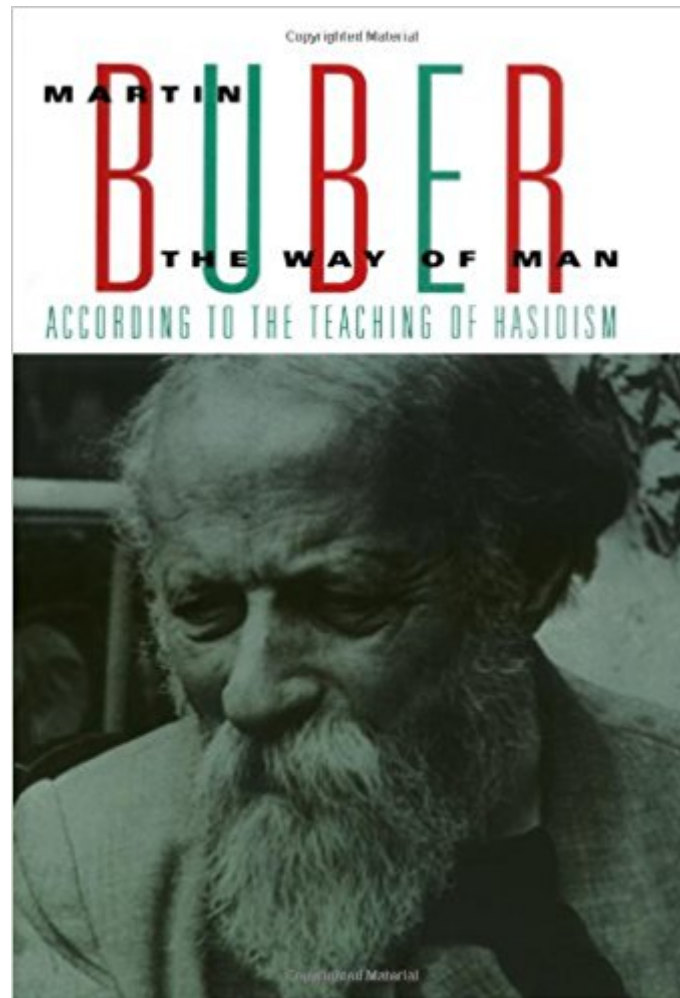




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The Way Of Man: According To The Teaching Of Hasidism



Synopsis

Martin Buber was one of the most significant religious thinkers of the twentieth century. In this short and remarkable book he presents the essential teachings of Hasidism, the mystical Jewish movement which swept through Eastern Europe in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Told through stories of imagination and spirit, together with Buber's own unique insights, *The Way of Man* offers us a way of understanding ourselves and our place in a spiritual world. 'There is something', he suggests, 'that can only be found in one place. It is a great treasure, which may be called the fulfilment of existence. The place where this treasure can be found is the place on which one stands.' Challenging us to recognize our own potential and to reach our true goal, *The Way of Man* is a life-enhancing book.

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Customer Reviews

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41 pages of wisdom from the standpoint of Hasidism (from "hasidut": allegiance, piety)--but Hasidism seen through the heart of Martin Buber. This too-brief book really asks only one question: why are we here? Buber responds with thoughts, anecdotes, and reflections, all of it extraordinarily condensed and yet marvelously lucid. Here are two quotations: "Our treasure is hidden beneath the hearth of our own home." "Man was created for the purpose of unifying the two worlds. He contributes towards this unity by holy living, in relationship to the world in which he has been set, at the place on which he stands."

Nice book.

Martin Buber has a way of speaking to my heart. He speaks as a human who has always struggled with the cynicism and skeptical spirituality of our age. Yet he has retained a strong faith in God, and a strong faith in God's real presence in our struggling human everyday life. We may not always feel His presence...but in Buber's words we hear another's testimony that God is with us even when He seems absent. In these short parables, Buber introduces us to other humans...ordinary men...who likewise have struggled to walk with God. Their walk is grounded in the existential. But unlike other ways such as Zen, their walk gradually reveals the real presence of God who has been walking with us since day one. It is as if in our faithful walk God gradually becomes truly felt as walking beside us...and in our hearts.

I am a fan of Martin Buber's writings and philosophy. This book gave me additional insight into his thinking and reasoning.

accessible Buber. great stories. important themes. and one can read it in an hour, although it's better taking your time.

In the second chapter of this book Buber speaks about the concept of Service of God. A Hasidic Rebbe is asked the ideal way of doing this, and he says some do this through learning Torah, and some through Prayer, and some through deeds of Kindness in their everyday life. The point is that there is no one way which is best for everyone, but each must choose the path most in accordance with their own nature and gift. Buber then goes on to say that every individual has a special gift of their own. And that each must find his way in service. He says that while we may learn and respect

the Gedolim the Greats that has gone before them we are not bound to imitate them but should find their own way. In this short work outlines basic Hasidic teaching and teaching of his own as to how to live as a righteous human being in the world. The book is filled too with interesting stories of Hasidic masters and their wisdom. A wonderfully readable and insightful work.

I teach a graduate counseling course on Martin Buber's anthropology and philosophy of dialogue as it illumines the art and science of pastoral counseling. A rabbi at a workshop I did for military chaplains told me about it. It is a gem - one of the top ten books I have ever read. It is without question my favorite book of Buber's oeuvre. All of 41 pages, it sets forth in very simple and poignant way, the essence of the I-Thou encounter rooted in the personal dialogue between God and humanity. If you want to read the Bible in order to realize that God is not an idea or a belief but One who is wholly "Other" yet approaching you directly, intimately and accompanying you every minute of life, read this book. If you want to enter the "way" that leads to becoming fully human and living with others in real community, read this book. In our age of information acquisition and craving for new experiences to break through the numbing of our hearts, and the sleep of our conscience, what Buber speaks about in the "Way of Man" is truly an invitation to the "road less travelled."

Martin Buber is generally an incredibly profound and innovative writer. I have read I and Thou and Israel and the World: Essays in a Time of Crisis, and both have changed the way I understand Judaism. This book seemed like a dumbed down version of a few nice messages with little added to ideas many people have heard before. Buy his other books. They are amazing.

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