TISHREI HOLIDAY BOOKS FOR ADULTS

Agnon, S. Y. Days of Awe: A Treasury of Jewish Wisdom for Reflection, Repentance, and Renewal on the High Holy Days.

(Schocken, 1995; ISBN: 978-0805210484). Compiled by one of the greatest Hebrew writers of the 20th century and first published in 1948, *Days of Awe* is the long-acknowledged classic companion to the High Holy Days prayer book. Here in one volume are readings and meditations from the Bible, the Talmud, the Midrash, and the Zohar, to deepen the spiritual experience of the holiest days of the Jewish year.

Berman, Louis A. *The Akedah: The Binding of Isaac*. (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 1997; ISBN: 978-1568218991). This is an in-depth study of a biblical story that excites curiosity while repelling readers with the thought that Abraham was ready to express his obedience to God by sacrificing his own son.

Elkins, Dov Peretz. Rosh Hashanah Readings: Inspiration, Information and Contemplation (Jewish Lights Publishing, 2006; ISBN-13: 9781580232395). Drawn from a variety of sources—ancient, medieval, modern, Jewish and non-Jewish—this selection of readings, prayers and insights explores the opportunities for inspiration and reflection inherent in the subjects addressed on the Jewish New Year: sin, repentance, personal and social change, societal justice, forgiveness, spiritual growth, living with joy and hope, commitment to high ideals, becoming our truest and most authentic selves, deepening our capacity to love and savoring the divine gift of life. These readings enable you to enter into the spirit of Rosh Hashanah and the Days of Awe in a personal and powerful way while they uplift and inform.

Elkins, Dov Peretz. Yom Kippur Readings: Inspiration, Information and Contemplation (Jewish Lights Publishing, 2005; ISBN-13: 9781580232715). Drawn from a variety of sources-ancient, medieval, modern, Jewish and non-Jewish-this selection of readings, prayers and insights explores the opportunities for inspiration and reflection inherent in the themes addressed on the Day of Atonement: sin, forgiveness, repentance, spiritual growth, and being at one with self, family, community and God. These readings enable you to enter into the spirit of Yom Kippur in a personal and powerful way while they uplift and inform.

Goodman, Phillip. *Rosh Hashanah Anthology*. (Jewish Publication Society, 1992; ISBN: 0-8276-040804). "This anthology of treasures from the Bible, Talmud, Midrash, and by writers from medieval to modern times strikes a balance between the solemn and the festive." A proverbial mine of information." – *Jewish Floridian*

Hammer, Reuven. *Entering the High Holy Days: A Guide to Origins, Themes and Prayers.* (JPS, 2005; ISBN: 978-0827608214). This book provides historical background and interpretation of the ideas, practices, and liturgy and lends them contemporary relevance to today's Jews.

Hoffman, Rabbi Lawrence A., Ph.D., editor. *All These Vows: Kol Nidre* (Jewish Lights Publishing, 2011; ISBN: 978-1-58023-430-6). Through a series of lively commentaries, over thirty contributors—men and women, scholars and rabbis, artists and poets, spanning three continents and all major Jewish denominations—examine *Kol Nidre's* theology, usage, and deeply personal impact. They trace the actual history of the prayer and attempts through the ages to emend it, downplay it and even do away with it—all in vain. They explore why *Kol Nidre* remains an annual liturgical highlight that is regularly attended even by Jews who disbelieve everything the prayer says.

Hoffman, Rabbi Lawrence A., Ph.D., editor. Who By Fire, Who By Water: Un'taneh Tokef. (Jewish Lights Publishing, 2010; ISBN: 978-1580234245). Men and women, scholars and rabbis, artists and poets trace the history of Un'taneh Tokef and connect the prayer to its biblical and rabbinic roots. They wrestle with the personal and community impact of its deeply moving imagery, probe its haunting message of human mortality, and reflect on its call for sanctity, transformation and renewal.

Isaacs, Rabbi Ron. *Every Person's Guide to the High Holidays* (Every Person's Guide Series) (Jason Aronson, 1999; ISBN: 0-7657-6018-5). "This volume is intended to help people prepare and participate in the High Holy Days. The goal is to be basic but comprehensive, providing both home and synagogue observances that are essential to the Days of Awe."

Kushner, Harold S. How Good Do We Have to Be? A New Understanding of Guilt and Forgiveness (Little, Brown & Company, 1996; ISBN: 0-316-50741-5). Show "how human life is too complex for anyone to live it without making mistakes, and why we need not fear the loss of God's love when we are less than perfect." Rabbi Kushner reveals "how acceptance and forgiveness can change our relationships with the most important people in our lives and help us meet the bold and rewarding challenge of being human."

Morrison, Rabbi Chanan. Silver from the Land of Israel: Rav Kook on the Jewish Holidays. (Urim Publications, 2010; ISBN: 978-965-524-042-9). Because of their poetic and mystical nature, Rav Kook's writings are difficult even for readers who are fluent in Hebrew and rabbinic texts. Silver from the Land of Israel uses a clear, succinct style to provide the reader with a window into Rav Kook's original and creative insights. A companion volume to Gold from the Land of Israel on the Torah, this book presents Rav Kook's thoughts on Shabbat and Jewish holidays.

Olitzky, Kerry M. and Rachel T. Sabath. *Preparing Your Heart for the High Holy Days: A Guided Journal*. (JPS, 1996; ISBN: 0-8276-0578-1). Prompted by passages from Psalm 27 ("The Lord is my light and my help..."), meditations, commentary, and guided journal work, the reader travels a day-by-day spiritual path. This book "helps us experience the renewal of spirit for which we all yearn."

Reimer, Gail Twersky and Kates, Judith A. *Beginning Anew: A Woman's Companion to the High Holy* Days (Touchstone (Simon & Schuster), 1997; ISBN: 0-684-82687-9). Discussions of the Torah and Haftarah readings for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur will enlighten as well as inform. The essays by various women scholars and authors discussing the significance of the readings are well as how their messages are relevant for today.

Spiegel, Shalom. *The Last Trial: On the Legends and Lore of the Command to Abraham to Offer Isaac as a Sacrifice: The Akedah* (Jewish Lights, 1993; ISBN: 1-879045-29-X). A translation of Siegel's *Me-Aggadot ha-Akedah*, a work of scholarship and intellectual play.

Steinsaltz, Adin. *Teshuvah: A Guide for the Newly Observant Jew* (The Free Press, 1982; ISBN: 0-02-931150-0). Rabbi Steinsaltz explores the psychological and social processes involved in religious renewal, and shows how a gradual integration of religious commitment in daily life can be accomplished.