

Wrestling with an Angel
Power, Morality and Jewish Identity by Ehud Luz.
Translated from the Hebrew by Michael Swirsky. Yale 2003

Ehud Luz, Professor of Jewish Thought at Haifa University, has produced a powerful contribution to the increasingly anguished debate concerning the relationship between the religion of Judaism and a modern Jewish State.

Wrestling with an Angel – Power, Morality and Jewish Identity is a meticulously researched and measured consideration of the influence of traditional Jewish teachings on early Zionism, and the role of those teachings in the State of Israel's national life.

The book is divided into three parts: the Will to Power, The Moral Price of Sovereignty, and Power and Jewish Identity in Israeli Public Discourse. The first two are of great interest but it is the latter which is undoubtedly the most relevant to the many arguments that rage today.

This is a very demanding book to read but the effort of staying with the text is amply rewarded.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh