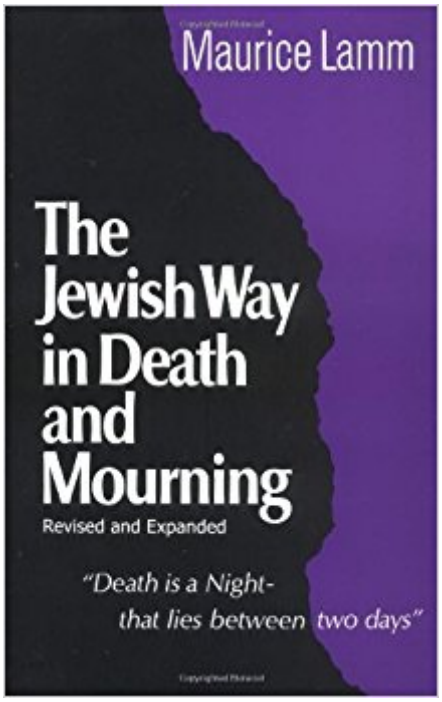
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The Jewish Way In Death And Mourning



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Synopsis

For over thirty years Jews have turned to Rabbi Maurice Lamm’s classic work for direction and consolation. Selected by The New York Times as one of the ten best religious books of the year when it was first published in 1969, The Jewish Way in Death and Mourning leads the family and friends of the deceased through the most difficult chapter of life-from the moment of death through the funeral service, the burial, and the various periods of mourning.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"...a recognized classic that is as relevant today as it was when it was first published thirty years ago..." --Malcolm Hoenlein,"...will be read with wide interest and provide a gateway to an important rubric of Jewish thought and philosophy." --Lord Immanuel

Rabbi Maurice Lamm was awarded an honorary doctorate by Yeshiva University, from which he holds a B.A., M.A., and rabbinic ordination. He has served on the faculty of Stern College for Women, was field director of Military Chaplains, and traveled for the U. S. Department of Defense with the civilian equivalent of Major General. His chaplaincy duties took him around the world. One of his most important contributions has been the creation of the National Institute for Jewish Hospice.

This book gives a lot of information that many Christians are totally unaware of. I real want to be able to talk to a Rabbi in my area for further information and enlightenment on this matter. I just wish

that the Glossary in the back of the book covered ALL the Hebrew words used in the book.I " came across this book " just prior to my sister’s passing and now it has really helped me come to grips with her death.Thank you Rabbi Maurice Lamm.

This book helps with pain of the individual is connected to the pain of the community. Just as the destruction of Zion and Jerusalem is mourned by the entire nation of Israel, so, too, does the entire community share in the mourning of the individual’s loss, since all Israel constitutes a single body. This book helps to make the pain and sorrow bearable.

A very helpful guide to help us navigate through the Jewish ways of death and grief rituals. Very good explanations to the Jewish traditions that help us deal with death and loss. Lots of background info as well as practical, helpful insights. We are reminded that though death is inexplicably difficult, there is a rhythm and comfort to the Jewish traditions that help us through.

This is a truly encyclopedic guide (at least from the perspective from someone who, like me, knew almost nothing about the subject before reading the book) to Jewish mourning practices. Brief summary: if a parent dies, be prepared to take a week off from everything, and don’t shave. Try to avoid most forms of public entertainment for a year. (Whether these are realistic expectations for most readers, I can’t say). If another relative dies, the restrictions are less severe.Lamm also briefly summarizes the Jewish depiction of the afterlife. In his own words: [there is] historic near-unanimity of [Jewish] scholarly opinion on the fundamental belief [in the afterlife but] the practical details of immortality are ambiguous and vague. There is no formal eschatology in Judaism, only a traditional consensus that illuminates the way. . . God revives the righteous dead, while the wicked remain in the dust."Lamm goes back and forth between justifying the halacha and neutrally describing it; I found his justifications persuasive in some instances, perhaps a bit overly aggressive at other times.

good treatment of the subject

My Shul (synagogue) distributes this book to mourners and those who are dealing with terminally ill loved ones as a concise resource for what we all need to know about dealing with suffering and loss. I can’t say it’s a pleasant read given the topic, but everything Rabbi Lamm covers is necessary information. I’d recommend reading it *before* someone in your life becomes ill and passes so that, intellectually, you are more prepared for what is to come.

Using this book as a guide, it was a great comfort in going through the grief and mourning of my parents' passing. For me it spends too much time expanding upon the negative views of other religions' practices. A brief mention would have been enough. I am Jewish and I chose this book to help guide me; I do not need to be convinced.

Orthodoxy Lots of it. We need more practical, contemporary advice that is in the Jewish tradition.

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