

Rabbi Lord Dr. Jonathan Sacks

Theologian and Philosopher; influential in Europe and throughout the world

There are many who believe that progress and modernity do not go hand-in-hand with religion. Religion is seen by many as outdated and fanatical. Fundamentalism and extremism, sometimes accompanied by violence, in fact push many away from the belief in God.

Rabbi Lord Dr. Jonathan Sacks, the most influential rabbi in Europe today for Jews and non-Jews alike, has written dozens of books that are global best-sellers in many languages in order to explain the relevance of faith in the modern world, as well as the advantages of faith and the practical and moral virtues of religion, precisely in today's world.

In his books, Rabbi Sacks explains the monotheistic philosophy in general and Judaism in particular, using a language and approach that are suited to the contemporary Western world.

The Rabbi mainly addresses the intellectual community with its liberal and educated worldview, and conducts a lively and stormy dialogue with the philosophical/moral/scientific/academic world. In his books the Rabbi lays out a broad perspective on the role of religion in the global era, on ethics/morals and social responsibility, on the future of Judaism, and on the other issues on today's global agenda.



Rabbi Sacks meets often with religious leaders and politicians around the world and seeks to create dialogue between religions as well as between world leaders. The Rabbi espouses great respect for members of different religions and does not claim a monopoly on religion. He views his role as that of a philosopher involved in practical life, and seeks to bring the Jewish approach and the answers it provides to important philosophical questions and to the ethical issues on the global agenda to the attention of world leaders.

The Rabbi criticizes the religious approach that isolates itself from the world and from mainstream culture; he believes that Torah study must be combined with general education, the study of sciences, etc. The Rabbi sees Judaism as a voice of hope in the human discourse, through which the world may be made a better place to live. In his opinion, Judaism's task still lies ahead and not in the past.

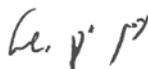
During the more than two decades in which the Rabbi served as Chief Rabbi of the United Kingdom, he forged strong ties with the British Royal Family as well as with the heads of the British government, who consulted him a great deal.

The Rabbi has lectured on Jewish theology and philosophy at the world's foremost universities and regularly speaks at the world's most important forums, congresses, parliaments, as well as on television and radio channels with global audiences. At each event, the Rabbi proudly brings the teachings of Judaism in all its splendor. With his distinguished appearance and through his deeds, the Rabbi sanctifies the name of God throughout the world.

In consideration of the above, the selection committee has decided to bestow on Rabbi Lord Dr. Jonathan Sacks the Katz Award for 5774 (2014).


Rabbi Israel
Meir Lau


Professor Menahem
Ben-Sasson


Rabbi Adin
(Even Israel)
Steinsaltz

