

I am Jewish – Personal reflections Inspired by the Last Words of
Daniel Pearl. Edited by Judea and Ruth Pearl.
Jewish Lights Publishing 2004.

When the Jewish journalist for the Wall Street Journal Daniel Pearl was murdered by elements of Al Qaeda in Pakistan his execution was filmed on video. His last words were: My father is Jewish, my mother is Jewish, I am Jewish.

Coming to terms with the brutal ending of their son's life his parents set up a foundation to foster cross-cultural understanding named in honour of their son.

Inspired by the last words of Daniel Pearl, and supported by the inestimable Stuart M Matlins of Jewish Lights Publishing, the Pearls approached leading Jewish personalities throughout the world, prominent in every field of human endeavour, to reflect on what being Jewish means to them .

The result is the collection contained in this book, an extraordinary variety of views expressed by some extraordinary Jewish women and men. Britain is admirably represented by Rabbis Bayfield and Sacks, and among other lay contributors by Lord Janner of Braunstone and the Lord Chief Justice.

The texts are of varying length, and many are worthy of reading for study and discussion; crowning them all is the text of the address given by Judea Pearl at the memorial service for his son held on the first Yahrzeit.

This is a book that every committed Jew should have on their book shelf.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh