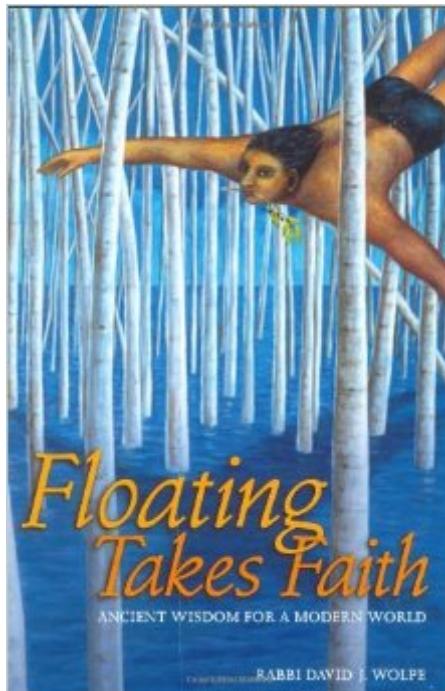


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Floating Takes Faith: Ancient Wisdom For A Modern World



Synopsis

We are taught to study, to learn, and to let ourselves grow Jewishly. But where does being the people of the book get us in the real world? David Wolpe's collection of essays responds to this question by exploring how Jewish values, such as scholarship and compassion, together with Jewish practice, enhance an individual's private and public life. How does Shabbat help deflect us from the pressures of the societal rat-race? How can Jewish learning subdue political unrest? Rabbi Wolpe draws the lessons of this collection from a variety of religious and historical sources, finding the importance of Israel in a Robert Frost poem, the nature of God in the words of Beowulf, and parenting lessons in the fatherly techniques of King David. The essays address diverse topics ranging from assimilation to Zionism to Jewish concepts of life and death. Rabbi Wolpe asks the questions, sometimes profound, sometimes light-hearted, that challenge us to consider how we live as Jews, how our Jewish lives are influenced by our secular surroundings, and how we can develop our Jewish souls by continuing to learn from new sources while remaining open to spiritual growth. Some of these questions include: Is it wrong to admire Kant, Voltaire, and Roald Dahl if they were anti-Semitic? How can we reconcile our American family traditions with our Jewish family traditions? In an evolutionary debate, do God and Steven Pinker stand behind opposite podiums? Do we need such a thing as a Jewish home? A Jewish homeland? Why does Walt Whitman think we should stay awake during the rabbi's sermon? What lessons of aging gracefully can we learn from Rabbi Akiba and Grandma Moses? An ideal gift for teachers, Confirmation students, grads, and new families that join the congregation.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Rabbi Wolpe is a genius at distilling the deepest thoughts into memorable, poetic, quintessential passages, perfect for spiritual folks of all faiths. I always feel enlightened, uplifted, and inspired to write my own journeys into questions of faith. This is a book to be read in small doses, throughout the years, not to sit down and read in one sitting; it is a treasure to revisit throughout life.

This was not what I expected. Wolpe's writing is still just as concise and poetic as ever, but done in short single page blurbs. I'd hoped for more lengthy pieces. Still very good, nonetheless.

Try an inspiration a day.

Great book for anyone interested in Judaism or spirituality or simply the meaning of their life. I am a Christian pastor and find rabbi Wolpe helpful and instructive.

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