

May 8, 1975

FINAL EXAM QUESTIONS FOR BC 41 and 75 - ON BUBER

Define briefly the attitude of Martin Buber to HaBaD Hasidism. (Answer: He opposed it, and considered that it had compromised the original intent of the founders of Hasidism by synthesizing with Rabbinism and thereby accepting the normative structure of Judaism.)

Define the term "cultic sacramentalism" and "pan-sacramentalism" as used by Martin Buber. Show how he applies them to Hasidism and the Rabbinic tradition. (Answer: The first term refers to the fragmentation of life into the sacred and profane and characterizes normative, Talmudic Judaism. For Buber, this represents the paralysis of the spirit. The latter term, which Buber considers the genuine spiritual life and the essence of Hasidism, posits the hallowing of all life and the overcoming of the dualism between sacred and profane. The latter is redemptive and creative, whereas the former is stultifying.)