

Abraham Joshua Heschel: Philosopher of Wonder

Abraham Joshua Heschel was a leading Jewish theologian and philosopher of the 20th century. He was born in Warsaw, Poland, in 1907 and died in New York City in 1972. Heschel's work is characterized by its focus on the importance of wonder, awe, and gratitude. He believed that these emotions are essential for a meaningful human life and that they can lead us to a deeper understanding of God.

Heschel's philosophy of wonder is rooted in his belief that the world is full of mystery and that we should never take it for granted. He wrote, "The world is not a problem to be solved, but a mystery to be lived." Heschel believed that we should approach the world with a sense of childlike wonder, always open to new experiences and possibilities.

Awe is another important emotion in Heschel's philosophy. He believed that awe is the proper response to the vastness and beauty of the universe. He wrote, "Awe is the feeling of being in the presence of something greater than oneself." Heschel believed that awe can help us to transcend our own limitations and to connect with something larger than ourselves.



Abraham Joshua Heschel--Philosopher of Wonder: Our Thirty-Year Friendship and Dialogue by Maurice S. Friedman

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Gratitude is the third important emotion in Heschel's philosophy. He believed that we should be grateful for all the good things in our lives, no matter how small. He wrote, "Gratitude is the recognition of the goodness in our lives." Heschel believed that gratitude can help us to focus on the positive aspects of our lives and to appreciate the simple things that often go unnoticed.

Heschel's philosophy of wonder, awe, and gratitude is a powerful and inspiring message. It is a message that can help us to live more meaningful and fulfilling lives. Heschel's work is a valuable resource for anyone who is interested in exploring the deeper meaning of life.

Here are some of Heschel's most famous quotes:

- "The world is not a problem to be solved, but a mystery to be lived."
- "Awe is the feeling of being in the presence of something greater than oneself."
- "Gratitude is the recognition of the goodness in our lives."
- "Wonder is the first step towards understanding."
- "The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away."

Heschel's work has been praised by many leading thinkers, including:

- Martin Buber: "Heschel is one of the most important Jewish thinkers of our time."
- Paul Tillich: "Heschel is a prophet who speaks to the heart of our time."
- Reinhold Niebuhr: "Heschel is a man of God who has something to say to all men."

Abraham Joshua Heschel was a brilliant theologian and philosopher who left a lasting legacy of wisdom and inspiration. His work continues to be a source of guidance and hope for people of all faiths.



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