

JUDAISM



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ABOUT JUDAISM

RC 17500

THE JEWISH MYSTICAL TRADITION

Ben Zion Bokser

In a brief introduction, professor, rabbi, and author Bokser explains the general nature of mysticism, with particular emphasis on Jewish mysticism. Most of the book consists of mystical writings, including selections from such Jewish mystics as Moses Maimonides and Isaac Luria and texts from the Bible and the Talmud. All selections have a brief introduction.

RC 30878 / BR 8042

PEOPLE AND THEIR RELIGIONS: JUDAISM AND CHRISTIANITY

Thomas J. Clarke

Discusses the histories, beliefs, practices and celebrations of Judaism and Christianity. Includes short quotations from the Christian and Jewish Bibles.

RC 27940

MIXED BLESSINGS: MARRIAGE BETWEEN JEWS AND CHRISTIANS

Paul Cowan

Show how interfaith couples can deal with the religious and ethnic loyalties that separate and blind them. The Cowans draw on their own spiritual journey, on history and literature, and on interviews with couples and adult children of interfaith marriages.

BR 7365

WHAT IS JUDAISM?: INTERPRETATION FOR THE PRESENT AGE

Emil L. Fackenheim

The distinguished Jewish philosopher discusses the effect of two momentous events, the Holocaust and the creation of Israel, upon the Jewish religion and the Jewish people. With personal reminiscences

and references to Jewish legend and midrashic stories, he then examines the meaning of the Torah to the Jews of today and addresses such issues as anti-Semitism, assimilation, prayer, repentance and the Messiah.

RC 18072

UNDERSTANDING CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

Robert Gordis

A rabbi elucidates the ground rules by which Conservatism operates and how it applies its principles to solving communal problems. Also considers Jewish survival in general and the future of Conservative Judaism in particular.

RC 32654

THE BIBLE AND US: A PRIEST AND A RABBI READ SCRIPTURE TOGETHER

Andrew M. Greeley

A Catholic priest and a Jewish rabbi--one a sociologist, the other a humanist--debate, through study of the Scriptures, whether religions can communicate. Although they share a deep respect for one another, and the belief that God made the world, that He rules history, and that He loves his creation, they argue and reach differing conclusions.

RC 17828

I AM AN ORTHODOX JEW

Laura Greene

A young Jewish-American boy explains some ancient traditions that Orthodox Jews still practice today. He talks about the joy and warmth of close family ties and tells how he dislikes some of the religious restrictions.

RC 16852

ONE THOUSAND ONE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT JUDAISM

David C. Gross

These questions and answers, divided into 10 chapters, encompass facts about the religion, culture tradition, and history of Judaism.

RC 31282

**THE JEWISH PRIMER: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON
JEWISH FAITH AND CULTURE**

Shmuel Himmelstein

Rabbi Himmelstein has written this book for Jews, as well as non-Jews, who seek a greater knowledge of Jewish religion and culture. In question and answer format, he explains the Torah and the Talmud and discusses topics such as the Jewish calendar, prayer, the Sabbath and high holy days various festivals, dietary laws, medical questions and clothing.

RC 17132

CONVERSATIONS WITH RABBI SMALL

Harry Kemelman

Rabbi Small lays aside his detective role to help a young Christian woman understand the religion of the Jew is about to marry. In the Rabbi's dialogue with the engaged couple, he discusses the existence of God, the importance of Judaism to the life of the modern Jew, and the role of women in the Jewish tradition.

RC 31016

WHO NEEDS GOD

Harold S. Kushner

According to Kushner, a Jewish rabbi, everyone needs God because a relationship with God can help make sense out of life. Using examples from his own life and quotations from the Psalms and Hasidic tales, he discusses how God makes a difference, why some things go wrong, how modern people can pray, and why God is so hard to find.

RC 26368

**BAR MITZVAH AND BAT MITZVAH: HOW JEWISH BOYS
AND GIRLS COME OF AGE**

Bert Metter

Explains the Jewish ceremonies of bar mitzvah and bat mitzvah and discusses the historical background of the bar mitzvah tradition and its more recent development, the bat mitzvah ceremony for girls. Includes

remembrances of their own bar mitzvahs by well-known persons such as Jacob Javitz, Ed Koch and Gene Wilder.

