of the main principles of the Kabbalistic system said outright

Da'at Tevunot or Da'ath Tevunoth ("The Knowing Heart" or "Knowing the Reasons"), a work that explains the duality of positive and negative that exists on all levels of reality, that this is the basis of God's "showing his face/hiding his face" to and from humanity, and the dual existence of good and evil

Peirush al Midrash Rabbah ("A Commentary on Midrash Rabbah") that isn't Kabbalistic so much as symbolic

Derech Hashem or Derekh Hashem ("The Way of God") one of his best known works: a succinct laying-out of the fundamentals of the Jewish faith touching upon mankind's obligations in this world and its relations to God

Ma'amor al HaAggadot ("A Discourse on Aggadah") which is an explanation that Aggadic literature is not literal but metaphoric

Ma'amor Halikkurim or Ma'amor Ha'ikarim ("A Discourse on the Fundamentals") a short and succinct laying-out of the fundamentals of the Jewish religion like "The Way of God" that touches upon certain other themes

Derech Chochma or Sepher Derekh 'Hokhma ("The Way of Wisdom"), which serves as a dialogue between a young person and a sage with the latter setting out a lifetime course of Torah study culminating in the study of Kabbalah

Vichuach HaChocham V'HaChassid ("The Argument between The Sage and the Pious Man") which is actually a first draft of Messilat Yesharim that only resurfaced recently
Messilat Yesharim or Mesilat Yesharim ("The Path of the Just"), his most famous work that enables its readers to grow in piety step by step, was written when he was 33 (in 1740).

Sefer HaDikduk ("The Book of Grammar")

Sefer HaHigayon ("The Book of Logic") lays out the correct way to think and analyze.

Ma'amor al HaDrasha ("A Discourse on Homilies") encourages the study of Kabbalah and Mussar.

Sefer Hamalitza ("The Book of Style") offers the art of accurate writing and expression.

Derech Tevunot ("the Way of Understanding") explains the Talmudic way of thinking.

LaYesharim Tehilla ("Praise be to the Upright") is a dramatic work.

II. Tomer Devorah (The Palm Tree of Deborah) by Moses ben Jacob Cordovero,
III. Reshit Chochmah by Eliyahu de Vidas,
IV. Kav ha-Yashar by Zevi Hirsch Koidonover.

V. Hasidic Musar Texts
   a. Tzavaat HaRivash ("Testament of Rabbi Yisroel Baal Shem") and
   b. Tzetl Koton by Elimelech of Lizhensk, a seventeen-point program on how to be a good Jew.
   c. Rabbi Nachman of Breslov's Sefer ha-Middot is a Hasidic classic of Musar literature.

VI. Litvish Musar
   b. Israel Salanter, author of Ohr Yisrael
   c. Simcha Zissel Ziv, rosh yeshiva of Kelm and Grobin
   d. Rabbi Yitzchak Blazer became the chief rabbi of St. Petersburg in 1861-2
   e. Yosef Yozel Horwitz of Novaradok author of Madreigat Ha'Adam
   f. Nosson Tzvi Finkel of Slobodka
   g. Cheshbon HaNefesh (Accounting of the Soul) by Rabbi Menachem Mendel Lefin of Satanov (based in part on Benjamin Franklin’s idea of the thirteen virtues
   h. Eliyahu Desserl author of Miktav Eliyahu

VII. Works of CHafetz Chaim on Lashon HaRah

At LCW WB library see:

The quill of the heart : stories and advice on the Jewish approach to human relations

[New York] : Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation, [199-]

Location Call # Status

Los Angeles JUD BM723 .Q541 1990z AVAILABLE
Sefer ahavas chesed the love of kindness as required by G-d
Israel Meir, ha-Kohen, 1838-1933
Monsey, N.Y. : Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation, [199-?]
Location Call # Status
Women's Bldg. JUD BJ1286.C5 K24 1990z audios v.1-4 AVAILABLE

When someone's life is in your hand
Monsey, NY : Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation, [1998?]

Be'ure he-Ḥafets Hayim : ‘al ha-Torah : otsar be’urim ye-ḥidushim ... mi-divre ... Yišra'el Me’ir ha
Israel Meir, ha-Kohen, 1838-1933
Yerushalayim : Yišra'el Yosef ben Mosheh Eli’ezer Bronshṭain, 767 [2007]
Location Call # Status
Women's Bldg. - Reserve JUD BS1225.53 .I77 2007 v.1 AVAILABLE
Women's Bldg. - Reserve JUD BS1225.53 .I77 2007 v.2 AVAILABLE

Chofetz Chaim, a daily companion : the concepts and laws of proper speech as formulated by Sefer Cho
Rothschild, Michoel
Brooklyn, N.Y. : Published by Mesorah Publications in conjunction with the Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation, 1999 (2000 printing)
Location Call # Status
Kew Gardens Hills JUD BJ1535.G6 R68 1999 AVAILABLE
Sefer Ḥafets hayim [u-]Shemirat ha-lashon
Israel Meir, ha-Kohen, 1838-1933
Yerushalayim : Merkaz ha-sefer, 759 [1999]

Netsor leshonkha me-ra' = Guard your tongue : a practical guide to the laws of loshon hora based on
Pliskin, Zelig
Brooklyn, NY : Bnay Yakov Publications, c1975
Sefer Ḥafets hayim : ḥibur meyusad ‘al hilkhot isure lash. ha-ra’ u-rekhilut ye-avaḳ shelahen
Israel Meir, ha-Kohen, 1838-1933
Nyu-Yorḳ : M.M.Y. Zaḳs, 712 [1951 or 1952]

Kol kitve Ḥafets ḥayim ha-shalem
Israel Meir, ha-Kohen, 1838-1933
[Yerushalayim : Yeshivat Ḥafets ḥayim me-Radin, 750 i.e. 1989 or 1990]