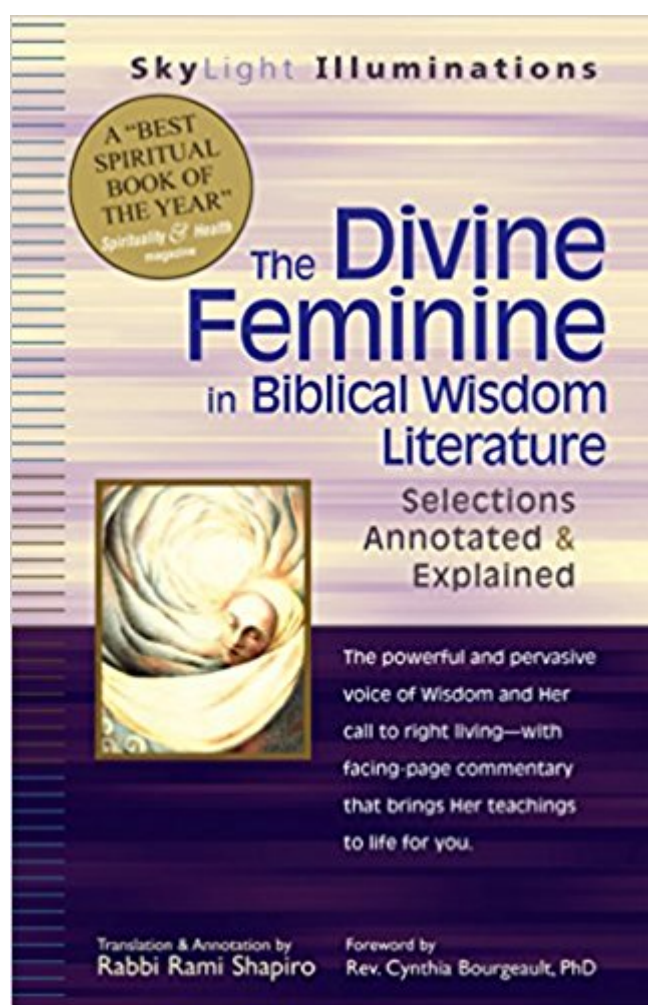


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# The Divine Feminine In Biblical Wisdom Literature: Selections Annotated & Explained (SkyLight Illuminations)



## Synopsis

The pure and penetrating message of the Divine Feminine Wisdom can become a companion for your own spiritual journey. The first of God's creations and God's endless delight, Wisdom (also known as Chochma and Sophia) is the Mother of all life, the guide to right living. She is God manifest in the world you encounter moment to moment. Her teachings, embedded in the Holy Scriptures of Jews and Christians, are passionate, powerful calls to live in harmony, love with integrity and act joyously. Through the Hebrew books of Psalms, Proverbs, Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes and Job, and the Wisdom literature books of Sirach and the Wisdom of Solomon, the Divine Feminine speaks to you directly, and Her only desire is to teach you to become wise. Rami Shapiro's contemporary translations and powerful commentaries clarify who Wisdom is, what She teaches, and how Her words can help you live justly, wisely and with compassion. This is not a book about Wisdom but the voice of Wisdom Herself, liberating, uplifting and compelling. Now you can experience the Divine Feminine and understand Her teachings with no previous knowledge of Wisdom literature. This SkyLight Illuminations edition presents insightful commentary that explains Sophia's way of wisdom and illustrates the countless opportunities to experience Her creative energy through which God fashions all things.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Collects the best biblical passages affirming the Divine Feminine, translates them beautifully and

gives us a careful nuanced discussion of each of them.... A fine textbook resource for courses or study groups." — Stevan Davies, author of *The Gospel of Thomas: Annotated & Explained*; professor of religious studies, College Misericordia

*The timeless heart of Wisdom Herself*, a modern day Tao Te Ching that is accessible to any person, from any background, interested in authentic spiritual illumination. A book to treasure all the days of your life, a living teaching with the power to awaken you to clear seeing and right action." — Joan Borysenko, PhD, author of *A Woman's Journey to God*

"Sung with sweet authority from within the embrace of Mother Wisdom. A luminous and deeply moving love song." — Dr. Judith Simmer-Brown, professor of religious studies, Naropa University; author of *Dakini's Warm Breath: The Feminine Principle in Tibetan Buddhism*

"Unmasks the Divine Feminine." Rami Shapiro's selection of passages from the Wisdom literature and his personal reflections bring us face to face with the Mother of all life. Expands our hearts and transforms the limits of our interior landscape.

