Reviews of Nonfiction Titles for Adults

Edited by Daniel Scheide and Rebecca Jefferson

Cohen, Jonathan, Matt Goldish, and Barry W. Holtz, eds. *The Oral and the Textual in Jewish Tradition and Jewish Education*. Studies in Jewish Education 15. Jerusalem: Hebrew University, Magnes Press, 2019. 294 pp. \$33.00. (9789657008232). Also available as an eBook.

The papers in this volume spring from a conference convened by the Melton Coalition for Creative Interaction at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem in December 2014. Conference participants considered the relationship between the oral and the textual modes of discourse in Jewish history and contemporary education. Their essays ask, in part, "How does Jewish education achieve the perfect balance pedagogically between silence, speaking, and writing?" For example, the Haggadah is a written text, but each Seder is always uniquely different due to the oral nature of the discussion surrounding it. A student's relationship to pedagogical materials is also a relationship to the author or to the teacher imparting its contents, as the Rabbinic adage holds: *oseh likhah rav* (attain for yourself a teacher), underpinning the importance of personal interaction in Jewish education. All the essays in this volume articulate patterns of oral and written discourse that can greatly enrich one's knowledge of both the history of Jewish culture and the theory and practice of Jewish education.

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