RC 29914

JUDAISM: THE EVOLUTION OF A FAITH

Phillip Sigal

Traces the development of Judaism from its pre-Israelite origins to the modern era. Includes the history of early Christianity, compares the relationship between the two faiths, and concludes with a chapter on the role of women in Judaism from Eve to contemporary rabbis.

RC 10368

BASIC JUDAISM

Milton Steinberg

The ideals, beliefs and practices of the Jewish religion written for both Jews and non-Jews. Sets forth the significance of the Torah, and outlines the Jewish idea of God and the Jewish concept of the good life.

RC 19968

SACRED TEXTS OF THE WORLD: A UNIVERSAL ANTHOLOGY

Ninian Smart and Richard D. Hecht, editors

Survey of the key texts taken from world religions, including ancient and modern religions as well as Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Taoism, Confucianism, Shintoism, Sikhism, modern religions and secular world views.

RC 14388

THIS IS MY GOD: THE JEWISH WAY OF LIFE

Herman Wouk

Sketches the broad subject of Judaism, touching its history, beliefs, laws, liturgy, observances and place in the American and world communities today.

JEWISH OBSERVANCES

RC 22326

HANUKKAH: FESTIVALS AND HOLIDAYS

June Behrens

A simply written treatment of a festive Jewish holiday that celebrates a great historic victory and a miracle. The celebration is described from the vantage point of two Jewish children. For readers of all ages.

RC 26776

MAKE NOISE, MAKE MERRY: THE MEANING OF PURIM

Miriam Chaikin

Retells the biblical story of Queen Esther's rescue of the Jews in ancient Persia from Haman's plot to destroy them. Explains the customs and symbols of Purim, and tells how the feast is celebrated today by Jews around the world. For readers of all ages.

RC 26769

SHAKE A PALM BRANCH: THE STORY AND MEANING OF SUKKOT

Miriam Chaikin

Tells the history and meaning of the Jewish fall harvest festival Sukkot, which commemorates the wandering in the wilderness of the Israelites and their settlement in Canaan, the Promised Land. Explains the symbols, rituals, songs, prayers, and foods of the holiday, and provides a look at how it is celebrated in various parts of the world. For readers of all ages.

RC 22329

SHABBAT: A PEACEFUL ISLAND

Malka Drucker

Describes the origins and rituals of the Jewish Sabbath holiday. Includes special Sabbaths that occur during the year, Sabbath customs celebrated in other countries, and games, recipes, puzzles, and crafts for Sabbath. For readers of all ages.

RC 22211

ALL ABOUT JEWISH HOLIDAYS AND CUSTOMS

Morris Epstein

Follows the Jewish calendar through the year, describing both the gay, fun-filled celebrations such as Purim and Hanukkah and the solemn ones such as Yom Kippur. For readers of all ages.

RC 14592 / BR 6275

PASSOVER

Howard Greenfield

The story of this 3000-year-old Jewish holiday includes a retelling of the Israelites' exodus from Egypt under Moses and an explanation of the Seder which commemorates it. For readers of all ages.

RC 14592

PASSOVER

Howard Greenfield

Describes the customs associated with the Jewish feast of Purim, a joyous occasion which celebrates Queen Esther's victory over the wicked Haman and the deliverance of the Jewish people. For readers of all ages.

RC 22870

ROSH HASHANAH AND YOM KIPPUR

Howard Greenfield

The meaning, history, and observance of the most spiritual days in the Jewish calendar. Together they are known as the High Holy Days. For readers of all ages.

RC 17794

THE COMPLETE BOOK OF JEWISH OBSERVANCE

Leo Trepp

An encyclopedic introduction to the tradition and rituals of the Jewish religion that covers virtually all aspects of Jewish observance. Rabbi Trepp briefly describes the historical development of each rite and the divergent practices among Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, and Reconstructionist Jewry.

RC 25946

POEMS FOR JEWISH HOLIDAYS

Myra Cohn Livingston, selector

A collection of 16 poems by contemporary writers in celebration of 11 Jewish holidays from Rosh Ha-Shanah and Yom Kippur to Tishah Be-Av and the basic Shabbat. For readers of all ages.

