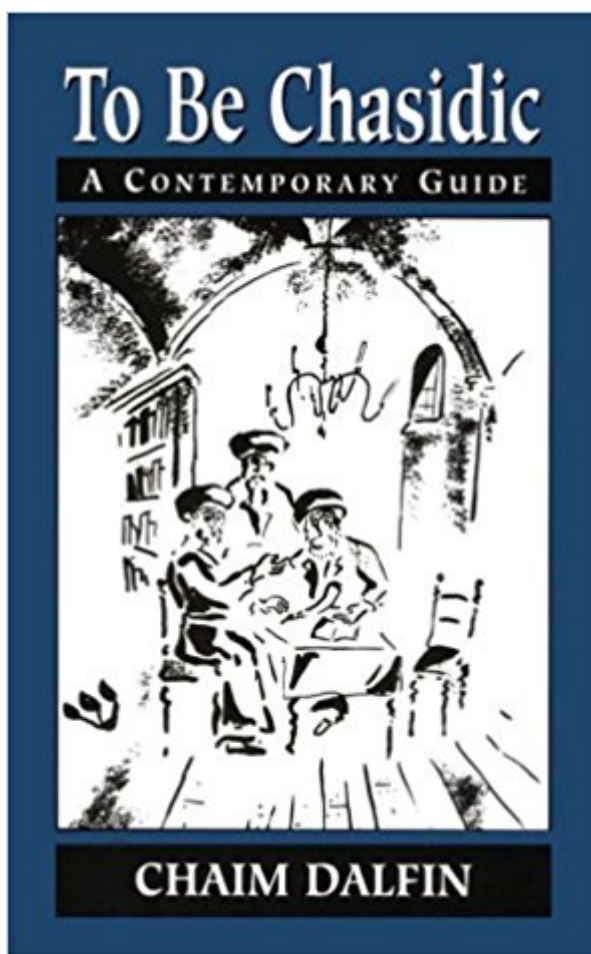


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# To Be Chasidic: A Contemporary Guide



## Synopsis

Written for both the traditional and the non-observant Jew, this book serves as an excellent introduction to the theology of chasidism.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Chaim Yaacov Dalfin received his rabbinical ordination from the Lubavitcher yeshivah in Brooklyn, New York. He received his bachelor of religious studies degree from the Rabbinical College of America in Morristown, New Jersey. Rabbi Dalfin is a professor of Jewish Mysticism and Chasidism at the West Coast Talmudic Seminary. He is the author of *Your Better Self* (1994), a book on the chasidic approach to self-improvement, and *Demystifying the Mystical* (1995), a primer to ease the beginner into the esoteric world of mysticism and Chasidism. He is the recording artist of the "Chasidic Melodies Series" - "Learn, Understand, and Sing." Rabbi Dalfin is a chasid of Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the Lubavitcher Rebbe.

This book is excellent! Over the years I have read dozens of books, articles, essays and discourses -- some primary and some secondary, some by academic scholars of Chasidism and others by real Chasidim. If I would have read "To Be Hasidic" years ago when I first got into learning Chasidus, I would have saved myself much confusion. "To Be Hasidic" is the best introduction to Hasidism that I have come across. If one would read "To Be Hasidic" and then Natan Gurary's "Chasidim: It's Development, Theology, and Practice" (available from [Amazon.com](#)), one will obtain a solid understanding of the

basics/fundamentals of Chasidism.

"To Be Chasidic: A Contemporary Guide" is an excellent book which thoroughly explains the traditional approach to Judaism and compares it to the Chasidic approach to Judaism. Discusses customs, meaning and importance of practices unique to Chasidism, such as farbrengens (gatherings), mikvah (ritual bath) for men, niggun (melodies), importance of education of children, the role of a rebbe, etc. The author does a good job explaining the meaning of Hebrew and Yiddish words used throughout the book, and the book has a useful glossary in the back. I thoroughly enjoyed this book and am searching for more books to read by this author.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. It was a very clear and informative, I plan to read other books by this author...

Parochially ignores customs and teachings from Belz, Bobov, Breslov, Ger, Satmar, Skver, Vizhnitz and so many other Chasidic approaches that aren't Chabad/Lubavitch.

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