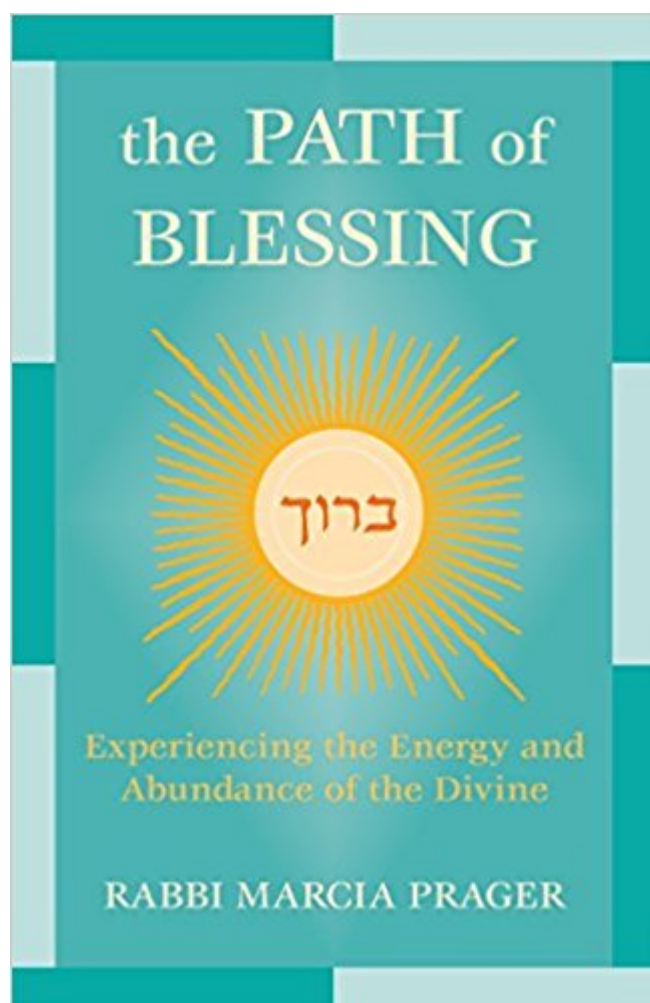


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The Path Of Blessing: Experiencing The Energy And Abundance Of The Divine



Synopsis

Enrich your spiritual practice with a deeper understanding of Hebrew blessing. A Hebrew blessing is a powerful thing— a short, deeply meditative exercise exploring the nature of God and the dynamic relationship between God, human consciousness and the unfolding universe. Written in clear, illuminating prose, this book will guide you through the opening words of a Hebrew blessing— six words which embody the depth of Jewish spirituality— revealing how the letters and words combine to promote joy and appreciation, wonder and thankfulness, amazement and praise. Each word becomes an invitation to discover the Presence of God flowing through even the smallest actions of our lives. Examine the deeper meaning behind: Barukh • Ata • Adonay • Eloheynu • Melekh • Ha—Olam In the ancient language of the Jewish mystical tradition and the modern language of hasidism, creation theology and psychology, The Path of Blessing brings the words of the Hebrew invocation dramatically alive.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A rich, wise, and joyous book! Marcia Prager offers us an exhilarating adventure of the spirit. Six seemingly ordinary Hebrew words become luminous gateways into the inner riches of ancient and modern Jewish wisdom."--Rabbi Lawrence Kushner "This book deserves an honored place close to where you pray and meditate."--Rabbi Zalman M. Schachter-Shalomi

I've always been fascinated by the individual sounds of languages and how the shape of each letter

reveals its intrinsic meaning. So when I met Rabbi Marcia Prager and heard of the work she had done meditating on each letter of the alephbet and exploring its relationship to the adjoining letters in a word, I was hooked. Rabbi Marcia is a charismatic speaker who brings light and clarity into the room when she teaches. To reproduce this dynamic quality in a book was a real challenge but together I think we did it. As Reb Zalman Schachter, the father of the Jewish Renewal movement says in his praise of *The Path of Blessing*, "In times past, rabbis were traditionally called upon to give their imprimatur to new works of sacred teaching. While this is no longer the custom, I would like to set such an imprimatur on Rabbi Marcia's work. This is to emphasize that you are not merely reading a book but studying Torah." -- Toinette Lippe, Editorial Director, Bell Tower --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

I have been teaching this book in congregational settings for over ten years; in that time it has lost none of its beauty or delight. It is accessibly written, beautifully composed, and rich. It provides a lovely entry into Jewish blessing and prayer, one which inspires and renews. Readers will return to this book again and again!

I am a rabbi and am always looking for the best books to give to my adult students who are interested in Judaism. *The Path of Blessing* is one of these books. With clarity, wit, and graceful and concise writing Rabbi Marcia Prager illuminates the deep meaning and purpose of the Jewish practice of offering blessings as a means to awaken consciousness and gratitude. In the process Rabbi Prager offers a fabulous primer on the core principles of Jewish mysticism that infuse all of Jewish life. Rabbi Prager has given us a gift of scholarship, wisdom, and heart.

This is a superb book -- something to come back to again and again. It's so rich with insight and information that one reading would only skim the surface. This is the book I reach for many mornings when I feel in turmoil or afraid or am struggling with indecision. It doesn't solve any of those issues, but it puts me in a solid, calm, receptive place where I can move forward with more confidence. Rabbi Prager is a very gifted writer and teacher. Mazel Tov!

With language and metaphors that are accessible, Rabbi Prager opens a world of meaning as she explores and reveals meanings within the words, even the letters of the words, just as understanding molecules, atoms and galaxies opens a window to understanding our cosmos, as she explores prayer. Her understanding and teaching leads one to the logical conclusion that even

as we breathe, as we notice the world within and without, we pray and each of us is instilled with G-d spark. Skeptical at first, I soon found that I was compelled to read, and at times re-read as new ideas and interpretations found their way home.

Marcia Prager's *The Path of Blessing: Experiencing the Energy and Abundance of the Divine*, is an extremely gentle, soft examination of the constellation of blessings which accompany Jewish religious life. She focuses on the most used Baruck ata... formula, using each word of the generic part of the blessing as the jumping off point for examination and exegesis. Prager was taught by Rabbi Zalman Schacter-Shalomi, so his imprint is all over this work. The Jewish Renewal text presented here is definitely for beginners, not for people more advanced in their study of Judaism, who will quickly become bored or frustrated with Prager's often elemental interpretations.

This is a delightful, easy to read and profoundly meaningful book! It not only offers new insights on Jewish blessings, but teachings on overall Jewish spiritual practice as well. Rabbi Marcia Prager guides readers through the opening words that begin Hebrew blessings -- Baruch Ata Adonai Eloheynu Melech Ha-olam, and explores how each of these words, and the Hebrew letters that comprise them, can be a path for deeper awareness, appreciation and connection to God. Throughout the book she weaves Hasidic stories, mystical and traditional texts, creation theology, feminist spirituality, psychology and personal anecdotes. It is simultaneously both scholarly and personal. As I read this beautifully written book it felt a lot like sitting in on one of her classes -- entertaining, provocative, heartfelt, and deeply transformative. It's the kind of book that I know I'll be referring to again and again, both for specific anecdotes and overall inspiration. I highly recommend it to any student of Jewish mystical thought, or anyone engaging in Jewish spiritual practice.

I bought this for a religion course. Didn't finish it, but found it fine for the course.

Fabulous book! I had been looking for a book just like this for many months and am so grateful I was pointed in the direction of this one! I highly recommend it!

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