RC 11698

JEWISH HOLIDAYS

Betty Morrow and Louis Hartman

History and customs of seven Jewish holidays: the Sabbath, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Hanukkah, Purim and Passover. For readers of all ages.

JEWISH HISTORY

RC 21226

HERITAGE: CIVILIZATION AND THE JEWS

Abba Eban

Survey of Jewish history and culture which covers the struggles and achievements of the Jewish people from ancient times to the founding of Israel.

RC 27706

THE GHETTO OF VENICE

Riccardo Calimani

A well-documented history of the Jewish presence in Venice, focusing on the social, religious, political, and cultural life within the Venetian ghetto. The author, a novelist, scientist, and historian chronicles the ghetto's development from its 16th century beginnings and recreates the lives and work of its ordinary citizens--merchants, physicians, scholars, and rabbis--as well as its heretics and cowards.

RC 10689

LIGHT FROM THE ANCIENT PAST: THE ARCHEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND OF JUDAISM

Jack Finegan

Based on archeological evidence, a consecutive account of the development of civilization in the Near East and the Mediterranean area, which gave rise to the Hebrew and Christian religions.

RC 13363

NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM: A SHORT HISTORY OF ZIONISM

Robert Goldstone

Traces the history of Zionism and the idea of the promised land from Biblical times to the final establishment of the Zionist state-- Israel.

RC 35161

THE SIGN AND THE SEAL: THE QUEST FOR THE LOST ARK OF THE COVENANT

George Holmes

A British journalist and East African correspondent for the Economist is hired to write a book for the Ethiopian government. Forbidden to photograph a group of indigenous Jews--the Falashas--he explores an area where they live, but is refused entrance to their sanctuary.

Hancock is then convinced that Ethiopia holds the secrets to the fate of the lost Ark of the Covenant.

RD 14854

CIVILIZATIONS OF THE HOLY LAND

Paul Johnson

Concise survey of the civilizations that have succeeded one another in the region that is now Israel, from the 9th millennium city of Jerico to the crusader kingdoms of the Middle Ages. Johnson's synthesis of the Jews, the Christians, and the Moslems is enlivened by relevant anecdote and historical insight.

RC 26221

A HISTORY OF THE JEWS

Paul Johnson

An introduction to modern Jewish history that examines the impact of Judaic thought on world history. Johnson emphasizes "the magnitude

of the debt" that Christianity owes to Judaism as well as the ability of the Jewish people to survive for 4,000 years in a world of "inexplicable hatred."

RC 9849

WORLD OF OUR FATHERS: THE JEWS OF EASTERN EUROPE

Milton Meltzer

Meltzer's desire to understand his own heritage prompted this panoramic view of Jewish life in Eastern Europe up to the time millions of Jews emigrated to the United States. Interweaves diaries, letters, documents, newspaper accounts, songs, poems and memoirs.

RC 13340

WANDERINGS: CHAIM POTOK'S HISTORY OF THE JEWS

Chaim Potok

Panoramic account of the 4,000-year history of the Jews. The author, an ordained rabbi, draws on the Bible, writings of the ancient scribes, poets and chroniclers and findings of archaeologists.

RC 30151

JERUSALEM ON EARTH: PEOPLE, PASSIONS, AND POLITICS IN THE HOLY CITY

Abraham Rabinovich

The author presents a portrait of the human elements involved in the politics of both Jews and Arabs in the ancient city of Jerusalem during the 1970s and 1980s. He tells how their beliefs, hopes, and cultures have come together to form a unique city.

RC 28088

THE COURSE OF MODERN JEWISH HISTORY

Howard Morley Sachar

First published in 1958, the book synthesizes the currents of Jewish history from the Age of Reason to the Age of Space. The author shows the impact of the major historical events in the occidental world on Jews from Russia to the United States and from South Africa to South America.

