



2018

Book Review: Equality Lost: Essays in Torah Commentary, Halacha, and Jewish Thought

David B. Levy

Touro College, david.levy@touro.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://touro scholar.touro.edu/tcl_pubs



Part of the [Jewish Studies Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Levy, D. B. (2017). [Review of the book Equality Lost: Essays in Torah Commentary, Halacha, and Jewish Thought by Yehuda Henkin. *AJL Reviews*, 8(4).

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Touro College Libraries at Touro Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in Touro College Libraries Publications and Research by an authorized administrator of Touro Scholar. For more information, please contact touro.scholar@touro.edu.

Henkin, Yehuda. *Equality Lost: Essays in Torah Commentary, Halacha, and Jewish Thought*. Second Edition. Jerusalem: Urim Publications, 189 pp. 2018. \$19.95. (9789655242973).

The title *Equality Lost* is taken from Rav Henkin's brilliant first chapter which is a reading of how *zilzul* (disrespect and belittlement, underestimation) by one person of another, in spite of their having been created equal, has tragic results. The book is divided into three sections: Torah commentary, Halacha, and Jewish Thought. Additionally, it includes a biography of Rav Henkin's grandfather, Rabbi Yosef Eliyahu Henkin -- the first biographical account to appear in English. Henkin is extremely erudite, and his book is punctuated by learned footnotes for following up with sources. This is an important work, and welcome second edition for the English-reading public unfamiliar with Henkin's Hebrew writings.

In the Halacha section, Henkin demonstrates how to interpret Halacha in regard to women in this age of feminism. Sensitivity is given to *Kol Isha* (the voice of a woman) and women reciting *kaddish* and other prayers. He also deals with the conversion to Judaism of children in non-observant homes, and the killing of captured terrorists.

In the section on Jewish thought, great insights are offered into the role *rechilut* (tale bearing) played in the destruction of the second temple and the lessons to be learned regarding the state of Israel, and the true meaning of *teshuvah* related to current events. With regard to the glatt kosher 'craze,' Henkin demonstrates that what comes out of one's mouth is more important than what goes into it. Highly recommended for all libraries.

David B Levy, Touro College, NYC

Kallus, HaRav Shraga and Rabbi Avraham Chaim Slansky. *Wine, Whisky & Halachah*. Second Edition. Jerusalem: Orot Chaim, 2018. 172 pp. \$19.99. (9781680251791).

The authors provide a "halachic overview to the laws of wine and whisky." After the rabbinic approbations, the volume is split into three books. The first explores the rules and status of wines, particularly when non-Jews are involved in its production or handling. The second book discusses the issues with whisky: while whisky is inherently kosher, it is often stored in wine casks or flavored with wine, about which different rabbis have different opinions as to the *kashrut* of the product. The final book is a master list with an alphabetical listing of scotch whiskies including pictures of their labels and their status as permissible or forbidden. The meticulous research is obvious in the detailed source notes, and there is an index and a glossary.

Rabbis Kallus and Slansky have compiled an invaluable resource for consumers of alcoholic beverages that adhere to the laws of *kashrut*. As they often note, many people are stringent when they can be more lenient, and vice versa. They present the differing opinions on these matters and provide the modern-day interpretation of the *halachah*. The combination of halachic discussion, practical advice, and an illustrated guide to permissible brands make the book an important addition to both personal libraries and those of Orthodox institutions.

Chava Pinchuck, Ramat Beit Shemesh, Israel

Kanarfogel, Ephraim and Dov Schwartz (eds). *Scholarly Man of Faith: Studies in the Thought and Writings of Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik*. Jerusalem; New York: Ktav Publishing Company and Urim Publishing, 2018. 198 pp. \$28.95. (9789655242812).

Rabbi Soloveitchik was a great teacher and philosopher whose views on Judaism and Zionism have influenced several generations of modern Orthodox Jews, as well as the general Jewish community. Even non-Jews have demonstrated interest in his ethical philosophy, such as the book written by the Jesuit priest, Christian Rutishauser for his doctoral thesis: *The Human Condition and the Thought of Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik* (Jersey City, Ktav, 2013).

The essays edited by Kanarfogel and Schwartz examine Soloveitchik's views of ethics, Biblical hermeneutics, love and cognition, and the history of the Tosafists. The essays are scholarly with copious