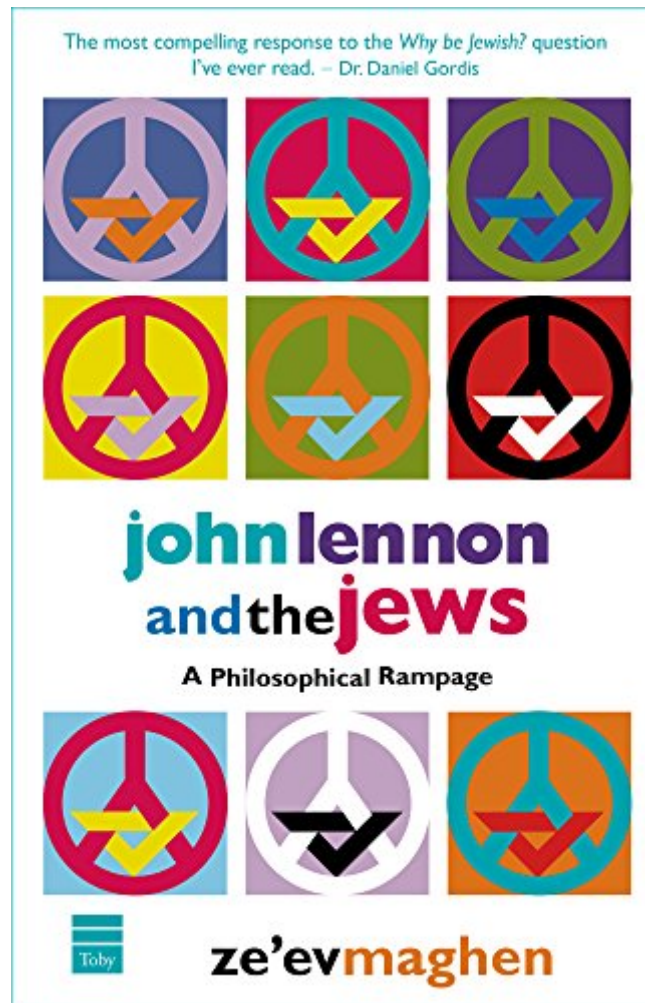


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John Lennon And The Jews: A Philosophical Rampage



Synopsis

When was the last time you laughed hysterically during a philosophy lecture? The last time you doubled over in stitches during the Rabbi's sermon? In *John Lennon and the Jews*, Ze'ev Maghen takes his readers on an audacious, uproariously funny Magical Mystery Tour of the mind and heart. Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance meets Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy in this provocative, creative and stunningly original work that the Jerusalem Post likens to a "dazzling intellectual amusement park." A chance encounter at LAX introduces Maghen to a trio of Hare Krishna missionaries who turn out to be Israeli immigrants. They insist that Judaism is archaic, irrational, immoral and just downright stupid; that affiliating with the Jewish people in our modern, globalizing day and age is pointless and passe. Their adamant universalism and "everything is everything" rejection of their Jewish identity put the author in mind of his favorite Beatles' famous lyric, "Imagine there's no countries (and no religion too)." *John Lennon and the Jews* is Maghen's confrontation with Lennon's vision of one-worldism and other in vogue beliefs that threaten Jewish continuity today. This work is a journey through centuries, countries, sitcoms, and ideas that will leave no thinking, feeling person unaffected. "You have never had so much fun cogitating," writes one reader. "It's like sitting in a yeshiva in front of a highly erudite rabbi on mushrooms."

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Customer Reviews

True Story. Ze'ev Maghen stumbles upon three Jewish Hare Krishnas in an airport in Los Angeles. Maghen, an American immigrant to Israel, fluent in six languages, immediately recognizes the accent of the Hare Krishnas who approach him. They are Shira, Ofer and Daron, all Israelis, all former soldiers in the Israel Defense Forces. After a brief bit of small talk, Maghen lets them have it. "What the hell are you doing here?... You are Jews! You are Israelis, for God's sake! What the hell are you doing here, in this place, on a Friday morning, wearing these clothes, chanting those words and selling that book?" One by one, Shira, Ofer and Daron patiently explain to Maghen the absolute absurdity of Jewish belief and the superiority of Krishna Consciousness. "Don't you see," [Ofer] continued, thundering down from his nearly seven foot high pulpit, "that the Torah and its laws are no longer relevant to people's lives today? All that hocus-pocus, all those archaic stories and ridiculous rules and time-wasting rituals and impractical practices! There's just no rhyme or reason to any of it!" he forged on. "How can such obsolete, irrational poppycock still appeal to an intellectual person like you? Now, Hindu wisdom, on the other hand, that's where you'll find a truly compelling reflection of reality as it is. That's where you'll find profound insights for the rational person, for the reasoning, penetrating, philosophical mind, insights which not only do not contradict, but actually help us to better understand and take advantage of our modern age of scientific discovery and global responsibility. But Judaism? Judaism just doesn't cut it in a thinking person's world. Sorry.

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