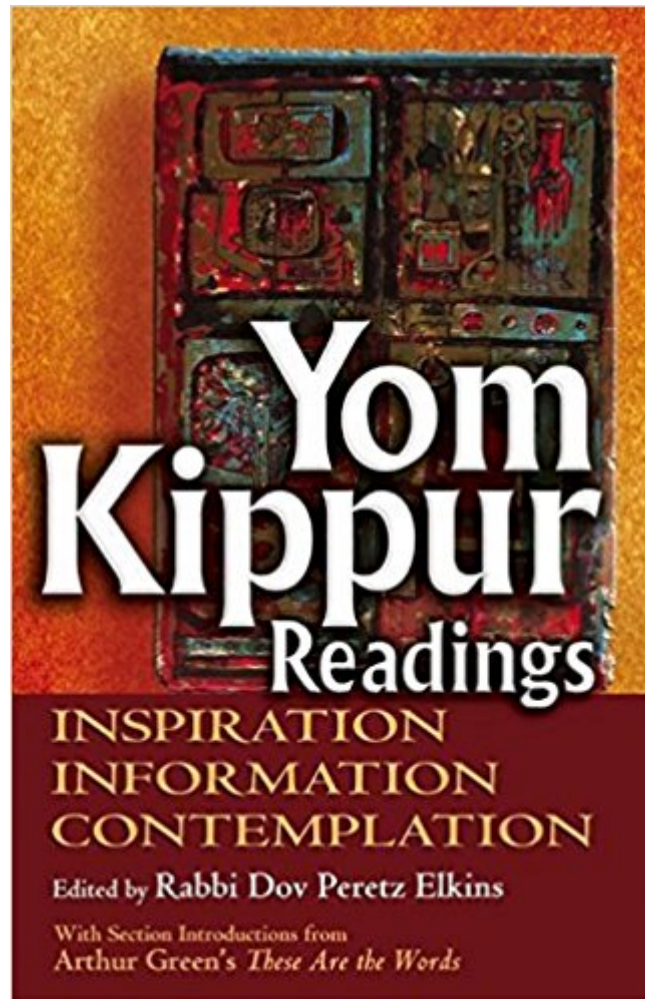


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# Yom Kippur Readings: Inspiration, Information And Contemplation



## Synopsis

A powerful collection of writings about Yom Kippur that will add spiritual depth and holiness to your experience of the Day of Atonement. As Rosh Hashanah ends and you look ahead to Yom Kippur, what do you think about? The familiar melody of Kol Nidre? The long hours of fasting? The days of self-examination? You know that the Day of Atonement is the holiest on the Jewish calendar, but sometimes it just feels long, tiresome and devoid of personal meaning. The readings in this book are for anyone seeking a deeper level of personal reflection and spiritual intimacy and a clearer understanding of just what makes Yom Kippur so holy. 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. They will add to the benefits of your High Holy Day experience year after year.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Dov Peretz Elkins has gifted the Jewish world with many useful publications, for which we ought to be grateful. While this anthology has much that is meaningful, moving or scholarly, many of the selections strike me as filler. For those who have both the Yom Kippur and the Rosh Hashanah volumes, you will notice that much material is recycled. There are also prayers and sections of the services for which coverage is scanty or missing. Despite these defects, I am happy to have these

books on my shelves and am sure that they will enrich the holidays for many as they have for me.  
Thank you Dov!

Rabbi Elkins is to be applauded for this lovingly researched collection of short stories, sermon excerpts, quotes, meditations, and brief commentaries on the holiday of Yom Kippur. It gave me a much deeper understanding of, and appreciation for, the religion into which I was born. Very entertaining, informative, and easy to read.

Thought-provoking and a deep analysis of what really is a sin, and how to make a positive out of what we perceive as a negative. The section on gossip as a sin should be a must read for everyone in the USA!

I am not a fan of those Jews who seek to put a gender to HaShem, or to break the One into various aspects of a god like the Hindus do. God is One, there is no separate female aspect which some refer to as the Shekinah. The noun shekina does not occur in the Hebrew Bible, although the verb shakan, and other terms from the root Åjkn do occur. There is also no occurrence of the noun in pre-rabbinic literature such as the Dead Sea Scrolls. It is only after the destruction of the Temple by the Romans that some scribes wrote the targums and rabbinical literature. Rabbis were scribes. Then it was that the Hebrew term shekinah, or Aramaic equivalent shekinta, is found, and then becomes extremely common. This is based upon ignorance. Just because a word in a foreign language carries a gender doesn't mean it refers to male or female. In Hebrew the word Shekinah is feminine, when some of the more benighted rabbis wrote portions of the Talmud they couldn't reason correctly. Shekinah is a dwelling place. The word for Tabernacle (originally a large tent) is 'mishkan' it is from the same root as Shekinah. Perhaps there are some who feel we need a Mary-like aspect to God. To me that is wrong.

As a convert to Judaism, I find this book invaluable. Becoming accustomed to the ins and outs of a religion I have felt so intrinsically linked is wonderful. While I have my own feelings associated with both Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, this book brings me to another level.

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