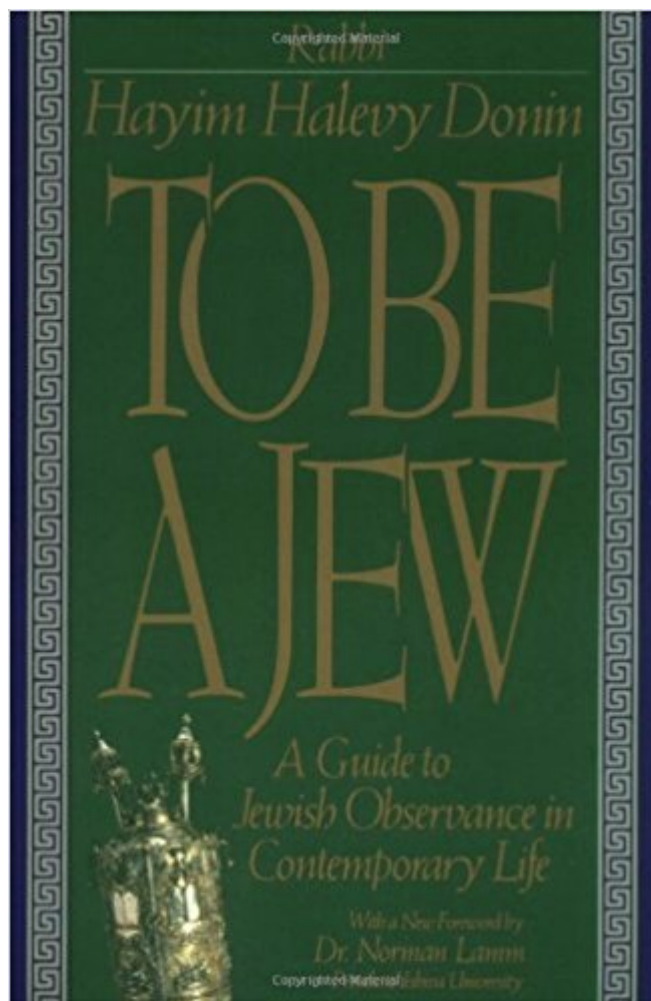


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To Be A Jew: A Guide To Jewish Observance In Contemporary Life



Synopsis

This indispensable volume has long been acknowledged as the classic guide to the traditional Jewish laws and customs as they apply to daily life in the contemporary world. The unique treasury of practical information and daily inspiration has long been acknowledged as the classic guide to the ageless heritage of Judaism's Jewish attitudes, Jewish philosophy, and Jewish law.

Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #146,388 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #11 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism > Movements > Orthodox](#) #74 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism > Jewish Life](#)

Customer Reviews

To Be a Jew, Rabbi Hayim Halevy Donin's classic guide to Jewish life, philosophy, and law has guided generations of Americans, Europeans, and Israelis to discover the treasures of their own religious traditions. First published in 1972, the book still stands as a reliable, practical and versatile resource for everyone from young girls preparing for bat mitzvah to old men returning to their spiritual roots. The book begins with an overview of Judaism's basic credo (including chapters on Israel's people, land, God, and Torah), moves on to describe the laws governing Jews' daily lives, the Jewish calendar, and "The Special Occasions of Life" from birth to death and mourning. One great strength of To Be a Jew is its blending of folk wisdom and scholarly learning. Rabbi Donin not only describes what right belief and righteous action look like but provides a rationale for these observances that engages and embraces the basic conditions of modern life. --Michael Joseph Gross

"Belongs in every Jewish home." -- Rabbi Israel Klavan, Rabbinical Council of America "For a general discussion of Jewish living, To Be a Jew is unexcelled. It is comprehensive and clear." --

Ruth Frank & William Wollheim, Book of Jewish Books

An excellent guide to different aspects of what it means to be of the Jewish faith, and to live a Jewish life. Clear and well-written, it describes Jewish beliefs and traditions so that they can be appreciated for their source and meaning, as well as easily understood. I believe this book was written for Jews who wish to learn more about their faith and traditions. However, it also is a wonderful resource for non-Jews who wish to learn more about the Jewish faith. I am one of the latter, and was impressed. A wonderful gift for anyone who might be considering converting.

Definitely orthodox, but a good book recommended by several people. Good for seekers, people interested in Judaism, and maybe those who wish to increase their level of observance. As Reform, it was interesting to see how the Orthodox view Judaism; it's a good Judaism 101 book

A great book in conjunction with others. It's what you're looking for. But don't just stop here, buy other books on the subject too. You know, because you have a lot of time to read.

I love this book. I'm not Jewish and am not likely to convert, but Jewish religious thought and practice is so connected to every aspect of real life here in physical life that it enriches my own experience and religious practice. I've read many books on the Jewish religion. This book, an older classic, is still the best guide to what is important in Jewish practice. To Be A Jew goes beyond the rote of observances. You will learn the why's and wherefore's out of which Jewish traditional practices come. I recommend it to anyone who wants to deeply understand more about the Jewish religion.

I got this book today and it is pretty nice for someone who wants to learn about Judaism like myself, even when I am a reformist that does not keep all the mitzvahs this book has everything I need to learn about my religion.

This book is a comprehensive collection of information regarding many aspects of Judaism. The author offers insight into the reasons behind observances and he also explains clearly how the observances fit within the modern environment we live in. As a Jew returning to Judaism after a generation of lost observance and tradition, I found this book as a valuable resource to guide me in my early steps of reconnecting with the Jewish life.

As a new convert to Judaism, I am very pleased that I have a "Mentor" if you will, that will help me fully understand the realm of practices in the faith. It has helped me to know with certainty that this is the religion for me. There is a lot to learn, but the author has a method of writing that is interesting, informative and thorough. My highest regard to this incredible Teacher, to whom I have the opportunity to develop my knowledge and commitment in the faith.

Whether you are a less than 'Observant' Jew who wants to learn more about connecting to haShem (aka: G-d) through haMitzvot, or you are a Goy (non-Jew) who is considering 'Gerus' (conversion), this is an excellent introductory work that covers a lot of bases. I highly recommend it.

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