BIOGRAPHY

RC 23180

**IN KINDLING FLAME: THE STORY OF HANAH SENESH,
1921-1944**

Linda Atkinson

Hannah Senesh emigrates to Palestine from her native Hungary on the eve of World War II, when she is 18 years old. Four years later, she returns to her homeland on a British-sponsored mission to free Allied airmen and rescue Hungarian Jews--including her beloved mother. Using poems, letters and diaries, Atkinson presents a woman of remarkable courage.

RC 28087

**PRODIGAL SONS: THE NEW YORK INTELLECTUALS AND
THEIR WORLD**

Alexander Bloom

An investigation of the New York intellectual circles of the last 50 years. The common Jewish immigrant roots of these thinkers at first produced a shared heritage, but a contrary individualism ultimately separated many of them into groups and closed coteries. Among the many prominent names that are featured are those of Irving Howe, Saul Bellow and Norman Podhoretz.

BR 6459

**AN ORPHAN IN HISTORY: RETRIEVING A JEWISH
LEGACY**

Paul Cowan

The author chronicles his quest for Jewish roots after a posh New York City upbringing as an assimilated "Jewish WASP." When Cowan's father, a TV executive and his mother, a Spiegel heiress, die in a hotel fire he begins a search for communal Judaism.

RC 33046

CHUTZPAH

Alan M. Dershowitz

The author looks at several aspects of his life; growing up as an Orthodox Jew in Christian America and being the lawyer who defends such clients as Claus von Bulow, Leon Helmsley, and Jim Bakker. Dershowitz examines the change that his generation has seen, the changes that they have brought about, and the changes that must come before they will cease to see themselves as second-class citizens.

RC 20137

AND GOD CAME IN

Lyle W. Dorsett

Chronicles the spiritual odyssey of the brash, and difficult, American Jewish woman, Joy Davidman, who converted to Christianity and married English author C. S. Lewis. Their union ended when she died of cancer three years later.

RC 33315

WHEN THE WORLD WAS WHOLE: THREE CENTURIES OF MEMORIES

Charles Fenyvesi

A writer for the "U.S. News and World Report" celebrates his Hungarian Jewish ancestors. Generations of relatives owned land, raised large families, and loved to tell stories, especially about their love of the land. Besides taking a nostalgic look at one family's devotion to their customs and their land, Fenyvesi recreates a folk memory of a way of life that was destroyed by the Holocaust.

RC 7759

THE CRIME OF THE CENTURY AND OTHER MISDEMEANORS

John Godney

The author recalls how good, clean and simple life seemed to him, growing up Jewish in New York between the wars.

RD 6369

THE GREATEST JEWISH CITY IN THE WORLD

Harry Golden

The joys, trials, and tribulations of being Jewish in New York City from early days to the present.

RC 27854

FIERCE ATTACHMENTS: A MEMOIR

Vivian Gornick

Biography/autobiography of mother and daughter that depicts their two lives in stories and conversations. Gornick's recollections of her Bronx childhood and adolescence are movingly conveyed along with her unforgettable character of her mother. Strong language and explicit descriptions of sex.

RC 22271

THE DOCTOR AND THE DAMMED

Albert Haas

The author relates his harrowing experiences, 1939-1949, in the French underground and as a prisoner in such Nazi concentration camps as Dachau, Buna and Flossenburg. A young Jewish French-Hungarian physician, Haas joined the resistance movement with his wife, Sonia. A testament of humanity and generosity of spirit. Some descriptions of sex and violence.

RC 24418

HOLY DAYS: THE WORLD OF A HASIDIC FAMILY

Lis Harris

When "New Yorker" writer Lis Harris wants to delve more deeply into her Jewish roots, she goes to the group that fascinates her, the Hasidim. After some searching, she finds the Konigsberg family of Brooklyn's Lubavitcher sect, who hesitantly lead her through the maze of ritualistic Jewish life. As the story unfolds, Harris is forced to deal with her own vacillating feelings about Judaism.

BR 6846

A WALKER IN JERUSALEM

Samuel C. Heilman

An anthropologist presents a summary of his interviews with Jerusalem's Jews, Arabs, Moslems, and Christians. Heilman conveys a sense of each group's affection for the city, and profiles the alienation between Arab and Jew.

