

explanation of a particular term, phrase or concept (such as Messiah, for example), that there must be a shared or common meaning on which Judaism is drawing might be hasty. A variety of corroborating references can indicate a terminology heavy with religious significance, widely recognised by Jews, but this would not necessarily require any consensus on the core meaning of that term, phrase or concept. This volume's contributions largely err on the side of assuming that a silence suggests a shared understanding and religious commonality, following Sanders. Mercifully, this volume does not shy away from the suggestion that such a conclusion is not the only one that might be drawn.

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Judaism – Theology, Ethics, Views of Social Issues

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ELLIS, Marc H

Encountering the Jewish future: with Wiesel, Buber, Heschel, Arendt, and Levinas.

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Marc H Ellis's *Encountering the Jewish Future: With Wiesel, Buber, Heschel, Arendt, and Levinas* is a thoughtfully constructed journey through some of the twentieth century's most influential giants of Jewish thought. He deftly narrates his own encounters with them, describes their often rocky encounters with one another, and applies their thought to the uncertainties of how to speak of Jewishness and G-d after the Holocaust, and how to reconcile memory of the Holocaust with Jewish empowerment in the State of Israel and the issue of Palestinian displacement. These questions are still unanswered today not due to a lack of answers but because they are on-going realities in the life of Judaism. Professor Ellis's book will inform the non-Jewish reader and contribute to dialogue within the Jewish community. He contemplates a fresh evaluation of Jewish identity which highlights the most vital aspects of Jewishness: justice, ethics through practice, responsibility, and an acceptance of the complex and multivalent in human affairs. Ellis presents a compelling and incisive tour through the lives and writings of Jewish thinkers who have had a profound impact on Judaism, assuring us that their philosophical ideas still have relevance in 21st century conversations. The model of these thinkers' incredible lives is also seen in Ellis's scope, especially Heschel and Buber with their intensity as individuals who dedicated flesh and bone to the demands of their ethical principles. Thus the book is not philosophy for philosophy's sake, but dedicated instead to applying the practical consequences of Jewish thought directly to Judaism's major challenges today. The reader will find that Ellis's Jewish thinkers are analysed not as a mere theological or philosophical exercise, but in order to continue defining and re-defining individual Jewish identity and meaning within increasingly complex circumstances after so many shocks to the core of Judaism.

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