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**Elie Wiesel: Jewish, literary, and moral perspectives**

STEVEN KATZ & ALAN ROSEN (Eds)

Bloomington, Indiana University Press, 2013

302 pp., \$30.00 (hbk), ISBN 978-0-253-00805-3

The influence of Elie Wiesel on understanding the Holocaust, in both popular and academic spheres, is well established. His testimony *Night* is deemed one of the defining texts to emerge from the Holocaust. This edited volume from Katz and Rosen looks beyond *Night*, with an impressive span of Wiesel's lesser-studied, but equally revealing texts.

Split into five sections, *Elie Wiesel: Jewish, Literary, and Moral Perspectives* focuses on Wiesel's literary rather than autobiographical, works, but the contributors often identify how real and literary life and characters merge for Wiesel. Several texts receive multiple appraisals throughout by the different authors: *The Gates of the Forest*, *Wise Men and Their Tales*, for example. In each chapter, however, the religious, cultural and literary influences on Wiesel are read into his work, offering a rich variety of perspectives.

What is not in dispute between the authors in this text is the tremendous influence Wiesel's Hasidic upbringing has had on his vast body of work. Nor is the reader left in any doubt about the significance of the Holocaust on Wiesel's literary identity. Although ostensibly about Elie Wiesel and not the Holocaust per se, what emerges throughout is the enormous impact of the Holocaust, not only on the course of Wiesel's life, but on how he re-reads the Torah, the Jewish texts and legends, and also the legendary Jewish writers and rabbis, and how we can understand these texts and figures through reading Wiesel.

Section four, Testimony, recognizes Wiesel's contemporaries in Holocaust literary testimony, locating his contribution, justifiably, in an impressive collection of works by the likes of Primo Levi and Jean Améry. The final part, on Legacies, is particularly valuable as the contributing authors are all former students and colleagues of Wiesel, and offer interesting personal perspectives on Wiesel as a teacher, a role, we discover from Rosen, he undertook in the same year he added biblical commentary to his repertoire.

This collection about Wiesel's religious oeuvre strikes the right balance between the academic and theological commentary, with a mix of perspectives from the various authors' disciplines. This text will be particularly valuable for scholars and students working in the broad field of the Holocaust in the Humanities, but also offers some accessible insights into Jewish theology and Jewish ethics in the post-Holocaust world, and does not overlook challenging questions of anti-Semitism after the Holocaust and the authenticity of Holocaust testimonies. Wiesel's influence extends into all of these areas, and this impressive volume locates him in each of them via his literary works.

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