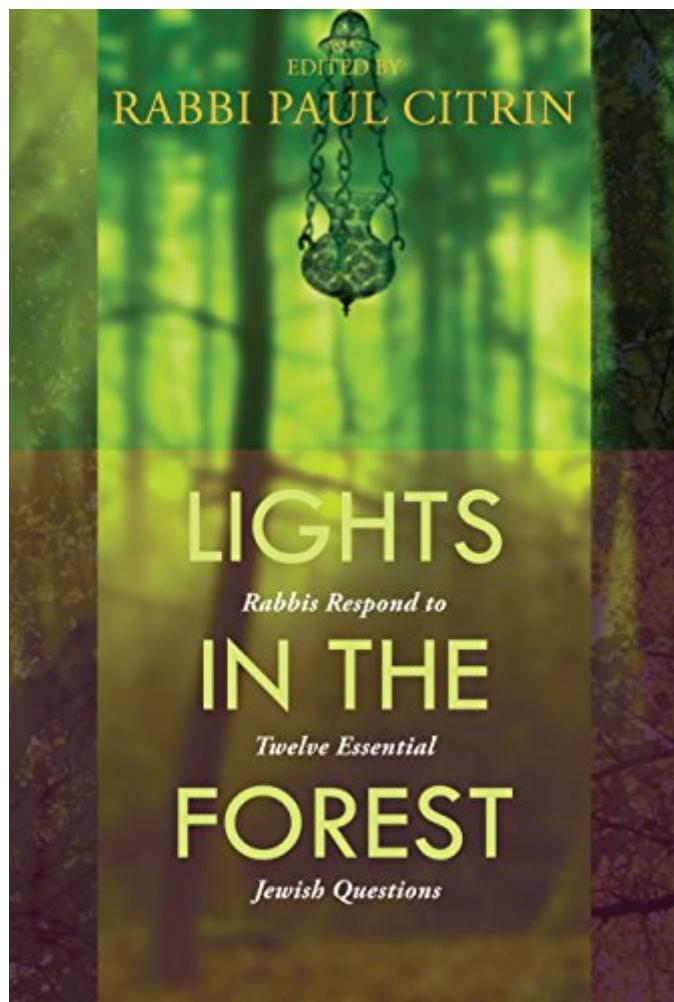


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Lights In The Forest: Rabbis Respond To Twelve Essential Jewish Questions



Synopsis

An anthology of essays written by a wide cross-section of rabbis, Lights in the Forest presents a range of Jewish responses to both theological and philosophical questions pertaining to God, humanity, and the Jewish people. Thoughtful and engaging, these responses are meant to strengthen the reader's sense of Jewish identity through expanding his or her knowledge and understanding of Jewish life, practice, and tradition. Perfect for self-study, group study, adult learning, and conversion, the collection strives to encourage further study and ongoing discussion through presenting Judaism's intellectual and spiritual tools as means for leading a life full of purpose and commitment. Rabbi Israel of Rhyszin tells a story of two people entering a forest. One has a lantern while one does not. The two meet, and the one carrying the lantern is able to illuminate their shared path. When the two part, the one without a lantern is left in the dark once more. From this, we learn that we all must carry our own light. My hope is that this book will provide light along the path and, in so doing, will provide a wider horizon of Jewish tradition and ideals to light the way. - Rabbi Paul Citrin, Editor

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Good essays on subjects near and dear to most of us: Are we made in God's image? What does gender contribute to being human? What do the terms, grace, salvation and love mean to Jews. Ditto for the concept of a soul and an afterlife. 39 essays by rabbis each answering the same questions. I'm neither Jewish nor religious and still find these worth reading and considering. Biggest quibble? That there's no table of contents by contributor.

This theologically oriented book, generally well-written, deals with interesting and important topics, but the organization leaves something to be desired. This book consists of three chapters. Each chapter begins with a set of four numbered questions. Then answers provided by different rabbis are shown. This is not the most useful way to organize material for readers like me. Why, for example, is Rabbi Chasen (whose name is unfamiliar to me) the first among those who answered the four questions of Chapter 1? Because he is the first on the alphabetic list of authors, at the end of the book. Such organization would be appropriate if the authors were well known representatives of different denominations, from Orthodox to Reconstructionists. But the twelve questions themselves are extremely interesting; they can be used when theological topics are discussed, for example, in the framework of synagogue adult education. Here are seven of these questions: 1. What is your concept of God, and how has your view changed through your life? 2. What is God's relationship to suffering and evil? 3. What is the connection between God and ethical values? 4. In our science-oriented society, how do you speak of God's role in nature and in history? 5. What does it mean to be created in the divine image? 6. What is your concept of soul and afterlife? 7. What is a Jewish definition of being religious or having faith? Ludwik Kowalski, Ph.D. (see Wikipedia)

Great book covering lots of views within the Jewish faith about God, ethics and humanity.

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