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Maghen, Ze'ev. John Lennon and the Jews: a Philosophical Rampage. New Milford: Toby Press, 2014. \$16.95. (9781592643974).

Taking John Lennon's paean to Utopia, "Imagine" as a foil, Ze'ev Maghen, a professor at Bar-Ilan University, has written an informal, conversational defense of Jewish nationhood and particularity against the ideology of universalism and the philosophy of rationalism. Dr. Maghen clearly and insistently values emotions over the intellect and thinks that the binding essence of Jewish peoplehood is "an affection-based tribal affinity" rather than religious doctrine. His arguments against universalism are more compelling than those against rationalism. Against the former he argues that a love that is not preferential is not really much of a love at all and that we learn to empathize with others by analogizing their emotions to our own. For example, we can know what it is for another to grieve over the death of a child if we imagine how we would feel at the loss of our own. The arguments he musters against rationalism make up the bulk of the book but do not amount to very much in the end. He seems to be opposed to rationalism, in part because he thinks that believing one is in possession of truth easily leads to political crimes and persecutions in service of cultural uniformity, and in part because he thinks it militates against a healthy emotionality. The book is laden with a humor that tends to be broad and labored rather than witty or dry. An uneven, idiosyncratic and verbose argument for Jewish nationalism.

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