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# The Book Of Blessings



## Synopsis

The Book of Blessings is an extraordinary and deeply poetic re-creation of Jewish prayer that offers new blessings, poems, and meditations for Sabbath, holiday, and everyday observance. Steeped in dialogue with rabbinic tradition, it is for those who seek a more contemporary, egalitarian approach to traditional liturgy. "[Falk] manages to create extraordinarily beautiful prayers—both in Hebrew and English—that are both radically new and deeply resonant with Jewish tradition."—Judith Plaskow, *The Women's Review of Books* "Marcia Falk's work in Hebrew blessings is as beautiful as it is innovative; and it is innovative in the sweetest, most nourishing sense, saturated in love for the language itself (its overtones and melodies as well as its deep structure), its history, its people. Even those who do not hear the traditional liturgies as exclusionary will respond to the meticulously flowering poet's passion of Marcia Falk's wholly original contribution."—Cynthia Ozick "A truly magisterial and exciting collection of brakhot . . . that invites us to re-encounter not only the blessing, but the Source of blessing. . . . Falk rekindles the flame of Jewish ardor and devotion."—Hadassah "[Falk's] prayers are re-creations of traditional prayers, her versions striking in the beauty and power of their language, in English and Hebrew: this is a poet's siddur, full of profound meaning."—Sandee Brawarsky, *Jewish Week*

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Poet and liturgist Falk (*The Song of Songs*) has created a new collection of Jewish blessings from a feminist perspective. In her helpful preface, Falk explains how her original prayers, and her translations into English of poems written by Jewish women in Hebrew and Yiddish, are intended as

alternatives to the patriarchal nature of traditional Jewish prayers. The blessings, in both Hebrew and English, are arranged in three sections, each with its own introduction and suggestions for prayer services. The Daily Cycle includes blessings for such activities as awakening and meals, as well as psalms for daily reflection; the Weekly Cycle offers prayers for the havdalah, the ritual separating the sabbath from the rest of the week; and the Monthly Cycle focuses on liturgies for Rosh Hodesh, the festival of the New Moon. In addition, Falk has provided a section of Commentary which explains each prayer's relationship to the traditional liturgy. Falk has fashioned a beautiful and inspirational book of elegant prayers, poems, psalms and blessings. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Text: English, Hebrew --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Instead of seeing the paperback edition of THE BOOK OF BLESSINGS as an eviscerated, atheized collection of feminist poetry masquerading as a prayer book, it is best to see it as a language for disenfranchised Jews to recover their native spirituality. Not all disenfranchised Jews however, just those who for reasons of gender and/or sexuality have been excluded from the language of Jewish community, or those whose sensibilities and associations preclude them from seeing themselves as members of a chosen clan, or those who can no longer (if they could ever) keep company with a Supreme Being. Marcia Falk's blessings, which are best seen and used as part of particular daily, Sabbath, or festival services, come from a Jewish spirit at its most welcoming and its most tentative. Tentative in that she is unwilling to say more than her experience can substantiate about Divinity, commensurately not arrogating more for the Jewish people than can be ethically claimed in a non-theistic universe. For those who've longed for an intellectually credible, contemplative but non-theistic faith inclusive of all conditions of Jews and open to life with and among non-Jews, this gem of a book is worth its moderate price several times over.

This is the perfect gift for young feminists. It is great if you are making new rituals.

it's a book full of spirit and poetry - wonderful and precious - thanks a lot

The people who received this book as my gift to them were thrilled with it and said it was in beautiful condition. It arrived to them 3 days sooner than I had been told it would. Everyone was very happy with this!

The best progressive siddur I've ever had.

A skillful poet serves both men and women Jewish and Gentile as well as those with an interest in, but no mastery of Biblical Hebrew language.

For me, this book did not help me to find the daily blessings or the prayers of ritual that I was seeking.

A really good book for those who are Jewish.

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