



Open Minded Torah: Of Irony, Fundamentalism and Love

William Kolbrener

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***Open Minded Torah* elicits unheard voices from the Jewish past for a twenty-first century Judaism at a time when fundamentalists and fanatics often dominate conversations about religion. Kolbrener's brilliant and unorthodox essays are a must-read for anyone who wants to pursue a life of faith, based on commitment yet sensitive to the complexities and demands of the modern world.**

In essays as likely to turn to baseball, the NASDAQ and Denzel Washington as to Shakespeare, quantum physics and psychoanalysis, Kolbrener provides powerful - and often surprising - insights into how open mindedness allows for authentic Jewish engagement in an age otherwise defined by fundamentalism or unbelief.

Open Minded Torah presents - on topics ranging from parenting a son with Down syndrome to Biblical criticism to Talmudic interpretation of dreams - a perspective on Judaism which emphasizes skepticism, pluralism and the need to embrace difference. Through a personal synthesis of Western and Jewish learning, popular culture and philosophy, Kolbrener offers a compelling new vision where being open minded allows for a non-dogmatic and committed Judaism. Informed by Kolbrener's considerable erudition, but always accessible, the essays of *Open Minded Torah* are critical for those wanting to pursue a non-coercive, tolerant and creative Jewish life.

For every person, it is said, there is a corresponding letter in the Torah: this innovative collection shows Kolbrener writing his letter, and providing the inspiration for others to write their own.

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