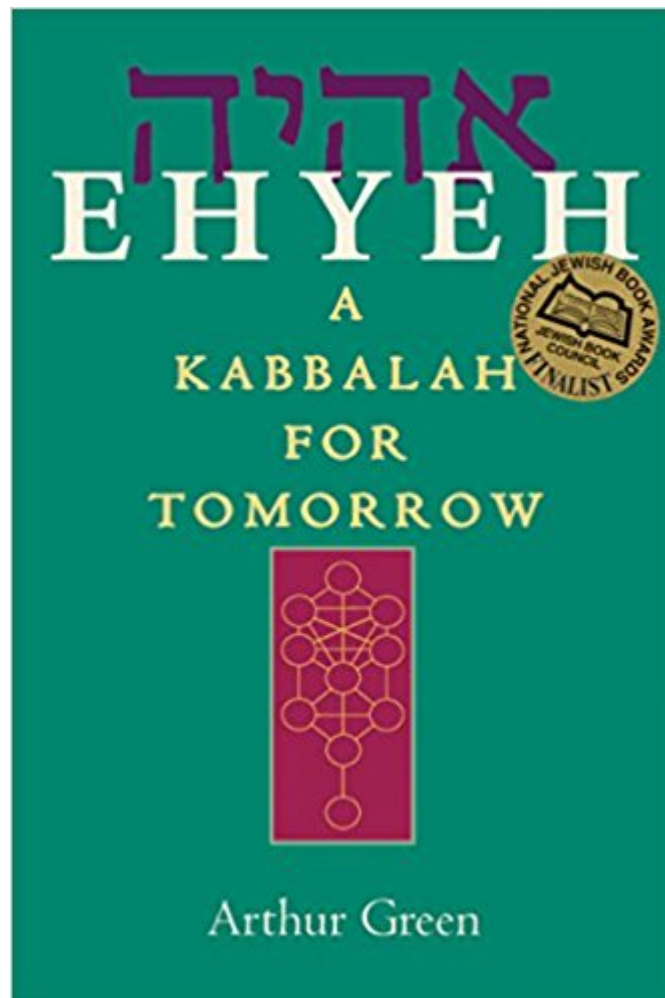




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Ehyeh: A Kabbalah For Tomorrow



Synopsis

What can Kabbalah teach us about our lives today? What can it teach us about our future?

According to the Jewish mystical tradition of Kabbalah, Ehyeh, or "I shall be," is the deepest, most hidden name of God. Arthur Green, one of the most respected teachers of Jewish mysticism of his generation, uses this simple Hebrew word to unlock the spiritual meaning of Kabbalah for our lives. When Moses experienced his great moment of call at the Burning Bush, he asked God, "When people ask me, 'What is His name?' what should I say to them?" God answers with this mysterious phrase, "I shall be what I shall be," and says to Moses, "Tell them that I shall be sent you." God's puzzling answer makes the conversation sound like a koan-dialogue between a Zen master and disciple. Like the koan, the text here is reaching to some place beyond words, seeking to create a breakthrough in our consciousness. What is it trying to tell us?

Blending Jewish theology and mysticism, Arthur Green invites us on a contemporary exploration of Kabbalah, showing how the ancient Jewish mystical tradition can be retooled to address the needs of our generation. Drawing on the Zohar and other kabbalistic texts, Green examines the fundamental ideas and spiritual teachings of Kabbalah, encouraging today's modern seeker to stretch to new ways of thinking with both heart and mind, setting us on a rewarding path to the wisdom Kabbalah has to offer.

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Customer Reviews

In Hebrew, the word "Ehyeh" ("I shall be") is the most sacred and secret name for God. It is this

word that drives Arthur Green's Ehyeh: A Kabbalah for Tomorrow, a well-informed introduction to Kabbalah for the spiritual seeker. It is tremendously refreshing to read a Kabbalah book that draws from the well of Jewish scholarly tradition but also successfully speaks to a larger audience. Green, who has studied Jewish mysticism for more than 40 years, has evolved from one who dabbled in psychedelics and Kabbalah in the 1960s to a teacher whose erudition bridges the gap between Kabbalah scholarship and popular interest. After a sensitive autobiographical introduction, Green settles into chapters that explore Kabbalah in the past, present and future. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"If you read this as I did, with a pen in hand, underlining sentences and writing 'Yes!' in the margins each time your heart echoes back a resounding confirmation, you will end up as I did, with a completely underlined book, an uplifted heart, renewed zeal and instructions for the spiritual practice of life." Sylvia Boorstein, author of Pay Attention, for Goodness' Sake "Arthur Green rescues Kabbalah from fundamentalists on the one hand and faddists on the other. Drawing on forty years of intense textual study and profound inner search, he fashions a revolutionary Kabbalah for those who yearn for a genuine spirituality, who cherish both heart and mind." Daniel C. Matt, author of Zohar: Annotated & Explained "If you only have time to read one book on Jewish mysticism, this is it. Arthur Green, surely one of the great teachers of our generation, has brought the Kabbalah (back) to life. His book is informed, passionate and wise. It is the first door." Lawrence Kushner, author of The Way Into Jewish Mystical Tradition

Green emphasizes the aspects of kabbalah most useful for modern seekers while making a point of avoiding the more arcane and convoluted aspects of the tradition. I found it very useful in giving me interesting and provocative ways of thinking about God and God's presence in the world and universe in which I live. Parts of this book reward rereading now and then.

This book provides an outstanding, easy to understand, explanation of Kabbalah for today's world. The writing style is wonderful and the author has a keen knowledge of the subject. While some, particularly religious conservatives, may find the perspective he brings to his review and analysis jarring, I found it highly informative, very considerate of traditional religious values, and quite refreshing. The book is not a study guide for the practice of Kabbalah, but rather a thoughtful overview and explication of an ancient mystic tradition that significantly impacted Judaism. And

while it is clear that the author believes in the relevance of that tradition to our lives today, he conceives it as having a broader outreach and expanded meaning for our time.

Green does a good job shifting the reader through the choppy waters of the Kabbala's theosophical ocean. This book promotes a form of non-dual Judaism, the belief that God is not separable from creation. Everything is in a sense God. Yet the Kabbalah's delves into the "life" of God through speculation about God's different manifestations, or sephirot. Green takes a decidedly psychological view of the sephirot; this is in keeping with the agenda of the book. It is a Kabbalah for tomorrow! It tries to set out an agenda that will make the Kabbalah more palatable to non-halakhic Jews and fellow travelers. In general Green succeeds. He has such a great command of the spiritual journey that of course he realizes that it never ends. His epilogue "To Keep on Going - Where do I go from Here?" is helpful, concise and humble.

The author draws on many years of study as background for a very readable book. I particularly enjoyed the Preface and Introduction.

Gets right at the heart of Kabbalah in a very accessible way. I love Green's writing style and clarity. It honestly is what brought me back in Judaism in a meaningful way. Todah!

All of the good points about EHYEH have been mentioned by other reviewers. I only want to correct two things said by the reviewer from San Ramon: 1. Zalman Schachter-Shalomi is very much alive as of this writing. 2. Arthur Green is not on the right wing of anything.

Good but too long. More of a reference guide from my point of view, but good.

My Sunday morning group is using this book and I like the flow of it.

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