

The Wisdom of Judaism – An Introduction to the Values of the Talmud
by Dov Peretz Elkins.
Jewish Lights Publishing 2007.

Rabbi Elkins has carved out for himself an enviable reputation as an anthologist, as epitomised by his two previous publications for Jewish Lights on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

In *The Wisdom of Judaism* he takes a series of quotations from the Talmud and then writes brief but powerful commentaries upon them. The texts are divided into six parts: Kindness through Giving, Welcoming, and Sharing; Human Relationships: Treating Others Fairly, Openly, and Lovingly; Personal Values through Humility, Awareness, and Dignity; Family Values: Living Respectfully with Mates, Children, and Parents; Teaching and Learning: Methods, Goals, and Results; Life's Puzzles: A Potpourri of Solutions to Everyday Problems.

Elkins writes with an easy and engaging style, his selection of quotations is astute and his commentary is thought-provoking and occasionally provocative.

The Wisdom of Judaism is an excellent book for study groups, for the teaching of proselytes, and for the higher age groups of religion schools.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh