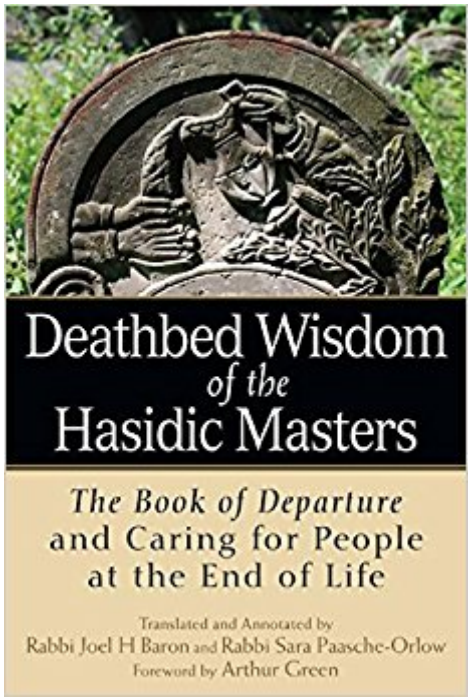
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Deathbed Wisdom Of The Hasidic Masters: The Book Of Departure And Caring For People At The End Of Life



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Synopsis

Death is a time of life that holds meaning for the dying, their family and friends, their communityÃ¢â ¬â ¢and us."Most of Torah's teaching is about how to live. But there is a special section within its wisdom that also speaks to us about how to die. Since we are all mortals, our lives fashioned somehow around the awareness that death is inevitably to come, this is one of the important lessonsÃ¢â ¬Â¦. There is something profound to be learned about the way of dying, and it is best learned from the wisdom and stories of those who have gone before us."Ã¢â ¬â ¢from the ForewordStudents of the Hasidic masters wrote down the stories of the last months, days, hours and moments of the lives of their rebbes. A compilation of their experiences, called The Book of Departure (Sefer haHistalkut), first published in Hebrew in 1930, brings together the rich end-of-life stories of forty-two holy men who died between 1760 and 1904, as well as their philosophical forebearer, Isaac Luria. Featuring new pastoral commentary in a unique facing-page format, this English presentation of heart-touching deathbed tales sheds light on Jewish traditions about death, the afterlife and how to care for people in their final days.

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Customer Reviews

"A compassionate and comforting guide to the end of lifeÃ¢â ¬Â¦. We learn about what dying individuals fear, hope for and care about, and about how family and professionals can sensitively accompany them to their ends. The blend of scholarship and practical sensibility make this volume an invaluable resource."Ã¢â ¬â ¢Rabbi Dayle Friedman, author, Jewish Wisdom for Growing Older: Finding Your Grit and Grace Beyond Midlife; spiritual director, Growing Older

(www.growingolder.co)"Filled with striking stories and wise interpretations. It will be a comfort and a guide to both those facing death and those who love them."Ã¢â ¬â ¢Rabbi David Wolpe, author, Making Loss Matter: Creating Meaning in Difficult Times"A rich goldmine of wisdomÃ¢â ¬Â¦. Recognizes death not as a physical endpoint but as a graceful transition to other realms of knowing and beingÃ¢â ¬Â¦. This is a book to be read, studied and savored for all who are wrestling with mysteries of life and death."Ã¢â ¬â ¢Simcha Raphael, PhD, founding director, DA'AT Institute for Death Awareness, Advocacy and Training, Department of Psychology, Bryn Athyn CollegeÃ¢â ¬Å“Unique and impressiveÃ¢â ¬Â¦. Their focus on the stories of the passing of Hasidic masters provides spiritual, ethical and personal insights that can easily be adapted to our current societyÃ¢â ¬Â¦. A worthy addition to the growing discussion on meaning and purpose as life ebbs.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â ¢Rabbi Richard F Address, DMin, director, Jewish Sacred Aging, LLC (www.jewishsacredaging.com)Ã¢â ¬Å“Deeply in dialogue [with God] about the meaning, purpose and timing of deathÃ¢â ¬Â¦. You will be stimulated to talk with your loved ones to transmit the ethical and practical details needed for your own end-of-life planning.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â ¢Angelo Volandes, MD, MPH, cofounder and president, ACP Decisions; author, The Conversation; faculty, Harvard Medical School