RC 10300

WAKE UP, WAKE UP, TO DO THE WORK OF THE CREATOR

William B. Helmreich

Personal account of a special year in the life of a Yeshiva student. Incorporates Jewish history and explains Orthodox Judaism.

RC 31544

ANNE FRANK: LIFE IN HIDING

Johanna Hurwitz

On June 12, 1942, Anne Frank celebrated her 13th birthday. Among the many gifts were books, jewelry, candy and a diary. Less than a month later Anne and her family, who were Dutch Jews, were forced into hiding by the Nazis. Although Anne would die in a concentration camp before her 16th birthday, the publication of her diary would make her famous. For readers of all ages.

BR 6777

LOOKING BACK: THE AMERICAN DREAM THROUGH IMMIGRANT EYES

Marie Jastrow

Memoir describes the author's first 11 years in New York City after her arrival in this country in 1907. She tells how she was crammed together with her Serbian parents in a Yorkville apartment on the upper East Side, and how she was confident that the melting pot could work for everyone. In his introductions, the author's son, the renowned astrophysicist Robert Jastrow, mulls on the distinctive traits of the American personality shaped by our being a nation of immigrants. Sequel to *A Time to Remember* (BR 04321).

BR 4321

A TIME TO REMEMBER

Marie Jastrow

Simple memoir of immigrant life in the turn-of-the-century New York by the mother of astrophysicist Robert Jastrow. The author remembers struggles and family conflicts during those years, but also the joys and simple pleasures of her Yorkville girlhood.

RC 31440

A SUMMER WORLD: THE ATTEMPT TO BUILD A JEWISH EDEN IN THE CATSKILLS FROM THE DAYS OF THE GHETTO TO THE RISE AND DECLINE OF THE BORSHT BELT

Stefan Kanter

This is the story of the resort area 90 miles from New York City that for two centuries has provided, not only escape from the heat of the city, but a showcase for up-and-coming Jewish entertainers and match-making opportunities for Jewish mothers.

RC 15180

NEW YORK JEW

Alfred Kazin

Autobiographical account of what it was like to be a "New York Jew" in the era of Belsen and Auschwitz, McCarthyism, the creation of modern Israel, and the radicalism of the young in the 1960s. Includes assessment of Kazin's fellow writers such as Lionel Trilling, Hannah Arendt, Edmund Wilson, Mary McCarthy, and Saul Bellow. Some strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex.

RC 12086

A WALKER IN THE CITY

Alfred Kazin

Happy reminiscences of a boy growing up in Brownsville. Captures the smells, sounds, and sights of poor Jewish immigrants in Brooklyn as it was a long time ago.

RC 21089

HANNA AND WALTER: A LOVE STORY

Hanna and Walter Kohner with Frederick Kohner

The authors recount their early life and love in Czechoslovakia as World War II approached. They also tell of their separation, Hanna's marriage and experiences in Nazi concentration camps, Walter's search for her after the war, and their unlikely dramatic reunion.

BR 6684

I LIFT MY LAMP: EMMA LAZARUS AND THE STATUE OF LIBERTY

Nancy Smiler Levinson

Part biography and part history, this work deals with the brief life of Emma Lazarus, author of the lines engraved on the Statue of Liberty, as well as with the statue's creation, and the plight of the Jewish immigrants fleeing pogroms in Eastern Europe.

RC 10542

NEVER TO FORGET: THE JEWS OF THE HOLOCAUST

Milton Meltzer

Accounts by Jewish men, women, and children convey the terror and inhumanity of the Nazi persecution during World War II.

RC 15887

A BINTEL BRIEF: SIXTY YEARS OF LETTERS FROM THE LOWER EAST SIDE TO THE JEWISH DAILY FORWARD

Isaac Metzker

Letters from a column in the *Jewish Daily Forward* written between 1899 to 1914 by Jewish immigrants provide a revealing and sometimes comic commentary on the problems of Americanization.

RC 18756

A BINTEL BRIEF, VOL. 2: LETTERS TO THE JEWISH DAILY FORWARD. 1950-1980

Isaac Metzker

Selected letters and candid response from the legendary advice column of American's most well known Yiddish-language newspaper. These

letters which appeared from 1950 to 1980, mirror the national Jewish experience of the era and the forces that shaped it.

