**A Comparative Look at the Shared Stories of the Yiddish *Sefer HaMidos* / *Book of Attributes* (Isny, 1542) and the Hebrew *Arukhot Tzadikim / Feasts of the Righteous* (Prague, 1581)**

**Vered Tohar and Noga Rubin**

**Abstract**

This article focuses on a comparative literary examination of 16 stories that appear both in the Hebrew book of attributes *Arukhot Tzadikim* (Prague, 1581) and its Yiddish translation *Sefer HaMidos* (Isny, 1542). These two works were composed by an anonymous editor/translator in the Ashkenaz region.

The stories included in these books have deep roots in the Hebrew storytelling tradition, including Rabbinic literature and Jewish oral tradition. This article focuses on the literary design of these stories as they appear in the first printed versions of each of these two works, in order to understand their unique methods and processes, as well as their authors poetic and ideological worldviews.

A comparison of the stories in both versions shows the role of narrative as a didactic method, and a source of entertainment and interest. The comparison also reveals consistent differences between the versions of the stories. We believe these differences result from, *inter alia*, different intended audiences. We argue that these differences are the result of a practical need to intentionally differentiate the content of each book, in order to profit from potential readers who would have been interested in purchasing both books.