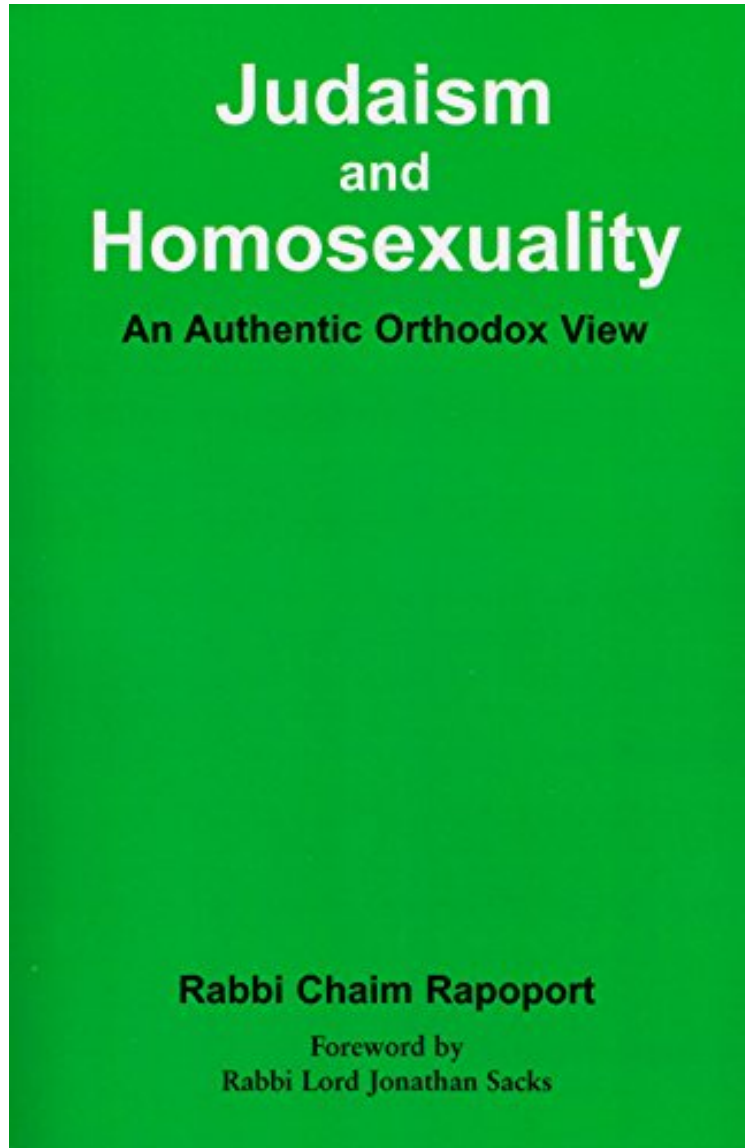


[Free and download] Judaism and Homosexuality: An Authentic Orthodox View

Judaism and Homosexuality: An Authentic Orthodox View

Rabbi Chaim Rapoport

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Rabbi Chaim Rapoport : Judaism and Homosexuality: An Authentic Orthodox View before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Judaism and Homosexuality: An Authentic Orthodox View:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Objective, authentic scholarship on a difficult topic. You don't see something this good very often.By DanaNYCHaving met Rabbi Rapoport, and having heard him speak, I was convinced that his view was objective, scholarly, and very well-documented. It's so rare to see a work on a

controversial topic on Jewish law not have a bias of some kind. Rabbi Rapoport tells it like it is, even when it's not the best news for gay people. BUT, he is clearly a compassionate soul, and he debunks a lot of the responsa based in homophobia and/or ignorance. I'm not all the way through it, as it's a scholarly read, and even the footnotes are very educational. If you're interested in an objective, well thought out work on this difficult subject of Jewish law, buy this book!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Zerbib
thank you

7 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Excellent, but . . .
By Musicophile
This book is an exceptionally well-reasoned argument for the acceptance of homosexual Orthodox men and women within the Orthodox Jewish community. It does not "buy into any agenda" but rather recognizes what nearly every psychiatrist already knows - that homosexuality is inborn and not an acquired sexual preference. As for the Torah/Halakhah prohibiting homosexual acts, I would argue that if homosexuality is indeed proven to be inborn, Rabbinic Judaism would need to rethink its assumptions regarding sexuality. The Rabbis of each generation have the ability to interpret the Torah and to set the Halakhah in light of the best understanding of that generation. That is the foundation of all Halakhah. If it becomes clear that the brains of homosexual men and women are in fact wired differently, then we must come to terms with that fact as reality and our actions and beliefs must reflect reality. We can not and should not distort reality to conform to our understanding of the Torah, but rather understand the Torah in light of reality. The argument that the Torah would not forbid homosexual relations if homosexuality were indeed inborn and immutable, is exactly correct. It would not and therefore does not! But . . . the difficulty is that it is not actually the dictates of Halakhah that preclude the acceptance of homosexuals within the Orthodox community; it is prejudice. One need only read one of the reviews of this book that appears on this site to understand what I mean. One can argue this issue back and forth, but the sad truth is that many of us refuse to even entertain the idea that our fellow Jews, and Orthodox Jews, are born this way.

In light of modern changes in attitude regarding homosexuality, and recent controversy surrounding Government legislation, Orthodox Rabbi Chaim Rapoport, Chief Medical Advisor in the Cabinet of the Chief Rabbi of Great Britain and the Commonwealth, explores the Jewish stance on homosexuality. Rabbi Rapoport combines an unswerving commitment to Jewish Law, teachings and values with a balanced, understanding perspective that has, arguably, been lacking among many in the Orthodox Jewish establishment. This work represents a milestone in understanding an issue at the heart of a great deal of debate, not to mention prejudice and discrimination. It will undoubtedly be a vehicle for future discussion and will serve as a brick in the wall of an increasingly harmonious World Jewish Community. The book combines clearly written prose for instant and easy access with exhaustive endnotes for all those who wish to explore the issue further. *Judaism and Homosexuality* is the first word on Orthodox attitudes to homosexuality, and will be a 'must have' on the desk of all professionals who find themselves in positions of guidance with the Jewish community.