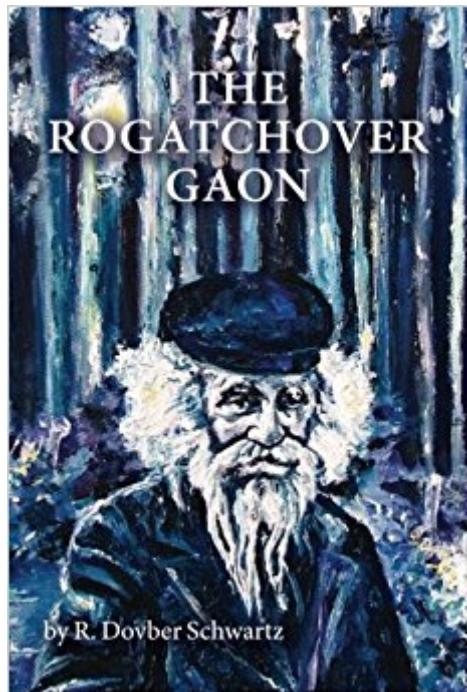


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# The Rogatchover Gaon



## **Synopsis**

Rabbi Yosef Rosen, the Rogatchover Gaon, was one of the greatest Talmudic scholars in recent memory. He was a seminal figure in the 20th century project of conceptualizing and systemizing Talmud and Halakha. He was perhaps the most abstract and philosophical Talmudist and Posek, ever to have lived. He merged classical Talmudic thought with Philosophy, Metaphysics, Political theory and more. He represents an alternative school to the Brisker method which has dominated Yeshivot to the present day. One of the most integrated rabbinic thinkers, his works have remained obscure and inaccessible due to their cryptic nature. This is the first attempt to present this giant revolutionary scholar and his writings to the English-speaking public.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"Your [article] was most enlightening" - Professor David Nimmer, Professor at UCLA Law School and Member of the American Law Institute."R.Yosef Rosen (the Rogatchover Gaon) was one of the towering figures of the early twentieth century revolution in conceptual Talmud study. Yet his challenging works are hardly known to the general public. R. Dovber Schwartz has now rendered this vast and deep corpus accessible, in clear, contemporary language, yet based on thorough and profound learning and for the first time in English! Both seasoned scholars and beginners will derive much benefit and enjoyment from this book" --Prof. Jonathan Garb, Gershom Scholem Professor of Kabbalah Hebrew University "This excellent book by Rabbi DovBer Schwartz, provides the English reader--in a superbly written fashion--with a glimpse of the brilliance of the Rogatchover in many different areas of halacha and hashkafa. It is well worth reading, and anyone who invests in

studying this excellent work will gain enormously from it. The book clearly explains both the specific topics reviewed and the general methodology employed. The author is to be commended for engaging his subject so well." --Rabbi Michael J. Broyde, Professor of Law, Emory University School of Law"This volume brings together many anecdotes and intellectual high- lights relating to the Rogatchover, the remarkable talmudic prodigy whose work fascinated so many of his successors, particularly in the Hasidic world, including the last Lubavitcher Rebbe." --Shalom Carmy, Chair of Bible and Jewish Philosophy Yeshiva University"This book about the Rogatchover gaon bridges the gap between the legend and the man only to find out that the man exceeds the legend." -Reuven KimelmanProfessor of Classical JudaicaBrandeis University

R. Dovber Schwartz resides in Brooklyn with his wife and son. He is currently a law student at Cardozo Law School. About two years ago, he undertook upon himself the project of making the works of the Rogatchover Gaon accessible to the public at large. Some of his work has been previously published in Hakira and the Queens Journal of Jewish Studies. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Not for the fainthearted and not for the laymen. If you toil in Torah than peeking into the life and teachings of this Torah giant will reap you great rewards.

This is heavy reading and takes time to absorb, but is well worth it. If you are not familiar w/the more conservative sects of Judaism, this is a good introduction, especially for those of us who have only a limited knowledge. It is spiritually enriching.

Incredible book, the Rogatchover is a holy man who is little known yet had a major impact on torah thought today. This book serves an incredible purpose and the author did a wonderful job. It's a little choppy but I think that's the nature of the person being discussed so it ties in well.

Great book

At last someone has seen fit to delineate the genius of Rabbi Josef Rosen, The Rogachover Gaon. His systematic analysis and the resultant framework allows for a coherent view of Torah. Using the Babylonian and Jerusalem Talmuds with the Reshonim the Rogachover gave of 40,000 poskinim and resolved a number of machloches (disagreements) that have been outstanding for a long

period. The book fails to tie all this up but is a great introduction to the Rogatchover's ideas.

Glimpses into the life of an other-worldly scholar and encyclopedic genius, made accessible to the English speaking readership by Rabbi DovBer Schwartz.

One of the most well-known characteristics of Rabbi Yosef Rosin, the Rogatchover Gaon, was his long hair. Ultimately, it is also one of the most meaningless traits of one of the greatest minds in the history of Jewish thought. Fortunately, in this fascinating biography of Rosin, author Dovber Schwartz spends a page on that fact, and leave the nearly 300 other pages to a mesmerizing overview of the Rogatchover's methodology and worldview. In chapter 2, Schwartz notes that as a means of conceptualizing halachic minutiae, the Rogatchover used 9 analytical frameworks to extract the core concepts from halachas. In the book, he provides an overview of 4 of the 9 frameworks. Schwartz writes that the Rogatchover was one of the greatest rabbinic minds of the last 1,000 years. Yet 3 facts lead to his lack of overall prominence. Those are his extremely cryptic and terse writing style, that he did not have a Yeshiva, and his lack of direct students. Contrast that with his contemporary Rabbi Chaim Soloveitchik, whose 6 main students in turn created myriad Yeshivas and other students. The Rogatchover himself was a master of Talmud, all writings of Maimonides, and much more. This combined with his photographic memory and breathtaking analytical skills enabled him to show the complete unity of Torah. Schwartz provides many examples of his ability to connect many seemingly disassociated ideas and shows their symmetry. Schwartz also provides scores of examples of seemingly Talmudic contradictions, and how the Rogatchover is able to easily reconcile them. The book succeeds on numerous fronts. It provides an honest and respectable biography of the Rogatchover. More importantly, it shows how the Rogatchover was able to provide the equivalent of a unified field theory of all of Jewish thought. Schwartz does a marvelous job of bringing the Rogatchover's worldview to English speaking readers. Let's hope he has much more to come.

I am sure that in the print edition this book is worthy of four or five stars. Sadly, I purchased the Kindle edition, which is incomplete. None of the Hebrew quotes or footnotes appear. In their places are squares. For one who knows Rabbinic literature those Hebrew notes are of extraordinary importance. The book is incomplete without them. And the buyer is not warned about this lacuna before making the purchase. The book is important and worth a read, especially because of the influence of the Rav on the last Lubavitcher Rebbe. Buyer beware. Only buy the printed editions

unless Kindle includes the Hebrew notes in its e format edition.

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