Rabbi Joel H Baron is a hospice chaplain at Hebrew SeniorLife (HSL) Hospice Care in Boston.Rabbi Sara Paasche-Orlow is the director of Spiritual Care at Hebrew SeniorLife.Arthur Green, PhD, is recognized as one of the world's preeminent authorities on Jewish thought and spirituality. He is the Irving Brudnick professor of philosophy and religion at Hebrew College and rector of the Rabbinical School, which he founded in 2004. Professor emeritus at Brandeis University, he also taught at the University of Pennsylvania and the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, where he served as dean and president.Dr. Green is author of several books including Judaism's Ten Best Ideas: A Brief Guide for Seekers; Ehyeh: A Kabbalah for Tomorrow; Seek My Face: A Jewish Mystical Theology; Your Word Is Fire: The Hasidic Masters on Contemplative Prayer and Tormented Master: The Life and Spiritual Quest of Rabbi Nahman of Bratslav (all Jewish Lights). He is also author of Radical Judaism (Yale University Press) and coauthor of Speaking Torah: Spiritual Teachings from around the Maggid's Table. He is long associated with the Havurah movement and a neo-Hasidic approach to Judaism.

I just wish my faith could be as definite and strong as these Holy men. What inspiration!

A wonderful compilation of ancient teachings and their relevant value in today’s world.

ok

I haven’t finished it yet.

Great title. Not what I’d hoped for.

This 2016 English book is about the final day or days of 42 Hasidic rabbis together with a story about Rabbi Isaac ben Solomon Luria, who is called Ari. Ari (1534-1572) was not a Hasid, but had an enormous influence upon the spread of kabbalah, Jewish mysticism, a way of thinking accepted by most Hasidim, and which influenced the creation of many Jewish practices, and became part of Joseph KaroÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s Shulchan Arukh, his Code of Jewish Law. Hasidim, for example, borrow the teaching of Christianity and are convinced that the ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“death of the tzaddik [righteous man, has the effect of] atoning for the sins of the generation: and ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“that those who recount the stories of these deaths and who mourn for the departed tzaddik are also cleansed of their own sinsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• (page xiv).The book is based on a Hebrew book by a 27-year old man, Benjamin Mintz, composed in 1930. The generally recognized founder of Hasidic Judaism is The BaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢al Shem Tov (1698-1760), whose story follows that of Ari. The wisdom that each of the rabbis impart is to obey the Torah. Very little detail if any is given about what in the Torah is important. Most of the stories seem to be legends about how the rabbis accepted death quietly with the feeling they were joining God, miracles occurred as they died, such as a clock stopping, and some dying on auspicious days (The BaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢al Shem Tov died on the holiday of Shavuot, just like King David).What is significant about the book is the large amount of explanatory information that the translators and editors give readers. The right-hand side of pages contain the short stories, frequently only one page long, sometimes several pages. On the left side, are notes that provide readers with the sources of what is mentioned in the text and a commentary on it. These pages also contain more fully developed lessons about the subject and Judaism generally. The left-hand pages are usually longer than the right. The book also contains nineteen stand-alone essays that are very informative. They discuss subjects such as body and soul, the angel of death, clinging to God, dying on auspicious days, confessions at death, and talking with God.

This book is an excellent and rich resource for anyone seeking comfort and guidance on how to help a loved one during their final stages of life. It is also deeply insightful for those who have long wondered about many of the Jewish traditions surrounding death and mourning. I found the Rabbis' personal stories and notes deeply comforting, as if to to say that even in death, we are all connected.

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