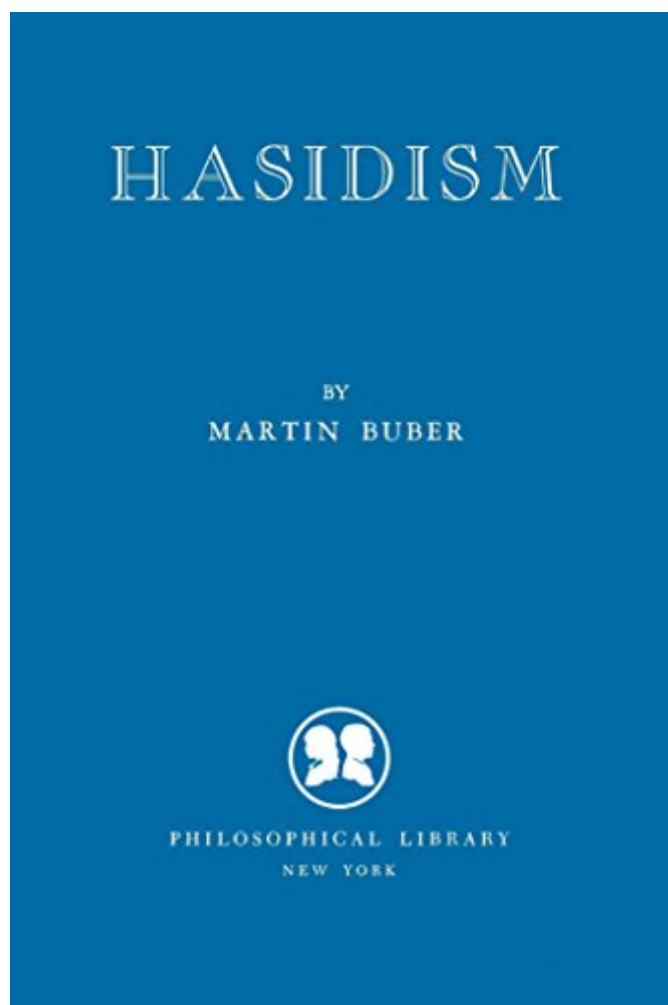


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Hasidism



Synopsis

Famous Zionist philosopher Martin Buber introduces the Western audience in his modern masterpiece. This book is a result of forty years of study, and Buber interprets the ideas and motives that underlie the great Jewish religious movement of Hasidism and its creator, Baal-Shem. Buber's interpretation of Hasidic stories and teachings influenced the revival of its practices in a new generation to turn to Hasidic teachings, and his collection Hasidism continues to affect Jewish scholarship worldwide. With his lasting work in both Hasidism and Zionism, Buber imagined a renewal in the Jewish faith, and his philosophies and idealisms enrich the pages of this book, making it a must-read for any Jewish or religious scholar.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Martin Buber is the thinker who brought consciousness of Hasidism to the outside world. He found in the followers of the Baal Shem Tov the search for passionate connection with God. 'Hasidism' was in a sense a revolt against the dryness, exclusiveness and in some sense 'hardness' of the traditional Judaism of its time. Its emphasis of spontaneous emotional worship of God, of involving

each and every Jew in the holy life made it controversial at time of its inception and immediately after. Buber in a sense interprets 'Hasidism' around his own philosophy of 'I- Thou' encounter. He too focuses on much of the narrative- mythical story material and downplays the Halachic elements also strong among Traditional Hasidism. For anyone who wishes a wider understanding of the subject it would be good to complement this work with the writings of Gershom Scholem, Buber's great rival in interpreting the movement. I would also recommend Norman Lamm's work on Hasidic thought.

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