

Unleashing the Magic: Dive into Poetic Reading With Hebrew Text

Dialogical Practices

Diving into the Poetic Movement

Exploring 'supervision' and 'therapy'

by

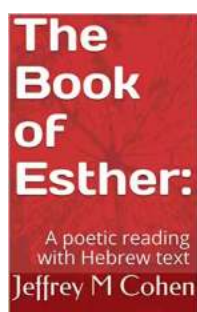
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A thesis submitted for the degree of Doctorate in Systemic Practice
of the University of Bedfordshire
September 2011

Poetry has a way of touching the depths of our souls, resonating with emotions we often struggle to express. It is an art that transcends barriers,

cultures, and time. And when poetry is explored in the mystical language of Hebrew, the experience becomes even more enchanting.

Hebrew, one of the oldest languages in the world, has a rich poetic tradition that dates back centuries. It is a language intertwined with spirituality, philosophy, and deep introspection. By immersing ourselves in the world of poetic Hebrew reading, we embark on a journey of self-discovery and connection to something greater than ourselves.



The Book of Esther:: A poetic reading with Hebrew text

by Stéphane Barbéry (Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 3213 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Print length	: 304 pages
Paperback	: 98 pages
Item Weight	: 5.4 ounces
Dimensions	: 6 x 0.25 x 9 inches



Discovering the Beauty of Hebrew Poetry

Hebrew poetry is a tapestry of metaphors, vivid imagery, and powerful symbolism. It captures the essence of the human experience, weaving together emotions, nature, and spirituality in a unique way. The Hebrew language itself adds an extra layer of depth and meaning, with each letter and word carrying profound significance.

לילה אני חֹשֶׁךְ

In this simple yet profound line from a Hebrew poem, the word "חֹשֶׁךְ" (darkness) goes beyond its literal meaning. It represents not only physical darkness but also the existential darkness that can sometimes engulf our hearts and minds. The words are carefully chosen, creating an atmosphere of contemplation and empathy.

קִרְחַת הַרְעָם מְקַפְּאֵנִי

Here, the Hebrew words "קִרְחַת" (frozen), "הַרְעָם" (thunder), and "מְקַפְּאֵנִי" (freezing me) paint a vivid picture of an icy, thunderous storm. The poet harnesses the power of language to convey not only the physical elements but also the intense emotions associated with a storm, freezing the reader in a moment of awe.

Hebrew poetry often relies heavily on sound, rhythm, and wordplay. The musicality of the language itself adds a melodic quality to the verses, enhancing the emotional impact. The repetition of sounds, rhymes, and patterns creates a hypnotic effect that draws the reader deeper into the poem's world.

The Gateway to Jewish Culture and Spirituality

Hebrew poetry is deeply intertwined with Jewish culture, literature, and religious texts. It serves as a gateway to understanding the Jewish experience, values, and spirituality. By delving into Hebrew poetry, we gain insights into the collective consciousness of a people who have grappled with profound questions of existence and faith for millennia.

Through the works of renowned Jewish poets such as Haim Nahman Bialik and Rachel Bluwstein, we glimpse into the struggles, joys, and sorrows of Jewish life. Their words ripple through time, carrying the weight of history and the resilience of a people who have faced adversity with unwavering determination.

בֵּין עֵשֶׂב לְעֵשֶׂב אֲנִי רִקְדָּה

Bialik's famous line "בֵּין עֵשֶׂב לְעֵשֶׂב אֲנִי רִקְדָּה" (between grasses I dance) reflects an appreciation of life's simple pleasures amidst a chaotic world. It celebrates the beauty of existence, reminding us of the importance of finding moments of joy, even in the most ordinary of places.

Rachel Bluwstein, known as Rachel the Poetess, wrote soul-stirring verses that captured the longing, love, and pain of her heart. Her oeuvre reflects a deep connection to the land of Israel and the spiritual essence of the Jewish people.

כְּצִיצִית בַּבְּגָרוֹת אֲנִי נֶאֱבָרְתִּי

This line from one of Rachel's poems encapsulates her struggle to find her place in a complex world. The image of a tiny flower, resilient and tenacious, resonates with readers, reminding us that strength can be found even in the most delicate of beings.

Embarking on the Journey of Poetic Reading

So, how can one embark on the journey of poetic reading with Hebrew text? Here are a few steps to help you dive into the enchanting world of Hebrew poetry:

1. Learn the Language

Acquiring a basic understanding of Hebrew will significantly enhance your experience of reading Hebrew poetry. Many online platforms offer Hebrew language courses, allowing you to grasp the fundamentals and build your vocabulary.

2. Familiarize Yourself with the Poets

Explore the works of renowned Hebrew poets through books or online resources. Start with the classics like Bialik, Alterman, and Tchernichovsky, and gradually expand your reading list to include contemporary voices as well.

3. Discover the Cultural Context

Gain insights into Jewish history, customs, and values to better understand the cultural context in which Hebrew poetry thrives. This will enrich your reading experience and allow you to connect more deeply with the messages conveyed in the verses.

