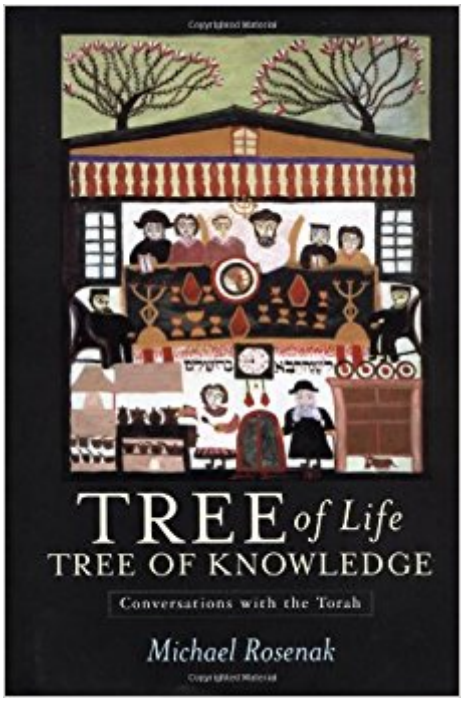
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Tree Of Life, Tree Of Knowledge: Conversations With The Torah



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Synopsis

Viewing education through the prism of the Torah, Tree of Life, Tree of Knowledge takes the reader through the stages of learning, growth, and self-development that characterize human lives. The journey begins with education as it happens in the home, moves on to the institutions of society, especially schools, and then on to the questions of identity and commitment which constitute the hidden agenda of “informal educational networks.Ã¢â ¬Â• The self-education of the individual is explored: When does one “grow upÃ¢â ¬Â•? What is really worth knowing? How does one cope with memories, illness, and anticipations of what lies ahead? This book examines some of the millennial conversation in an attempt to discover an educational philosophy in the Torah that can be relevant to life in the contemporary world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Michael Rosenak's Tree of Life, Tree of Knowledge opens a lively conversation with the stories and laws of the Torah. "What is worth knowing? Conversely, what is a waste of time, or corrosive of character, or simply useless?" Also, "How do we know which goods are worthwhile and which are trivial or harmful? On what grounds do we distinguish between the true and the insignificant or false?" Rosenak views education as a lifelong process, in which individuals journey through various "avenue[s] of educational initiation and encounter." These include parents' teachings, the Jewish communities' teachings from the Torah and relationship with the outside world, and a final stage of

"self-education," in which adults, using the language and literature given them by their parents, their community, and the world, make their own choices about how to live. In detailed, learned explorations of each aspect of this educational process, Rosenak teaches readers to look for the common roots of the Torah's restrictive revelation of commandment and prohibition, and its revelation of "creativity, harmony, and the absence of boundaries." --Michael Joseph Gross

What is worth knowing? How do we distinguish what is worth knowing from what is not? In Tree of Life, Tree of Knowledge: Conversations with the Torah, Michael Rosenak applies the discipline of Torah study to the philosophy of education more generally. Although the book is a bit too scholarly to reach the parents and teachers to whom it is directed, it is also provocative, drawing on Torah commentators such as Hillel and Rashi and addressing important issues in Jewish education. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

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