

## THOUGHT OF RAV KOOK

Our task is the study of R. Kook's texts and their intellectual and literary background. We will try to divide the time between R. Kook's views of history and nationality, ethics and religion (using his letters and sections of *Orot haKodesh*); theory of knowledge (using various essays and *Orot haKodesh*). There will be an emphasis on mastering R. Kook's writing and learning to read him microscopically. We will also look at some of the (ab)uses to which R. Kook's writing has been subjected.

**Opening sections**

1. למהלך האידיאות בישראל (in *Orot*)
2. דרך התחיה (in *Maamrei haReiyah*)
3. Letter #89 to M. Seidel
4. המלחמה (in *Orot*).

**Short texts for study in class will be distributed in advance.**

Here is a brief survey of R. Kook's major writings. Unless otherwise indicated, the volumes are found in his the Collected Writings published by Mosad haRav (the "gray set"). Since many of the books (even those prepared and published during R. Kook's lifetime) were edited by R. Zvi Yehuda or by R. David Cohen, and since R. Kook's later writings were notebook entries rather than essays, the arrangement may reflect the editor's outlook rather than the author's. To say nothing of changes in the wording, omissions and the like.

- 1) אורות and אדר היקר, published during R. Kook's lifetime. Essayistic; focus on Zionism, nation, history. Edited R. Zvi Yehuda (Partial English translation by Naor).
- 2) אורות הקדש, major philosophical work. Edited R. David Cohen from notebooks. Volumes 1-3 in "gray set." Rough division: 1=epistemology; 2=metaphysics; 3-4=ethics. Later material published recently, not in gray set.
- 3) ערפלי טהר, similar to #2. R. Kook published early, more radical version. Not in gray set.
- 4) איגרות הראיה, Letters, Volumes 1-3 in gray set; 4 published much later. Edited R. ZY. Uncensored version of one volume appeared in 1923. (Some translated by Feldman).
- 5) אורות התשובה, ed. RZY. Later versions have additional material. (English versions available)
- 6) עולת ראיה on Siddur. Ed. RZY. R. Kook completed arrangement up to *ahava rabba*.
- 7) עין איה on Aggadta of *Berakhot-Shabbat*. Begun in Europe. Published recently.
- 8) מאמרי הראיה. Various publications; not in gray set.
- 9) שמונה קבצים, recently published notebooks raise questions about editorial intervention. (1-4=Jaffa; 5-7=Switzerland; 8= London)
- 10) חדריו, even more recently published notebooks.
- 11) אורות האמונה, not in gray set, parallel themes in *OhK 1* and #3.
- 12) לנבוכי הזמן: newly published; written early; responses to "modern" challenges.

Also note the following primarily halakhic works:

12) שבת הארץ on Shemitta

13) שו"ת כהן משפט (*Hoshen Mishpat* including political issues); כהן דעת (*Y.D.*); כהן עזרת (*E.H.*); משפט אורח (*O.H.*)

14) טוב ראי is a collection from all R. Kook's writings following order of Talmud.

Writing: a) 2-4 short papers on assigned texts; one will probably be on עין איה; b) 8-10 page paper on any aspect of R. Kook or religious Zionism or other pertinent topic. **Final grade** is required of me about 10 days after exam: that's when window for submitting work closes.

Availability: Most days YC: M;W; T;Th 10- 6:30--5th Floor Library etc.

Feel free to reach me by phone 1-718-252-0496 (best time-- 10-11:30 P.M.) to discuss course material or any other constructive matters. E-mail: [carmy@ymail.yu.edu](mailto:carmy@ymail.yu.edu)

As usual, the goal of our working together is our growth as thinking religious individuals.