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Koren Pirkei Avot (Hebrew Edition)



Synopsis

The newest edition of the traditional Ethics of our Fathers features the Hebrew text aligned alongside the rich English translation of Rabbi Jonathan Sacks. The commentary by Rabbi Marc D. Angel includes ideas from traditional and contemporary thinkers and scholars, allowing the lessons of Pirkei Avot to resonate with readers of all levels of observance.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jews and non-Jews have recognized the practical wisdom of many of the sayings in Pirkei Avot, "The Ethics of the Fathers," and many Jews can quote its teachings from memory. Jews considered the Ethics of the Fathers so significant that many excellent commentaries have been written on the Ethics and the custom arose to read one chapter a week during the summer months. But this Koren volume is unique in half a dozen ways that make it special. The Hebrew script and English translation are broken down, as is usual in Koren books, into easy to read phrases with excellent print. The translation of the six chapters by Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks is in modern English, with Rabbi Sacks sometimes paraphrasing the Hebrew text when it makes more sense to do so rather than presenting an awkward literal English translation. Rabbi Marc D. Angel has given a very learned introduction in which he points out, among much else, that "Great sages in ancient civilizations have provided teachings to help guide humanity to harmonious, happy, and wise lives. Among the wisest and most influential teachers were those of ancient Israel." Rabbi Angel offers explanation of all of the wise ancient sayings, presenting both traditional commentaries as well as learned thoughts by others, Jews and non-Jews, which add depth to the teachings of the

fathers. He supplements the wise lessons of the ancients with modern information such as the following. An Israeli Nobel Prize winner described the "illusion of validity": people tend to think their judgments are valid even when based simply on first impressions or relatively short observations and are often badly mistaken.

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