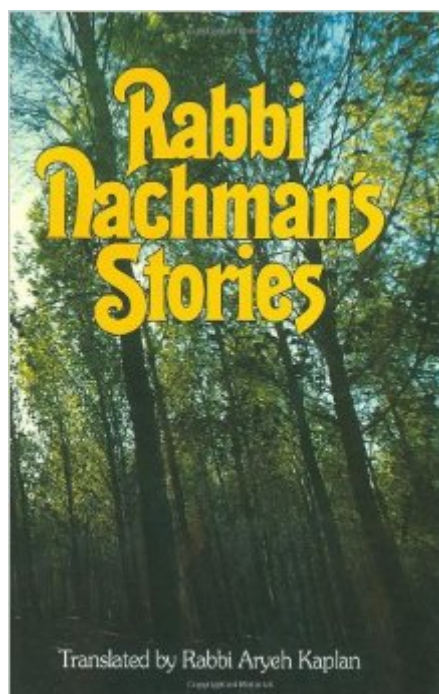


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Rabbi Nachman's Stories



Synopsis

RABBI NACHMAN'S STORIES Translated by Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan The Sages always told stories to convey some of the deepest secrets about God and His relation to the creation. Rebbe Nachman developed this ancient method to perfection. More elaborate than any previous teachings, his stories are fast-moving, richly structured and filled with penetrating insights while spellbinding and entertaining. Rabbi Kaplan's translation is accompanied by a masterful commentary drawn from the works of Rebbe Nachman's pupils. For the first time the English-speaking reader has access to authentic interpretations of the stories. Size: 6" x 9." 552 pages. Bibliography and Index. Hardback. ISBN 0-930213-02-5

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Customer Reviews

The Hasidim (Chasidim) are, literally, "the Pious Ones" (or perhaps "the Faithful"). It is a very old term in Hebrew. In current Jewish usage the word refers mainly to a popular mystically-inspired movement which emerged in Eastern Europe in the eighteenth century, and which persists today, chiefly as communities around charismatic leaders, the heirs, or their appointed successors, of their original founders. (There are other Hasidic movements in Jewish history, the most notable being one in Second Temple times, and another, also with mystical leanings, but elitist, in medieval France, the Rhineland, and the German states.) The community founded by Nachman (Nahman) of Breslov, however, never recognized a successor to the original Rebbe (Rabbi), and continues to regard the writings and traditions of their founder as their truest guide. This has produced a body of commentary around Nachman's writings, and the recollections of his immediate disciples, and a

major effort to translate portions into English. The late Aryeh Kaplan played a major part in this effort, which can be called "Pietist" in a more general sense of reverent deference to the past. Aryeh Kaplan's translation of, and commentary on, stories told by the Nachman of Breslov (late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries) is an example of Breslover Hasidic piety in two ways. One, in faithful adherence to the text, as it is understood by the Breslover Hasidim. Second, it is faithful in the pious endeavor to explain the text in an edifying, and doctrinally consistent, way. It includes a set of now-classic major "Tales," and some other stories told by Rebbe Nachman.

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