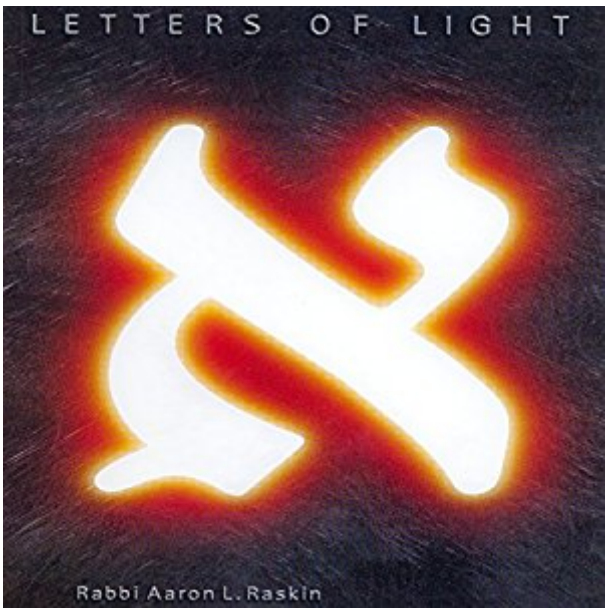
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Letters Of Light: A Mystical Journey Through The Hebrew Alphabet



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Synopsis

As a carpenter employs tools to build a home, so G-d utilized the 22 letters of the Hebrew Alphabet, the alef-beis, to form heaven and earth. These letters are the metaphorical wood, stone and nails, corner posts and crossbeams of our earthly and spiritual existence. In Letters of Light, Rabbi Aaron L. Raskin explores the essence of these holy letters, illustrating how they continue to be a source of creation, reflection, prayer, and inspiration in our everyday lives. Each letter is examined in terms of its design, gematria (numerical value), and Hebrew meaning. Rabbi Raskin's insights are guided by the rich foundations of Chasidic philosophy, particularly by the illuminations of Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the seventh Lubavitcher Rebbe. The result is a unique and insightful exposition of how the 22 letters of the alef-beis can provide wisdom and guidance for every aspect of our lives.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

very nice. Impressed with the condition of the book as well as the contents in the book! Thank you.

Love this book!

Years ago, I own the hand printed and drawn copy of this book. I am ashamed to admit I lost it somewhere along life's journey. You can therefore undoubtedly image my sheer joy at this this printed version available; my little Jewish library feels complete once more. Toda!

Are letters of an alphabet only random pen strokes? Rabbi Raskin opens his discussion of the Aleph (the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet) with this question.English speaking children never learn why an English capital letter "A" looks like a teepee or the lower case "a" "looks like a soap bubble stuck to a wall."By contrast, Hebrew, he writes, is Divinely designed, and each letter in the Aleph Beit (alphabet) is constructed so as "to teach us something."The Aleph, the first letter in the Hebrew alphabet, is constructed of three other Hebrew letters, a Yud, a Vav and an additional Yud. The first Yud at the top of the Aleph represents the Almighty --- stationed above us and also beyond our comprehension.The second Yud on the lower part of the Aleph represents the Jewish people --- and its placement there teaches us that it is possible to understand the All Powerful only through humility, within the context of His creations.The third portion of the Aleph, the Vav, is intended to represent Jewish faith, which unites each Jewish person with the Highest One.These are remarkable ideas, but they merely provide the opener for Rabbi Raskin’s lesson on the first letter in the Aleph Beit.Each letter also contains meaning through its numerical value, or gematria, he explains. For the Aleph, the numerical value is one, signifying His Oneness.Additionally, there is the gematria of each component letter of the Aleph, the total of which spells His Four Letter Hebrew Name, which Judaism teaches us never to speak, and never to write out in full, to avoid defiling the Divine. In Orthodox tradition, one simply replaces this Word in all daily speech and, often even in prayer, with "The Name" --- Ha Shem, in Hebrew --- as in Baruch Ha Shem, which translates literally as "Blessed be G-d’s Name" but means something closer to "Thanks to G-d."That all of this is still only a portion of the lesson on the letter Aleph, by itself helps explain why this extraordinarily spiritual book carries the title "Letters of Light."There is a great deal of light in this book, as befits its subject. One finds letters within letters, and meaning within meaning, within meaning, all of them poignant, and touching the soul.A superb book, which I am delighted to own. My heartfelt thanks to you, Rabbi Raskin.--- Alyssa A. Lappen

I found this book an pleasant mixture of a philosophy in a book I couldn’t put down.I have been studying and practicing Tai chi, Aikido and mother martial arts for over 30 years and was amazed to see the same teaching of the Confucius Analects, Tao Te Ching, and many of the Zen Classics in this book. The parallels are striking. So much so, i found myself taking notes to look up and review later. I am not a Jewish scholar, I didn’t even know the Hebrew alphabet by heart before reading the book (my kids had to teach me the song).The book reads with passion as if you are at a really good sermon. The author is writing about something he loves. It really comes thru.So if you are looking for some philosophy in a book that is hard to put down, i strongly recommend.

I really enjoyed reading this book. As serious student of Hebrew studies, I found it to go much deeper. It’s insightful, thought provoking and brings what you think you know about Hebrew language to life in a new way.

Terrific book. It almost place a picture of each Hebrew letter in you head. As a beginner in learning Hebrew this gave me an advantage.

Many many secrets revealed

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