RD 13649

NUMBER OUR DAYS

Barbara G. Myerhoff

Depicts a community of elderly Jews living in adversity in California, but sharing a tradition with dignity and passion. Anthropologist Myerhoff, studying the aging process, notes that the preservation of their ethnic ties and religious rites is the source of their vitality. Interspersed with poignant tales and humor.

RD 23982

A LEAK IN THE HEART: TALES FROM A WOMAN'S LIFE

Faye Moskowitz

Autobiographical, personal stories about growing up in an Orthodox Jewish family outside Detroit in the 1930s and 1940s. Moskowitz describes members of her family, occasional feeling of alienation from her non-Jewish schoolmates, and her growth as a woman and a writer.

RC 32495

I WAS THERE

Frances Penney, translated from the Polish by Zoffa Griffen

An early unhappy marriage and the invasion of her country by the Nazis begin this personal memoir by a Polish Jew. Franziska fled to Lithuania where she became a cook at Gestapo headquarters in Vilna. After the liquidation of the ghetto in Vilna, Franziska was interned in several concentration camps. The cooperation and compassion of fellow prisoners were instrumental in Franziska's survival.

BR 6693

rites: A GUATEMALAN BOYHOOD

Victor Perera

Author's account of his Jewish boyhood in Catholic Guatemala is both a humorous and touching portrait of life in the dictatorship during the 1940s. Three final chapters describe the changes Perera found on

return visits as an adult years later. Strong language and descriptions of sex.

RC 30151

JERUSALEM ON EARTH: PEOPLE, PASSIONS, AND POLITICS IN THE HOLY CITY

Abraham Rabinovich

The author presents a portrait of the human elements involved in the politics of both Jews and Arabs in the ancient city of Jerusalem during the 1970s and 1980s. He tells who their beliefs, hopes, and cultures have come together to form a unique city.

RC 18646

GENERATION WITHOUT MEMORY: A JEWISH JOURNEY IN CHRISTIAN AMERICA

Anne Rolphe

The author reflects on what it means to be an American Jew in an age of assimilation, a time when Jews find their identities and beliefs in doubt. A deeply personal exploration of the American Jewish experience, including the changing Jewish family, the role of Israel, the conflicts between Judaism and feminism, and the everlasting effects of the Holocaust.

RC 30353

EVA'S STORY: A SURVIVOR'S TALE

Eva Schloss

Eva Schloss feels that she has an obligation to all Holocaust victims to tell the story so that their deaths will not have been in vain. Schloss recounts what happened to her and her family from the time they became refugees until they were freed from the camps, and were eventually able to return to Holland.

RC 20621

BRONX PRIMITIVE: PORTRAITS IN A CHILDHOOD

Kate Simon

A widely known travel writer recalls the world of her immigrant-Jewish childhood and precocious adolescence. This unsentimental

memoir portrays tales and practices from the Old Country, neighborhood bullies and street games, difficult parents, and dirty old men, and the many restrictions that bound the lives of the girls. Some strong language and descriptions of sex.

RC 24437

A WIDER WORLD: PORTRAITS IN ADOLESCENCE

Kate Simon

The noted travel writer and daughter of Jewish immigrants offers a frank, dramatic picture of what it was like to be a precocious adolescent in the Bronx in the 1930s. Sequel to *Bronx Primitive* (RC 20621). Some strong language and descriptions of sex.

RC 16538

GOING HOME

Victor D. Tolman

Memoir of a travelling Talmudic scholar and his pilgrimage of self-discovery during the World War I period in Hungary. At the age of eight, he begins his journey into the world--where he endures physical hardships, falls in love with a Christian nun, and withstands the many temptations to give up his Jewish faith. Some explicit descriptions of sex.

RC 13782

YESTERDAY: A MEMOIR OF A RUSSIAN JEWISH FAMILY

Miriam S. Zunsler

Begins with the marriage of Reb Michel and Yentel in 1835, a union that produced 24 children. The universal story reflects the joys and hardships of three generations of Jewish life in Eastern Europe and America.