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The Jewish Way In Death And Mourning (Revised And Expanded Edition)



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. Now, in this thoroughly revised and expanded edition, Rabbi Lamm explores a wide range of new issues and questions that Jews of the twenty-first century must address. Special consideration is given to the subjects of organ donation, autopsy, the question of a woman's right to say Kaddish, mourning practices as they relate to the stillborn, the permissibility of converts to Judaism to mourn their Gentile parents, and the bereavement rights of individuals who by Jewish law are not required to mourn but who nonetheless wish to express their grief in accordance with Jewish tradition. In addition to exploring the sensitive issues that the contemporary mourner must confront, *The Jewish Way in Death and Mourning* is remarkable in that it gently leads the mourner through the corridors of Jewish law and teaches the aching heart how to express its pain in love and respect so that it might begin on the road to eventual healing.

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Customer Reviews

I checked this book out from the library to use it as a resource for a religion class. I couldn't stop reading it. Having just lost my grandmother and participated at her funeral service, I was very

interested in learning about Jewish funeral customs. This book was just the ticket. It is very well written, easy to read (it is broken down into many subsections) and understand (even for the non-Jew), fascinating (if you are not familiar with the Jewish customs), and the section entitled "What is Death?" is extremely profound. I loved his style and his use of words. I plan to purchase it to keep in my library. (It helped me get an A on the report and in the class!)

The book is very comprehensive on the specific part of the subject discussed: American, Ashkenazi laws and customs. However, it doesn't deal with the laws and customs elsewhere (e.g., Israel) and ignores Sephardi Jewish customs. Highly recommended if you only want to know about the Ashkenazi Jewish laws and customs in North America.

I turned to this book when my father died. I found it to be a comprehensive and indispensable guide. I still take it with me whenever I visit the cemetery so that I can use its text for graveside prayers.

This is a very detailed guide to the traditional aspects of Jewish observances of Death and Mourning. It is a must for every Jew -- Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, or un-affiliated! My only suggestion is to my fellow readers -- buy it and read it now! Do not wait until you need its great advice.

This book provided all the answers I needed. It was factual, clearly-written, easily-referenced, religiously-balanced, logical and, overall, very useful.

My father had just died and I was given this book by his synagogue. As I spent the week sitting shivah with my family I read through it. It was comforting, informative and very very helpful. I think it would be helpful not only to Jewish mourners but to anyone who has lost a loved one.

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.

This is the best guide on ' Jewish Death and Mourning' I know. It is clearly written. It presents the Halachic aspects of the process in a good way. It shows sympathy and understanding. It will answer most if not all of the procedural questions the person has who is in the process of mourning.It is the standard work , and rightly so.

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