

The Ultimate Quotable Einstein, collected and edited by Alice Calaprice,
with a Foreword by Freeman Dyson.
Princeton University Press 2011.

The Ultimate Einstein represents a labour of love by its editor, Alice Calaprice, an Einstein expert who has worked for many years on Einstein's papers, bequeathed after his death to the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. It is also a sumptuous collection of approximately 1600 quotes on a wide variety of subjects, from Aging to Death, from Peace and War to Race and Prejudice, from Germany to Jews, from Science to Religion with a plethora of subjects in between. Many of the quotes come from Einstein's own papers, others are taken from the pen of others, writing about Einstein or quoting him.

The collection shows Einstein in all his guises - as a scientist, a humanist, a Jew, a husband and a father, and as a philosopher. Inevitably, some of the quotes in a large collection like this stand out from others, though all divulge an aspect of this 20th century icon. The book is also richly illustrated with photographs of Einstein, some of them revealing as much of the man as do his words.

The Ultimate Quotable Einstein is the sort of collection to which one can have recourse again and again, finding something new, thought provoking and eloquent each time.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh