Contents

Introduction — 1

Chapter :	1 The Literary Form of <i>Ezer ha-Dat</i> : Between Dialogue and Essay —— 13
1.1	Introduction —— 13
1.2	Treatise 1 —— 20
1.3	Treatise 2 —— 22
1.4	Treatise 3 — 34
1.5	Treatise 4 —— 37
1.6	Treatise 5 — 42
1.7	Conclusion —— 47
Chapter :	2 Philosophy and Religion —— 49
2.1	The Harmonious Relationship between Philosophy and Judaism —— 49
2.2	Polqar vs. Abner of Burgos: Judaism against Christianity — 58
2.2.1	The Existence of God —— 65
2.2.2	Monotheism vs. Trinity — 66
2.2.3	The Incorporeality of God vs. the Incarnation of God — 72
2.2.4	The World to Come: Is the Soul Universal or Individual? — 79
2.2.5	The Messiah to Come vs. the Messiah Who Had Already Been — 82
2.2.6	The Exile and Its Meaning —— 90
2.2.7	The Authority of the Talmud and the Jewish Sages — 100
2.3	Jews and Non-Jews: Polqar's Universalistic Approach —— 103
2.4	Conclusion —— 115
Chapter :	3 The Concept of God —— 117
3.1	God's Will —— 117
3.2	God's Foreknowledge and Man's Free Will —— 126
3.3	Divine Providence: Universal vs. Individual —— 146
3.4	Conclusion —— 155
Chapter 4	4 The Conception of the World —— 157
4.1	Cosmos: Creation Ex Nihilo or Eternity of the World? Between Reli-
	gious Tradition and Aristotle —— 157
4.2	Astrology: True Science or Invalid and Dangerous Doctrine? — 172
4.3	Miracles within a Natural Framework —— 185
4.4	Conclusion — 196
Chapter !	5 The Conception of Man —— 198
5 1	Retween a Prophet and a Philosopher — 108

Index of Sources — 254

5.2 The Mosaic Commandments: A Necessary Means to Man's Ultimate Purpose — 211
5.3 Man's Ultimate Purpose — 222
5.4 Conclusion — 231

Conclusions — 233

Bibliography — 236
 Manuscripts — 236
 Primary Sources — 236
 Secondary Sources — 239

Index of Names — 250

Index of Subjects — 251