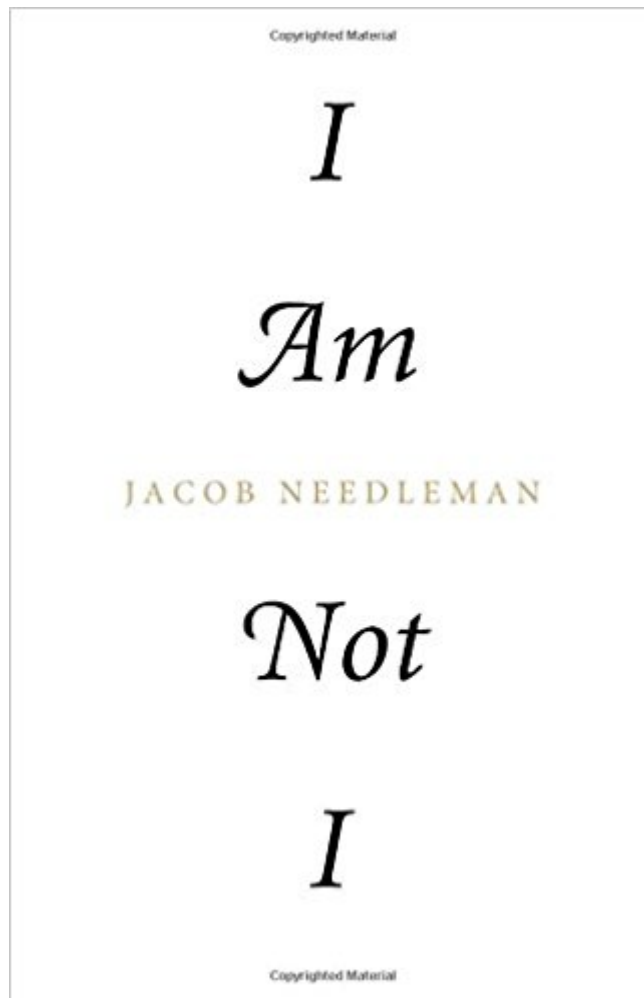


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# I Am Not I



## Synopsis

Seeking to reconcile the split between our inner child and our adult self, eminent philosopher and religious scholar Jacob Needleman evokes the ancient spiritual tradition of a deep dialogue between a guiding wisdom figure and a seeker. The elder offers an initiation to a younger self, an initiation the author feels is missing from our culture. Rendered as a stage play, the conversation between the 80-year-old author and his younger selves unfolds, and an ambiguity emerges as to whether this is strictly the author's internal dialogue or whether the younger self may be nurturing a rebirth of the author. On one level, *I Am Not I* brings younger readers (teenagers and young adults) face to face with a powerful spiritual and philosophical ideas. But as the book progresses, the dialogue delves into questions and insights that carry astonishing new hope and vision for every man and woman, challenging our culture's accepted and often toxic ideas about humanity's place in a living universe.

## Book Information

Paperback: 136 pages

Publisher: North Atlantic Books; 1st edition (April 19, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1623170141

ISBN-13: 978-1623170141

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.3 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 19 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #305,143 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #278 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Epistemology #613 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Consciousness & Thought #999 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Psychology & Counseling > Personality

## Customer Reviews

Praise for Jacob Needleman "His lively prose, storytelling skills, and lucid insights draw us into an animated conversation with a brilliant teacher." Publishers Weekly "Striking" takes some really original positions on topics that have become run into the ground by the same discussions and same assumptions." Ken Wilber "An immensely learned man who is unembarrassed by the big questions that many of his fellow philosophers prefer to dodge." Chicago Tribune "For nearly four

decades Jacob Needleman has confronted the central questions of our era in light of the vision that lies at the root of the world's great spiritual traditions. Needleman's work clarifies: it takes topics that exist in disparate threads throughout our culture—new religions, esoteric Christianity, the founding myths of America—and frames them in a manner both sensible and deeply questioning.

• Parabola

Jacob Needleman is a philosopher, author, and religious scholar. Educated at Harvard University, Yale University, and the University of Freiburg, he teaches philosophy at San Francisco State University. He is the author of *The New Religions*, a pioneering study of the new American spirituality, *The Wisdom of Love*, *Money and the Meaning of Life*, *A Sense of the Cosmos*, *Lost Christianity*, *The Heart of Philosophy*, *The Way of the Physician*, *Time and the Soul*, *Sorcerers: A Novel*, *The American Soul*, *Why Can't We Be Good?*, and *The Essential Marcus Aurelius*.

Jacob has an uncanny ability to make the mystery of being comprehensible—to make sense of "no things" that are virtually impossible to describe through ordinary language. He has previously explored the notion of defeating time by communicating with one's younger self but in this short play he dramatizes it in ways that I found evocative of deep feeling and profundity. How to present "transcendent" material? Jacob's readers will know the source of much of what is brought here but it is presented with Jacob's unique daring and exquisite ability with language. I particularly found the conclusion in which he wraps things up particularly helpful in pointing beyond the intellectual mind to those realms that are almost impossible to describe in words. As I was reading I had an inner sense of what Ouspensky may have meant by recurrence and perhaps even what Gurdjieff was attempting to suggest to his students.

This book, "I Am Not I" by Jacob Needleman changed my life. The universe has an amazing way of bringing things into your life when you need them. Like the saying, "How do you know this is the experience you need? Because this is the experience you are having." I cannot recommend this book highly enough. I am subscribed to the "Brain Pickings" newsletter and they had mentioned this book and one of my favorite sentences IN THIS ENTIRE UNIVERSE is: yesterday I was, tomorrow I will be, but only here and now I Am. I saw the title of this book and I instantly went over to and purchased it. I plan to re-read it every now and again to keep myself aligned. I have no words to describe this book...but it improved my life here on Planet Earth. That I am certain of. Blessings!

thought provoking, delightful

Very enjoyable. Needleman lays down some graceful philosophy in a sweet dialogue with a younger version of himself. Not overly mushy or new-agey.

Written in style, as to grow & understand oneself as well to relate to others.

great book

I haven't finished it (and don't know I will anytime soon), but I have to say, I'd call this wince-worthy. This guy taught philosophy? Mawkish in tone, questionable in its claims.

This was fair. It wasn't his best though. He is a terrific writer, yet I somehow think this was a trifle too personal to share with the general public

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