

Tough Questions Jews Ask  
A Young Adult's Guide to Building a Jewish Life  
by Rabbi Edward Feinstein.

Edward Feinstein makes no claim to have THE answers to the questions cited in this engaging short book, but he expresses the hope that the answers he gives will satisfy some and challenge others to find answers of their own. Most of the predictable questions are rehearsed and, though at times they are glib and facile, treated with integrity and respect. If it achieves nothing else, Rabbi Feinstein's book will encourage those who are cynical to accept that there are actually many young people whose desire is to make sense of their Jewish heritage rather than abandoning it, and that anything and everything which can help them in this regard should be warmly embraced.

God in our Relationships by Rabbi Dennis S. Ross.

The philosophy of Martin Buber, particularly that known by the two words I-Thou, may not be everyone's idea of easy and readily comprehensible material. Yet this is exactly what Dennis Ross sets out to make it in another original publication by Jewish Lights Publishing. His starting point is a chance encounter a quarter century ago with Buber's *Tales of the Hasidim: The Later Masters*, which served as his introduction to the philosopher's other writings, especially that entitled *I-Thou*. In this deeply spiritual and sustaining short book, drawing on his own personal and professional experience as well as some Hasidic tales, Ross applies the major themes of the I-Thou philosophy to every day life and describes with passion and enthusiasm the ways in which it can enrich our everyday lives.

7th Heaven – Celebrating Shabbat with Rebbe Nachman of Breslov  
by Moshe Mykoff.

In this latest work based on the writings of Nachman of Bratslav (and his disciple Reb Noson), Moshe Mykoff continues his great venture of bringing the writings and philosophy of the Rebbe to the widest possible audience. The layout of the book is interesting, with four main sections, Shabbat – the Night, the Morning, the Afternoon, On the Way Out, subdivided into many small sections on such subjects as clothing, food, marital relations, *Lekha Dodi*, each with a short essay and accompanying texts from Rebbe Nachman's writings or other rabbinic sources.

The quality of the essays is variable, and some will bring a smile to the face of more cynical readers, but there is still more than enough material in this work to deepen our thoughts about Shabbat, and perhaps even to enhance our celebration of the day.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh