

It has been a pleasure for me to read through the sermons of my distinguished colleague, Rabbi Dr. Naphtali H. Carlebach.

It is rare that one chances upon a manuscript which so faithfully reflects the spirit and personality of its author. The mellowness of expression one will find in these sermons, the generosity of soul evident in every sentence, the brooding regret which is the harshest reproach the author permits himself, the profound genuineness of conviction that breathes in the very words -- these are not merely matters of style, a facon de parler, but they are part of the author himself, the very stuff of his character. A lovelier soul and a saintlier personality has rarely if ever graced the rabbinic community of this country.

There are three qualities that are equal in value, the Sages taught (Dereich Eretz Rabbah, Chap. VI); wisdom, piety, and meekness. Equal portions of all three constitute the major ingredients of this volume. It is an eminently successful formula for conveying to the reader a sense of the presence of that wise, God-fearing, and truly humble man who is the author.

NORMAN LAMM
December 18, 1967