

Talking about God – Exploring the Meaning of religious Life
with Kierkegaard, Buber, Tillich and Heschel by Daniel F Polish, PhD.
Jewish Lights Publishing 2007.

I have been an admirer of David Polish's writing for many years: it combines great scholarship and human insight with an effortless grace of expression. A previous work, *Keeping Faith with the Psalms*, published in 2004, remains one of my favourites.

With *Talking about God*, David Polish brings together his wisdom and pedagogic skills and opens up to the reader the thought of four of the greatest philosophers of the twentieth century, two Jewish and two Christian, by whom he has been greatly influenced. There are four main chapters, one devoted to each of the philosophers, starting with Kierkegaard and ending with Heschel. In his preface Polish explains the motivation for the book in an age when the impetus for inter-faith dialogue in a post-Nostra Aetate world is so strong, and in his introduction he introduces the reader gently to the world of religious thought in general and specifically to that of his chosen thinkers.

His writing is clear, personal and never patronising, and his choice of Abraham as the link-figure bringing the philosophers together is inspired. In his brief conclusion Polish summarises the ground he has covered and in the concluding two paragraphs sets out both a rationale and a challenge for engaging with such texts and thinkers.

Talking about God is a wonderful study group text and a perfect book for anyone acquisitive for new knowledge and new understanding.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh