



## The Book of Blessings

By Marcia Falk

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The Book of Blessings is an extraordinary and deeply poetic re-creation of Jewish prayer that offers new blessings, poems, and meditations for Sabbath, holiday, and everyday observance. Steeped in dialogue with rabbinic tradition, it is for those who seek a more contemporary, egalitarian approach to traditional liturgy.

"[Falk] manages to create extraordinarily beautiful prayers—in Hebrew and English—that are both radically new and deeply resonant with Jewish tradition."

—Judith Plaskow, *The Women's Review of Books*

"Marcia Falk's work in Hebrew blessings is as beautiful as it is innovative; and it is innovative in the sweetest, most nourishing sense, saturated in love for the language itself (its overtones and melodies as well as its deep structure), its history, its people. Even those who do not hear the traditional liturgies as exclusionary will respond to the meticulously flowering poet's passion of Marcia Falk's wholly original contribution."

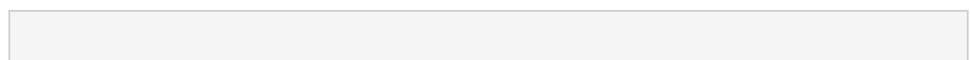
—Cynthia Ozick

"A truly magisterial and exciting collection of brakhot . . . that invites us to re-encounter not only the blessing, but the Source of blessing. . . . Falk rekindles the flame of Jewish ardor and devotion."

—Hadassah

"[Falk's] prayers are re-creations of traditional prayers, her versions striking in the beauty and power of their language, in English and Hebrew: this is a poet's siddur, full of profound meaning."

—Sande Brawarsky, *Jewish Week*



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## **The Book of Blessings** By Marcia Falk Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Poet and liturgist Falk (*The Song of Songs*) has created a new collection of Jewish blessings from a feminist perspective. In her helpful preface, Falk explains how her original prayers, and her translations into English of poems written by Jewish women in Hebrew and Yiddish, are intended as alternatives to the patriarchal nature of traditional Jewish prayers. The blessings, in both Hebrew and English, are arranged in three sections, each with its own introduction and suggestions for prayer services. The Daily Cycle includes blessings for such activities as awakening and meals, as well as psalms for daily reflection; the Weekly Cycle offers prayers for the havdalah, the ritual separating the sabbath from the rest of the week; and the Monthly Cycle focuses on liturgies for Rosh Hodesh, the festival of the New Moon. In addition, Falk has provided a section of Commentary which explains each prayer's relationship to the traditional liturgy. Falk has fashioned a beautiful and inspirational book of elegant prayers, poems, psalms and blessings.

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Language Notes

Text: English, Hebrew

From the Publisher

"Marcia Falk's long-awaited magnum opus brilliantly demonstrates the importance of rethinking Jewish theology and prayer. Her bold and controversial work reflects a poet's sensitivity and a scholar's insights." -- Rabbi David Teutsch, President, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

"Marcia Falk recasts the English of our blessings with her exquisite poetry and uniquely refacets the Hebrew with the caution, precision and artistry of a jeweler." --Susan Weidman Schneider, Editor-in-Chief, *Lilith: The Independent Jewish Women's Magazine*

Through the act of blessing, we awaken our appreciation of the world's abiding gifts. In *The Book of Blessings*, Marcia Falk re-creates Jewish prayer by offering new blessings, poems and meditations that focus on the sacred potential of each moment. Evoking the diversity of human experience, *The Book of Blessings* provides a collage of poetic form that invites us to celebrate "the dynamic, alive and unifying wholeness within creation." Steeped in dialogue within rabbinical tradition, it calls into question the tradition's patriarchal assumptions and challenges hierarchical structures of power.

A groundbreaking work in the literature of spirituality, *The Book of Blessings* offers, for the first time, a complete new liturgy, in Hebrew as well as English, for use in both house and the community on weekdays, Sabbaths and the festival of the New Moon. The liturgy is enhanced by a Commentary that illuminates its meanings for scholars and general readers alike.

*The Book of Blessings* is for those who are in the habit of praying and for those who are not. It is for those dissatisfied with the traditional liturgy and for those who wish to supplement it. *The Book of Blessings* is a part of an ongoing conversation that seeks to keep Judaism vital and responsive to our spiritual needs and moral concerns.

Poet and translator Marcia Falk received a B.A. in philosophy from Brandeis University and a Ph.D. in English and comparative literature from Stanford. She was a Fulbright Scholar and Postdoctoral Fellow at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where she studied Bible and Hebrew literature. A university professor for many years, she now lectures widely. Her other books include *The Song of Songs: A New Translation*

*and Interpretation* and *With Teeth in the Earth: Selected Poems of Malka Heifetz Tussman*. She is currently at work on further volumes of blessings for the major and minor festivals, the High Holidays, the Passover Haggadah and the ordinary and extraordinary events of the life cycle.

More Praise for *The Book of Blessings*:

"Not since Miriam danced at the Red Sea or Deborah praised God in song has the voice of women's soul in prayer been so passionately articulated." --Rabbi Naamah Kelman, Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism

"Marcia Falk's work on Hebrew blessings is as beautiful as it is innovative; and it is innovative in the sweetest, most nourishing sense, saturated in love for the language itself (its overtones and melodies as well as its deep structure), its history, its people. Even those who do not hear the traditional liturgies as exclusionary will respond to the meticulously flowering poet's passion of Marcia Falk's wholly original contribution." --Cynthia Ozick

"If anyone can revive the habit of praying, it is Marcia Falk. *The Book of Blessings* is a collection of eloquent and inspiring prayers that avoid anthropomorphisms and male domination. Marcia Falk invites the so-called secularist to pray without sacrificing intellectual or moral integrity." --Rabbi Ira Eisenstein, President Emeritus, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, and Judith Kaplan Eisenstein, Ph.D., Hebrew Union College

"Falk's rare poetic, spiritual, and intellectual gifts ensure that this long-awaited volume of feminist prayer will remain an enduring treasure, expanding the vocabulary of Jewish liturgy and awakening and deepening awareness of the holy in every aspect of life." --Judith Plaskow, author of *Standing Again at Sinai: Judaism from a Feminist Perspective*

"This is a work of art, a comprehensive revisioning of Judaism's liturgical genius from the pen of consummate poet and Hebraist Marcia Falk." --Rabbi Lawrence A. Hoffman, Professor of Liturgy, Hebrew Union College

About Marcia Falk's *The Song of Songs: A New Translation and Interpretation*:

"An exceptional poetic job. Marcia Falk has great power in her language." --Isaac Bashevis Singer, Nobel Laureate

"One of the great classics of the art of translation. It's always a thrill when (as rarely happens) the scholar's mind and the poet's soul come together." --Adrienne Rich

## **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**Lauren Barnett:**

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with buddies is thing that usually you have done when you have spare time, then why you don't try factor that really opposite from that. One particular activity that make you not feeling tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love The Book of Blessings, it is possible to enjoy both. It is good combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh come on its mind hangout men. What? Still don't have it, oh come on its known as reading friends.

**Larry Hudgens:**

Reading a book to get new life style in this 12 months; every people loves to read a book. When you go through a book you can get a lots of benefit. When you read books, you can improve your knowledge, because book has a lot of information onto it. The information that you will get depend on what types of book that you have read. In order to get information about your review, you can read education books, but if you act like you want to entertain yourself read a fiction books, this sort of us novel, comics, and soon. The The Book of Blessings provide you with new experience in examining a book.

**Alberto Redden:**

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**Brandon Macdonald:**

Within this era which is the greater man or woman or who has ability in doing something more are more treasured than other. Do you want to become one among it? It is just simple strategy to have that. What you must do is just spending your time almost no but quite enough to have a look at some books. One of many books in the top record in your reading list is usually The Book of Blessings. This book which is qualified as The Hungry Hills can get you closer in growing to be precious person. By looking upwards and review this e-book you can get many advantages.

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