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True Existence: A Chasidic Discourse (Chasidic Heritage)



Synopsis

"There is none besides Him" - a cardinal principle of Chasidic theology, speaks to the Divine omnipresence that renders all else negligible. Out of the six days of creation, came a world of seeming self-hood. Trees and rocks appear as compilations of matter, humankind as living, breathing bodily objects. Feeling disconnected, the soul within sets upon a journey to reconnect with its Creator. Born out of existence, and furthered by an everyday awareness of apparent physicality, a strong, determined mind leads one to contemplate the Omnipresent and the true nature of His creations. Over the centuries, Monotheism has served as a guiding light, directing humankind to our Father in heaven. Through this celestial focus, we have come to a realization of a Supreme Being and the wondrous world He created. By way of the revolutionary insights put forth in Chasidic thought, Rabbi Shmuel Schneersohn, the fourth leader of Lubavitch Chasidim, directs our glance from one of heavenly affairs to worldly, physical creation. Originally delivered in 1869, True Existence became a work central to a truly heartfelt neo-monotheistic outlook on the world. Accessible at first only to the scholarly elite who could master Hebrew texts, this translation offers the English speaker an opportunity to further unravel the outer layers of reality. A bi-lingual Hebrew/English publication, the Hebrew text fully vowelized. The lucid translation is fully annotated with source references and commentary. Also planned as a companion to True Existence is a Video-CD featuring Rabbi Manis Friedman, an expositor of Chasidic thought, as he discusses several themes of the discourse and offers insights into the topics discussed in the book in a clear, understandable style.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

About the Translator: Since his rabbinic ordination in 1997 from Yeshiva Tomchei Tmimim Lubavitch, Rabbi Yosef Marcus has translated numerous works including an English rendition of the Psalms and Scroll of Esther. He is an editor on Ask Moses and a weekly contributor on KabbalahOnline, where he writes a widely acclaimed series on Jewish mysticism. He lives in S. Mateo, CA.

This is an outstanding discourse in spirituality in the Chassidic tradition. Sooooo encouraging and deeply profound thought processes, one must concentrate entirely when reading this book. So full of great wisdom and insight. Book arrived in perfect condition and quickly, packed so safely. Thank you very much for the opportunity to purchase this copy !

Excellent Chabad Chassidus, answering the question, if Torah tells us that there is nothing except God, how can Torah also tell us that God created the world? Doesn't that mean that there is something else other than God? This is a challenging maamar. It will change you inside.

This book was a good read for a person interested in religion, in philosophy and in chasidus. However, it was an extremely difficult book to understand, and it requires a good deal of knowledge in the area of Jewish mysticism before it even begins to try to discuss G-d. Not to mention an investment of time. All the same, I recommend this book - with the caveat that the person who takes up this book read it seriously, beginning with simpler books of the essence of Chasidic teaching. Bringing Heaven Down to Earth: Meditations and Everyday Wisdom from the Teachings of the Rebbe, Menachem Schneerson is a better book to begin with. True Existence is the next step.

Am so enjoying this book. Layer upon layer of deep spiritual insight awaits the reader. Would highly recommend to all searchers!

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