**Kitāb Al-Anwār Wal-Marāqib / The Book of Lights and Watchtowers**

**Introduction**: *Kitāb al-Anwār Wal-Marāqib* (or *Kitab al-Anwar*, for short) is one of two literary achievements by the tenth century Karaite Sage Jacob Kirkisani. *Kitab al-Anwar* opens with a review of Jewish movements and Christianity, as well as with an explanation of Kirkisani’s exegetical approach, and philosophical beliefs. Extensive work has been done translating these on these opening sections of *Kitab al-Anwar* to Hebrew and English.

Our translation starts with Maqala / Discourse 5. Much less work has been performed on these sections.

**About Our Translation**: We have based our translation off the edition prepared by Leon Nemoy, and we have started with what corresponds to Volume III of his edition. Two separate translators helped us bringing this translation to light: one translated *Kitab al-Anwar* from Arabic into Hebrew; the other translated it from Arabic into English. We made the strategic decision not to let perfect be the enemy of very good, and we made the tactical decision not to force the translators to have one hundred percent consistency between the documents. *As such, each translation should be understood as capturing the essence and general details of Kirkisani’s work, even if one might quibble about the details*.

For example, in Chapter 16 in the English it says that breastfeeding a child on Yom Kippur is permissible so that the child is not “harmed” (by lack of food). In the Hebrew it says that breastfeeding is permissible so that the child does not “die.” One can imagine that there are some circumstances where the distinction between “harm” and “die” is important. Here, the important point is that it is permissible to feed a child on Yom Kippur. We hope to bring more an more consistency to these documents over time.