

The Martin Buber Reader—Essential Writings edited by Asher D Biemann. Palgrave Macmillan 2002.

The Martin Buber Reader, Essential Writings, is a fine short collection, sensitively edited and well annotated, of the writings of the iconic philosopher. The editor divides the collection into seven sections, on Bible, Hasidism, Judaism and Jewish Religiosity, Dialogue and Anthropology, Philosophy and Religion, Community, and Zionism and Nationalism. Each section has several discrete pieces, between three and seven in number, the selection overall dating from 1903 (On the Jewish Renaissance) to 1954 (Genuine Dialogue). There are many gems here for the serious and casual reader alike, my favourite being Biblical Leadership, first published in 1933 but delivered as a lecture in Munich in 1928 to a small audience that included Thomas Mann.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh