

Rabbi of Moshav Matityahu
Rosh HaYeshiva—Yeshiva Gedola Matityahu

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Dear Friends,

I have seen samples of the "Nach Illustrated" manuscript. Although the format resembles "comics" and could be misconstrued to trivialize the Kisvei HaKodesh, I feel that this project is acceptable and praiseworthy.

It would seem that learning and mastering the Tanach, the very basis of all Torah, would be an understood necessity for every Jew. Surely a ben Torah or Talmid Chacham could not be considered such if he was ignorant of the very foundation of all learning. However, as a reaction to the Haskalah who used the learning of Tanach to the exclusion of Torah She Ba'al Peh, and distorted how it should be learned to further their agenda to obliterate Torah and Yiras Shomayim from Klal Yisrael, the learning of Tanach was de-emphasized in the yeshiva world. This echoed the dictate of Chazal when the early minim (heretics) declared that the only relevant part of Torah was the Aseres Hadibros (Ten Commandments). Chazal took the Ten Commandments out of the daily service in order to de-emphasize its centrality, lest one be misled by the minim.

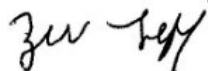
Boruch Hashem, this aspect of Haskalah for the most part has passed from the world, substituted by other "ism's" and false philosophies which seek to obliterate true Yiddishkeit in other ways but surely not by emphasizing or distorting Tanach. Hence, the basic learning and knowledge of Tanach is something every Jew should acquire. Since this learning has been neglected for so long by the masses, any program that encourages making Tanach a part of one's learning and facilitates one's mastery of it is a welcome and important development.

Since illustrations raise one's interest and awareness, and this project does not only express the works of Tanach in pictures but, enhances it with Midrashim that help elucidate the text, I feel it can be used as a companion and tool to engender an interest in learning Tanach not only for children but even for adults.

I strongly feel however that this work not be presented as a substitute for learning the text of Nach itself, but rather a companion to learning the actual text. I also suggest that it not be referred to as "comics" but rather as "Nach illustrated" so as not to trivialize Kisvei Hakodesh and reduce it to the genre of comics.

I commend the developers of this program for a quality presentation and encourage them to continue to see it to completion.

Sincerely,
With Torah blessings



Rabbi Zev Leff