

**RABBI BEN EZRA**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649017805

Rabbi Ben Ezra by Robert Browning

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**ROBERT BROWNING**

**RABBI BEN EZRA**



**RABBI BEN EZRA**  
**BY ROBERT BROWNING**  
**WITH SUPPLEMENTARY ILLUSTRATIVE QUOTATIONS AND AN INTRODUCTION BY WILLIAM ADAMS SLADE**



**THOMAS Y. CROWELL & COMPANY**  
**PUBLISHERS, NEW YORK, MDCCCII**

**Copyright, 1902, by T. Y. Crowell & Co.**  
**Published September, 1902**

**Composition and electrotype plates by**  
**D. B. Updike, The Merrymount Press, Boston**

**TO MY MOTHER**





**INTRODUCTION BY WILLIAM ADAMS  
SLADE**



## INTRODUCTION

**B**ROWNING'S Rabbi Ben Ezra, as a vindication of age, is suggestive of the De Senectute of Cicero. This poem, however, is very much more than an exaltation of the fullness of years; it is also the statement of a philosophy for every age and station in life. And this philosophy, it may well be said, is altogether one of courage and cheer, — qualities always in need with young as well as with old, and so ever to be noted when found, whether in literature or in life. Because of these facts, the observations which follow are made. In a recent volume of essays, the late Professor Everett of Harvard calls Rabbi Ben Ezra "one of the most exalted of the poems of Browning," and "also one of the most exalted in the whole range of literature." Professor James Seth likewise writes of this poem in his Study of Ethical Principles and observes that, "Perhaps one of the completest descriptions of the ethical life, at least in English literature, is that which Browning has given us in his famous Rabbi Ben Ezra." And Mr. F. J. Furnivall, himself now as mellowed with years as the venerable Rabbi, enters this note against the title of the poem, in his bibliography of Browning, "One of the deepest and weightiest of all Browning's works. My favourite one. It contains the Philosophy of Life."

The praise here recorded is not superlative, but rightly stands as the deliberate estimate of sympathetic feeling and sound judgment. The thought contained in these stanzas is

Rabbi  
Ben  
Ezra