

CBT Library Highlights: With All Your Heart

In conjunction with *Rosh Chodesh Av*, which commences the Nine Days leading to *Tisha B'Av*, and the simultaneous *yarzheit* of Major Roi Klein, H'Y', I would like to draw your attention to the following book:

B'chol I'vevecha ...With All Your Heart...

Insights into the Inner World of Israeli Hero Major Roi Klein

Copyright 5768 (2008) by Netanel Elyashiv and Machon Binyan HaTorah

Translated by Sharon Gasner

Based on discourses by Rav Eliezer Kashtiel

This beautiful, bittersweet book is partly a biography, partly a discussion of exile and return, and partly an exploration of the Ideal Jewish Society and its values.

Major Roi Klein was a career officer in the IDF who died at the battle of Bint Jbeil, Lebanon on the first of Av, 2006 by throwing himself on a grenade and thereby saving many soldiers in his unit. As we come to know him through this book, he was also a husband and father, a diligent Torah student with a secular degree in Industrial Engineering and Management, and an example of many ideals of the modern State of Israel.

The chapters of the book are actually transcripts of a series of *shiurim* given by his *chevruta* during the year of mourning at his parents' home in Ra'anana, Israel. Some passages from his study notebooks are included when relevant. The chapters are organized around the outstanding *midot* that Rav Kashtiel recognized in Roi Klein during his lifetime. In keeping with Klein's quiet nature, Rav Kashtiel refrains from openly discussing Major Klein himself. To quote from the Forward to the book by the editor, "Roi's name was mentioned explicitly in these lectures on only a few occasions, and generally at the end of the lecture, but those who knew him, knew that, in fact, the entire lesson was about him." The chapters are arranged according to the following qualities (*midot*):

1. Adinut (softness)
2. Spiritual thirst
3. Balancing renewal and stability
4. Emulating H's ways
5. Humility
6. Gevura (inner strength)
7. Awe of Heaven
8. Love of the Land
9. Charity

The ideas and ideals discussed rely heavily on Rav Kook, the first Chief Rabbi of Israel and the mainstay of Religious Zionism, who is quoted liberally. Rav Kook, in my limited experience in reading his excerpts in English, is challenging to understand because of his 'lofty' language and imagery. However, the concepts dealt with here are expanded and 'translated' into more ordinary parlance and with a lovely clarity which makes Rav Kook more accessible and his ideas more concrete.

It seems that Roi Klein embodied the 'best and brightest' of Religious Zionism: high morality and selfless dedication to his Land and his People. I think that if we have even a shred of optimism and idealism left about what Israel and Jewish Israelis can strive to become, we will come away inspired after reading this book.

By the way, I commend the translator for producing a smooth and highly readable translation of this book. I can only imagine how beautiful the original Hebrew version must be based on the results in English.

May I also recommend, as a companion to this lovely book, a monograph written by Rabbi Eli Sadan entitled Navigating a Direction for Religious Zionism. Rabbi Sadan is the founder of the pre- and post-army program in Eli which is the religious framework and support system for religious men pursuing careers in the IDF. Rabbi Sadan's concept has now grown into a network of programs all over Israel resulting in a significant increase in career officers in the Israeli Army. He tackles the question of

why the religious community in Israel was not at the forefront of building the institutions of State in the early years of the State of Israel despite their relatively large numbers. He calls on his fellow *dati'im* to leave the 'bunker mentality,' which served to preserve the Jewish people in exile for 2000 years, but now hinders full participation in government and excludes their voice from contributing to public discourse and leadership. He envisions similar schools/support systems in every area of public life (such as the judicial branch) in order to bring the ideals of Religious Zionism to reality.