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THE HALAKHIC MIND: An Essay on Jewish Tradition and Modern Thought. By Joseph B. Soloveitchik. (Seth Press/Free Press, \$16.95.) Written in 1944 and steeped in the history of philosophy, this essay concludes that *halacha*, the Jewish religious law governing ritual and prayer, offers man a rational method, equal to the scientific tradition, of interpreting the world. In fact, Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik argues, where science can only explain the relationship between physical events, *halacha* allows man to touch the sacred aspect of life. The premier theologian of modern Orthodoxy, Rabbi Soloveitchik clearly believes that religious law can lead back to God because it was revealed by God. He hopes that a structured "objective" system, coexisting with a scientific world view, will make Jews comfortable in the modern world. The alternative — religious expression defined by "subjective" emotion or secular whim — can only lead to disruptive mysticism or the "moral corruption" of Nazi Germany. Whether this vision of

halacha will re-inspire modern Jews is unclear, but we still see in this essay the endlessly fascinating prospect of a man trying to understand and explain his faith.

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