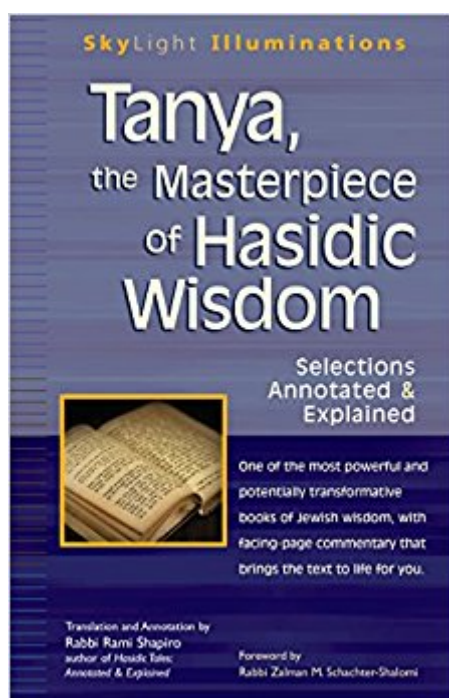


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# Tanya The Masterpiece Of Hasidic Wisdom: Selections Annotated & Explained (SkyLight Illuminations)



## Synopsis

The wisdom of Jewish spirituality and mysticism can be a companion for your own spiritual journey. Tanya, "It Was Taught," is one of the most powerful and potentially transformative books of Jewish wisdom. Written in 1797 by Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi, the founder of Chabad Hasidism, Tanya sets forth the fundamentals of Jewish spirituality and mysticism. While a focus of daily study by tens of thousands of Hasidic Jews, Tanya is little known outside the world of Jewish mysticism. Until now, its kabbalistic terms and esoteric language have made this essential text of Jewish spirituality inaccessible to most readers. In this engaging volume, Rabbi Rami Shapiro offers a contemporary English translation of key selections of Tanya coupled with commentary designed to clarify and amplify the wisdom it contains. He also outlines the philosophical and spiritual framework on which Tanya is based: •God's nonduality; the 3-dimensional dimensions of reality and their corresponding intelligences (body, heart, mind, soul, and spirit); the purpose of mitzvot, the practices of Jewish life, as catalysts to God realization and the hallowing of all life through godliness; •to help you understand the selected Tanya translations in a way that enhances your own spiritual development. Now you can benefit from the wisdom of Tanya even if you have no previous knowledge of Judaism or Hebrew terminology. This SkyLight Illuminations edition presents the core teachings of Tanya, with insightful yet unobtrusive commentary that will deepen your understanding of the soul and how it relates to and manifests the Divine Source from which all life comes, in which all life lives and to which all life returns.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Rami Shapiro is one of the great Jewish spiritual teachers of our generation. This volume opens one of the all-time classics of Jewish spirituality for beginning students of all faiths. Through his poetic translations and paraphrases, he not only unlocks Tanya but also adds a classic of his own to our library of personal yearning." • Rabbi Lawrence Kushner, Emanu-El Scholar, Congregation Emanu-El, San Francisco; author, *The Way Into Jewish Mystical Tradition* and other books "A masterful unfolding of Tanya | paves a way for readers to find a path to God that is a 'returning through kindness.' I can't ever imagine teaching Tanya again without pointing toward this edition." • Reb Mimi Feigelson, mashpia'h ruchanit (spiritual mentor); lecturer of Rabbinics, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, American Jewish University "With insight and nuance ... opens the mystical wisdom of Hasidism to spiritual seekers of all faiths. Both the translation and the commentary guide the reader to a transformed religious consciousness." • Dr. Eitan Fishbane, author, *As Light Before Dawn: The Inner World of a Medieval Kabbalist*

Rami Shapiro, a renowned teacher of spirituality across faith traditions, is an award-winning storyteller, poet and essayist. He is author of *The Sacred Art of Lovingkindness: Preparing to Practice, Recovery* • *The Sacred Art: The Twelve Steps as Spiritual Practice* and *The Divine Feminine in Biblical Wisdom Literature: Selections Annotated & Explained* (all SkyLight Paths), among other books. Rami Shapiro is available to speak on the following topics: Writing • *The Sacred Art: Beyond the Page to Spiritual Practice* *Stop Playing God: 12 Steps as Spiritual Practice* *Biblical Wisdom for Post-biblical Times: An Exploration of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Job* *The Sacred Art of Lovingkindness: Cultivating Compassion in Daily Life* *Hasidic Wisdom: An Exploration of Hasidic Storytelling, Theology and Contemplative Practice* *Saints and Sages: Biblical Prophets, Ancient Rabbis and the Building of a Just World* Rabbi Zalman M. Schachter-Shalomi (z"l), the inspiration of the Jewish Renewal movement, is widely recognized as one of the most important Jewish spiritual teachers of our time. Professor at Temple University, he authored many books including *Davening: A Guide to Meaningful Jewish Prayer*, winner of the National Jewish Book Award; *First Steps to a New Jewish Spirit: Reb Zalman's Guide to Recapturing the Intimacy & Ecstasy in Your Relationship with God* (both Jewish Lights); *From Age-ing to Sage-ing and Wrapped in a Holy Flame*.

Provides a basic understanding of Jewish mysticism as embodied in the contemporary Hasidic movement. Intended for a general audience, it is accessible to readers from other spiritual traditions and non-practicing Jews interested in exploring the world of Jewish spirituality from an objective

standpoint.

I definitely recommend this book to anyone interested in studying the Tanya. Rabbi Shapiro explains important terminology and concepts to be able to understand them beforehand.

Rabbi Shapiro is the best! I have read his book on Proverbs and Ecclesiastes but this book Tanya is even better. WOW!

Thanks

Very important for those who wants to understand the depths of Jewish spirituality.

Has changed my life and elevated my spirituality.

Truly a masterpiece.

The Tanya is a difficult book to read without a knowledgeable guide. Rabbi Rami Shapiro has provided that in these well chosen selections. He has culled the Tanya to find passages that support most, if not all, of his theological concerns. While not as radical a reading as we find in his translation and commentary of Ecclesiastes (for instance there is talk of the different levels of the soul here, whereas in The Wisdom of Solomon, soul is ejected as nothing but a construct) still this work gives a good overview of Shapiro's ideas of God's radical immanence which borders on a kind of pantheism, his ideas of yesh (being) and ayin (nothingness) as the two combined poles of God, his belief in that we are all extensions of God, and the necessity of tzedakah and acts of chesed, kindness. This book is a valuable first reading of the Tanya, and separates it from strict Chabad interpretative control.

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