— Jo-Ann Iannotti, OP, Wisdom House Retreat Center, Litchfield, Connecticut

"Rami Shapiro's selection and elucidation of scripture is personally fearless and profoundly faithful to the truth and wisdom we all need in our lives." — Oriah Mountain Dreamer, author of *The Invitation and What We Ache For*

"A book to ponder and savor." Offers articulate, rich text that engages the reader from the first word. Will enrich your spiritual journey and inspire you to pray for the gift of Wisdom for yourself.

— Sr. Bernadette Marie Teasdale, SCL, Contemplative Outreach of Colorado

Rami Shapiro, a renowned teacher of spirituality across faith traditions, is an award-winning storyteller, poet and essayist. He is author of *The Sacred Art of Lovingkindness: Preparing to Practice, Recovery*

*The Sacred Art: The Twelve Steps as Spiritual Practice* and *The Divine Feminine in Biblical Wisdom Literature: Selections Annotated & Explained* (all SkyLight Paths), among other books. Rami Shapiro is available to speak on the following topics:

- Writing*
- The Sacred Art: Beyond the Page to Spiritual Practice*
- Stop Playing God: 12 Steps as Spiritual Practice*
- Biblical Wisdom for Post-biblical Times: An Exploration of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Job*
- The Sacred Art of Lovingkindness: Cultivating Compassion in Daily Life*
- Hasidic Wisdom: An Exploration of Hasidic Storytelling, Theology and Contemplative Practice*
- Saints and Sages: Biblical Prophets, Ancient Rabbis and the Building of a Just World*

Rev. Cynthia Bourgeault, PhD, is an Episcopal priest and retreat leader focusing in Christian Spirituality. She is principal teacher for the Contemplative Society in Victoria, British Columbia, and founding director of the Aspen Wisdom

School in Aspen, Colorado. Her books include *Centering Prayer and Inner Awakening*, *The Wisdom Way of Knowing*, *Encountering the Wisdom Jesus*, *Mystical Hope* and *Love Is Stronger than Death*. She serves on the core faculty for the Spiritual Paths Foundation whose mission is to promote curiosity, respect and acceptance between people of diverse spiritual traditions.

Well written, deep, connects me more intimately with the Divine. I find Shapiro's insights often helpful. Sometimes he seems to be stretching to make his perception connect to Scripture. But I still like his words and believe it's good to use for *Lectio Divina*.

Rami Shapiro once commented "...if I were still in the synagogue business I think I would drop the standard Torah readings and focus on the Wisdom Books of the Bible -- Proverbs, Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes, Job -- and the God who teaches us how to examine life and in so doing discover for ourselves the principles of godliness that we are to live and teach." This God is the Divine Feminine of the present book. One reviewer criticizes *THE DIVINE FEMININE* for not being scholarly. The book was not intended for scholars but for seeking laypersons who are coming to the conclusion that a post-nostalgic Judaism groping towards a cosmologically-grounded and naturalistic theism needs new ways of looking at God, Israel, and Torah. *THE DIVINE FEMININE* offers a refreshing and inspiring approach to all three.

When I got this book in the mail I thought I would just read a couple pages to get a feel for it but I ended up reading the whole thing that night. It is more of a devotional with about 180 pages of selected passages with author notes on the facing page. The Wisdom Literature the author sites comes from these seven books: \* Psalms\* Proverbs\* Job\* The Song of Songs\* Ecclesiastes\* Wisdom of Solomon\* The Wisdom of Jesus Ben Sirach. The book itself is divided into five topical sections\* Foreward & Introduction (I found his personal story interesting and the historical information on the books a good frame of reference on how to approach the various verses)\* Who Is She?\* Where Is She Found?\* What Does She Teach?\* The Way of the Wise. You would think that with having to read it all the first night I would have given it 5 stars, however I found some of the passages a bit ambiguous in terms of relating to the divine feminine and in some areas he relied heavily on one book or chapter of scripture. I found it to be an excellent starting point, making me want to find and read the two "non-biblical" books he referenced.

A good reference.

A beautiful book with excerpts that read like poetry with equally beautiful prose support. Highly recommended to anyone seeking the feminine in the Bible

Good to use as a daily meditation reader

Interesting book

Rabi Remi Shapiro usually writes books that one can be encouraged by because the writing is so concise and flowing. I found this book difficult to follow. It might just be me. I would still recommend others to read it because it may be more clear for them.

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