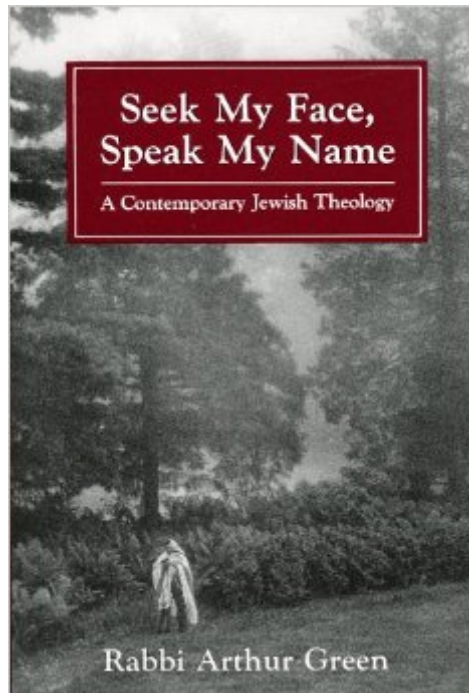


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Seek My Face Speak My Name: A Contemporary Jewish Theology



Synopsis

The new Jewish spirituality lies somewhere between God's elusive presence in our world and our search for authentic language to describe it. Rabbi Arthur Green leads us on a journey of discovery to seek God, the world, and ourselves. One of the most influential Jewish thinkers of our time, Green has created a roadmap of meaning for our lives in the light of Jewish mysticism, using the Hebrew letters that make up the divine name: Yod "Reality at the beginning. God as the oneness of being at the outset, before it unfolds into our universe. Heh "Creation and God's presence in the world. A renewed faith in God as Creator has powerful implications for us today. Vav "Revelation, the central faith claim of Judaism and the claim it makes on our lives. Heh "Redemption and our return to God through the life of Torah and by participating in the ongoing repair of the world. A personal and honest framework of understanding for the seeker, this revised and updated edition of a classic sheds new light on our search for the divine presence in our everyday lives.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Arthur Green is one of my favorite leaders in Kabbalah. His books are based on traditional mysticism, not a New Age Quick Fix Self-Help type of Judaism. I found this book appealing because each chapter is very short, dealing with one, simple idea that is not dependent on previous chapters. It's a great book to read at bedtime; a brief essay, written clearly that opens your mind to many "ah-ha" moments. Great choice for all levels interested in Kabbalah.

Rabbi Green, in quite a skillful way, directs the reader to an aspect of Judaism not adequately addressed by other authors. He "introduces" a monistic overview which makes one feel one with all. It is easy reading and very useful to one's path. I have been fortunate to hear him in person and highly recommend his works and especially this book. Rabbi Green does his part in bringing spirituality back to Judaism.

I read this book when I was suspected of having cancer, and consequently not in my happiest state. But this book completely changed the way I saw myself and the world. Anyone going through a bad patch should read this wonderful book.

As a liberal Jew I have searched for an articulation of Jewish theology that I can recommend to people. This work by Rabbi Green is one of the best such articulations of progressive Jewish theology that I have come across and is easily accessible to lay people. I highly recommend it!
Rabbi Amy Bernstein

I found this work moving and interesting. It is constructed as a set of brief essays each of which explores a religious theme. Green defines himself as a searcher and rather than presenting hard doctrine seems to want to suggest his conception of Jewish thought, including his Halachic ideas. He starts by reading a story- parable of Rabbi Nachman and the flavor of the paradoxical and mystical, the longing questing soul is immediately stamped upon the work. I liked very much his way of talking honestly about modern scientific developments and his effort to read the process of overall development in terms of God's Immanence. I found his way of talking about the Shema as a call to the people of Israel to hear, and his subsequent exposition of the meaning of this, illuminating. I cannot say I understood fully Green's thought but at many points I found it insightful and inspiring. His love of the Jewish people and the Jewish religious tradition pervade the work, as does his clear love of humanity. This is a work which I will go back to and reread, looking to focus more closely on those ideas which I hopefully will make a part of my own way of seeing and being in the world.

While the imagery and text itself is heavy, especially for one seeking to convert to Judaism, Green is fully able to give the reader a good primer into centuries (if not millenia) of Jewish mystical thought and discussion.

(Really 3 ½ stars)Green's exploration of nonduality in Judaism is tantalizing, but Seek My Face, Speak My Name, does not go far enough; it does not fully answer the deep questions that nondual approaches to Judaism create. A great deal of this book reads like preliminary comments about topics Green will handle in more detail later. Green gives us a sketch in this book while we really need a completed painting.

Reb Green has been a Godsend to me in my search for a closer, more personal relationship with my God, His world and my role in bringing His kingdom to my daily life.

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