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The Educator's Privilege



Compiled from the works of
THE LUBAVITCHER REBBE
RABBI MENACHEM M. SCHNEERSON



Synopsis

The Educator's Privilege Compiled By: Rabbi Eliyahu Friedman Translated By: Rabbi Aryeh Leib Solomon It is said that a teacher affects eternity, for his influence will last forever. In The Educator's Privilege, just released by Kehot Publication Society, educators are treated to a wealth of uplifting inspirational messages from the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, of blessed memory, on the privileges of dedicating one's life to the higher calling of Jewish education. During his more than forty years of leadership of Chabad-Lubavitch, the Rebbe explored a vast array of educational concerns that underlined the place of Jewish education at the forefront of Chabad's program. The Rebbe's teachings provided encouragement and reinvigoration to those serving as educators, and inspired many others to engage in educational activity, whether in the role of a teacher, parent, or supporter of institutions of authentic Jewish education. Today we are fortunate to be in possession of several thousand articles of educational correspondence as well as transcripts of talks by the Rebbe on educational concepts. The present compilation of succinct citations drawn from the Rebbe's writings and addresses on the role of the educator, collected by noted scholar and author Rabbi Eli Friedman of Safed, Israel, and translated by Rabbi Aryeh Solomon of Sydney, Australia, also offers a glimpse into the inspiration behind the far-reaching educational infrastructure of the world-wide Chabad-Lubavitch movement.

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Customer Reviews

The Educator's Privilege is quite good for the community at which it is aimed: The Lubavitcher Chasidim. A compilation of letters and statements by Rabbi Menachem Schneerson, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, it is made up largely of hortatory thoughts to encourage and inspire (and occasionally chasten) Chasidic teachers of young children. As a friendly gentile in secondary and college-level teaching (specializing in religious and ethical issues in teaching), I found it worthy, but with little that was really new for me. There were occasional insights of a general nature that provoked serious thought and prayer. For example, an early reference from the Mishnah -- "Who is wise? One who learns from every human being" -- led to days and days of very positive rumination for me (and I hope, an enlarged personal humanity). One difficulty, though, is that the book uses a number of Hebrew and/or Yiddish terms, but in most cases only gives us the barest parenthetical definitions. Much sectarian knowledge (e.g., familiarity with ancient Jewish writers and modern Jewish terminology) is presumed that even a fairly well-informed and very sympathetic outsider might not have. For example: "the place of chinuch (Jewish education)...." This reader could have used a bit more explanation up front, although I was able to put together a decent understanding as I read on. Another early example was the use of the word kedushah, defined only as "sanctity." I know that attribute has many elements and levels that someone familiar with Orthodox/Chabadnik Judaism would appreciate, but which an outsider (or even a secular Jew) might not fully grasp. Chabad members might find the book much richer than I did.

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