

An Introduction to Medieval Jewish Philosophy by Daniel Rynhold.  
I.B.Tauris 2009.

Having cut, and blunted, my teeth as an undergraduate on Isaac Husik's *A History of Medieval Jewish Philosophy* and Julius Guttmann's *Philosophies of Judaism*, I approached Daniel Rynhold's new book with some trepidation. Could he succeed in clarifying what for me was often opaque, could he make the incomprehensible comprehensible, and could he make the subject over all attractive?

*An Introduction to Medieval Jewish Philosophy* provides a resounding 'yes' to all these questions. In the preface, supplemented by the introduction, Dr Rynhold explains that he has prepared a selective work whose purpose is to introduce readers to the basic ideas and arguments of medieval Jewish philosophy, together with information about six of its leading proponents, Saadia Gaon, Isaac Israeli, Judah Halevi, Moses Maimonides, Levi Gersonides and Hasdai Crescas .

The book is divided into eight chapters: The Existence of God, God and Creation, Divine Attributes, Prophecy, Rationalising the Commandments, Freewill and Omniscience, The Good Life, The Bad Life with concluding remarks and an appendix entitled Maimonidean Esotericism.

In each chapter Rynhold effortlessly weaves together the writings and opinions of his chosen philosophers, and there are end notes and suggestions for further readings attached to each.

*An Introduction to Medieval Philosophy* is an excellent and encouraging entrée into what can be a challenging subject, and will whet the appetite of many who may have previously avoided it and encourage them to dive in and plunder its riches.

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