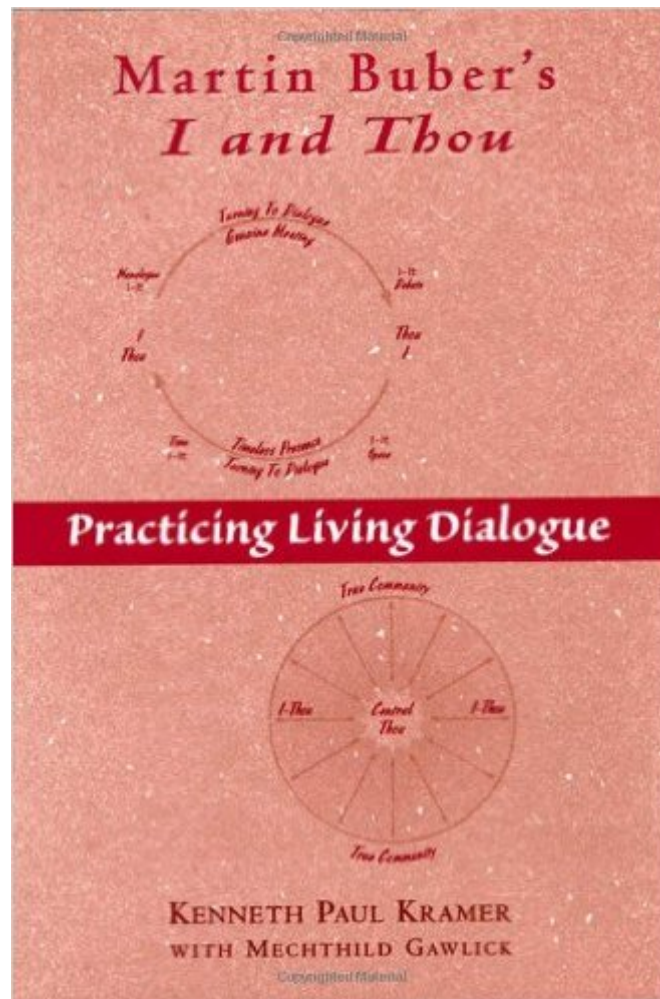


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Martin Buber's I And Thou: Practicing Living Dialogue



Synopsis

Martin Buber's classic philosophy of dialogue, *I and Thou*, is at the core of Kenneth Paul Kramer's scholarly and impressive *Living Dialogue: Practicing Buber's I and Thou*. In three main parts, paralleling the three of *I and Thou*, and focusing upon Buber's key concepts --"nature," "spirit becoming forms," "true community," the "real I," the "eternal Thou," "turning,"--and the two fundamental dialogues--the "I-Thou" and the "I-It"--the book clarifies, puts into practice and vigorously affirms the moral validity of Buber's philosophy, with its extension to love, marriage, the family, the community, and God, in the conviction that "genuine dialogue" will effect better relations with one another, the world and God. Well-researched, and replete with a glossary of Buberian terms, practice exercises for true dialoguing, and discussion questions, *Living Dialogue* emerges as an invaluable guide to *I and Thou*. Highlights:
Â a lens through which to see and understand the philosopher and his work anew
Â a must-read for undergraduates, as well as relationship counselors, therapists, and general readers, who will benefit from the work's clarity and ease of expression
Â includes a foreword by Maurice Friedman

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Martin Buber's *I and Thou: Practicing Living Dialogue* is an excellent introduction and overview of Buber's *I and Thou*. Kenneth Kramer is extremely readable and conveys complex ideas in a manner that allows the reader to grasp the concepts with much more facility. Through the use of illustrations, referencing other work by Buber, side by side excerpts of Smith's and Kaufmann's translations, and

additional insights offered by Kenneth Kramer and Mechthild Gawlick, Buber's challenging masterpiece is presented in a way that is engaging and understandable. I highly recommend this book to anyone who is looking for a "user friendly" introduction to Buberian thought. It is a great resource for students and teachers of philosophy, theology, or modern thought. This book made such an impact upon me, that I am keeping multiple copies on hand so that I don't have to lend my own.

I really liked how Kramer uses the parallel English translations to unpack the meaning of Buber's profound theological insights. He does this better than most commentators on the Bible. It is enjoyable to read the personal stories of Buber's life and how they relate to the themes in 'I and Thou'. Kramer makes Buber come alive in a way that did not happen to me when reading Buber in seminary. So, I am very glad to have come across Kramer's book. Kramer explains how the dialogical movement evolved as well. There is still a feeling of "outdatedness" to Buber's I/Thou, with its anthropocentric view and emphasis on language which deconstructionists have shown to be relative to culture and worldview. Yet the recognition of a change in consciousness when we switch from I-Thou to I-it remains as one of the most significant observations of any theologian of modern time. Kramer's book sparked a good discussion among my peers, including a Jewish rabbi and a Protestant minister who claims Buber's book as his "second Bible". I highly recommend this book for anyone wanting to get a better grasp on Buber and his theology.

I had heard of Martin Buber and seen isolated quotes for many years but never thought I would get much out of his work, fearing it to be heavy and difficult to understand. Kenneth Kramer has done a masterful job of making Martin Buber's I and Thou come alive for me. I was so excited by I and Thou or I and You versus I and It - that I prepared a presentation to our church Care group shortly after reading. As an engineer by training I fully understood his I and It characterization because that was how I related to people in my early life. Now, having experienced the deep joy of relating as I and You or I and Thou, if you will, I believe I and You is the ultimate way to relate to people. I highly recommend this book and urge folks to try Buber's suggestions as interpreted by Kramer. I believe this is a hidden gem.

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