4. Attend Poetry Readings and Workshops

Immerse yourself in the world of Hebrew poetry by attending poetry readings and workshops. Engage in discussions with fellow poetry enthusiasts and learn from the experiences and interpretations of others.

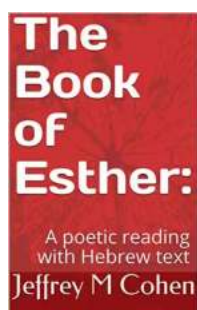
5. Reflect and Discuss

Take time to reflect on the poems you read. Contemplate their meaning, explore the emotions they evoke within you, and discuss them with others. Poetry is meant to provoke thought and spark conversations, so dive in and let the words resonate with your soul.

6. Write Your Own Hebrew Poetry

As you become more comfortable with Hebrew poetry, unleash your own creative spirit and try your hand at writing your own verses. Express your thoughts, feelings, and insights using the beautiful language of Hebrew. You may discover a hidden talent and find a new way to connect with the magic of Hebrew poetry.

So, uncap the well of Hebrew poetry, and let its waters wash over you. Dive into the enchanting world of metaphors, imagery, and profound emotions, and let the words resonate within your soul. Poetic reading with Hebrew text is a gateway to self-discovery, Jewish culture, and the magic of language itself.



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Jeffrey M Cohen provides here a truly novel poetic rendering of arguably the most engaging and dramatic of all the biblical books. Having immersed himself into its spirit, historical background and exotic Oriental court setting,

he retells its account of a mortal threat to the Jewish community with as much poetic licence as the subject matter might permit.

He draws his inspiration from the rich and colourful perspectives of the sages of the Midrashic/Talmudic period (2nd - 5th cents. CE), who frequently allowed their fertile imaginations to run riot, offering fascinating, folkloristic and mystical supplements to the biblical books, and painting their main characters as larger-than-life personifications of attributes that spanned both extremes of the moral and ethical spectrum.

Rabbi Cohen borrows liberally from that rich rabbinic tradition, seasoned with his own humour, flowing poetic style characterised by close rhymes and steady rhythms, and drawing on his own keen historical acumen to provide a unique slant on a much-loved biblical saga.

While there are those who embrace the critical view that the Book of Esther represents no more than an exotic Jewish fable, Cohen is committed to the authenticity of its account of that specific threat to the survival of Jewry in the early Persian period. The image of the Jews of Shushan carousing at the royal palace and partaking of forbidden food from the king's kitchen, as well as the account of a Jewish maiden being taken in marriage by a heathen king, are hardly religiously edifying themes that would, ordinarily, have made it into the biblical canon. The fact that the later sages gave it their imprimatur suggests that the kernel of the book was rooted in historical fact. In his critical , the author builds on that premise to date the biblical book and to offer an original and most surprising suggestion as to how the principle characters, Ahasuerus, Mordechai and Esther, ended their days.

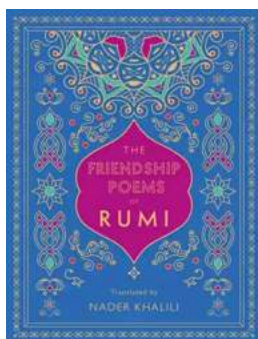
A Hebrew text of Esther has been included, for the benefit of those who wish to follow the reading of the Megillah (Scroll of Esther) in the synagogue on the festival of Purim. It has been set in a format which will not intrude on those who wish to scroll (no pun intended!) down to the continuation of the poetic account.

Cohen's skilful blend of poetry, history, rabbinic folklore and humour makes his re-telling of the Book of Esther an engaging, informative and immensely entertaining work that should appeal to all ages.



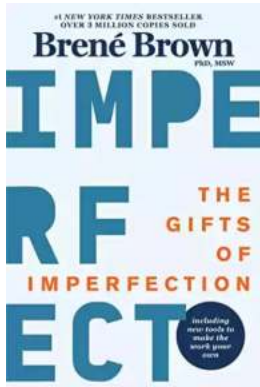
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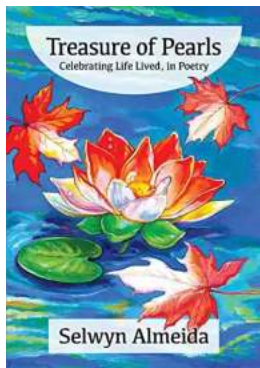
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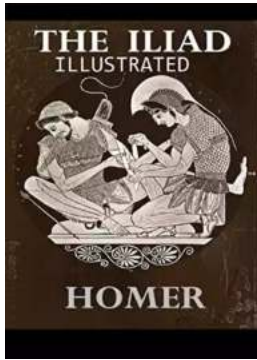
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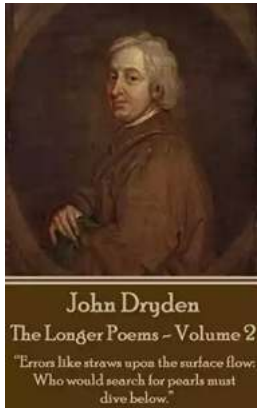
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