

Moses Mendelssohn - Moses ben ^{Demna} Menahem - Mendel -

- 1) German Philosopher,
- 2) translator of the Bible
- 3) Biblical Commentator
- 4) The 3rd Moses

"with whom begins a new era in Judaism"
 born Dessau, 1729; died, Berlin, 1786

Source → "curatorial of grace - so named
 studied not only Talmud - but "Mosheh Melukim"
mathematics, Latin, ^{Greek} French, English, science, philosophy
 friend of Gotthold Ephraim Lessing - most liberal of
 German authors

Known as "the young Hebrew who wrote in German"
aesthetics + literature - wrote "On Philosophy of the Beautiful"
 married a plain, lovely girl 1762

won prize over Emmanuel Kant - ^{Francis Hutcheson} - English

Chief collaborator of "Literaturbriefe" - critique
 of literature

Chief philos work - "Phaedon" - 1767 -

immortality of soul

follows Plato's dialogue, same name - most widely read
 obj. of some - merit style - called him "German Plato"
 one of best productions of classic German prose - 15 reprint -
 translated all over Europe.

m. argument is that in the body there must be at
 least one substance which is neither copied
 nor composite + which unites within itself
 all ideas + conceptions; the soul, as this
 self-existing indivisible essence, can not
 be destroyed. / on genuinely Reason - G. + Maenn

Spoke admirably of Jesus - within limitations
 a Viennese man.

Late in life ¹⁷⁸⁰ - resolved to dedicate more of his time
 to Jews + Judaism.

III did not recognize miracles as evidences of eternal truths

"The spirit of Judaism is freedom in doctrine + conformity in action"

He defined the ceremonial law as "having the closest affinity of speculative rel. knowledge"

(i.e. - philosophy) -

What divine law has ordained can not be revealed by reason which is no law itself -

Kant - called it an "indefeasible book"

Claimed by Reformers (Deans) + Orthodox (Law)

Lesson - "Nathan der Weise" - model

for how - M. Hummel

Deaths - mourned by all - 100+ ann. of birth -
city of Dessau erected monument to him