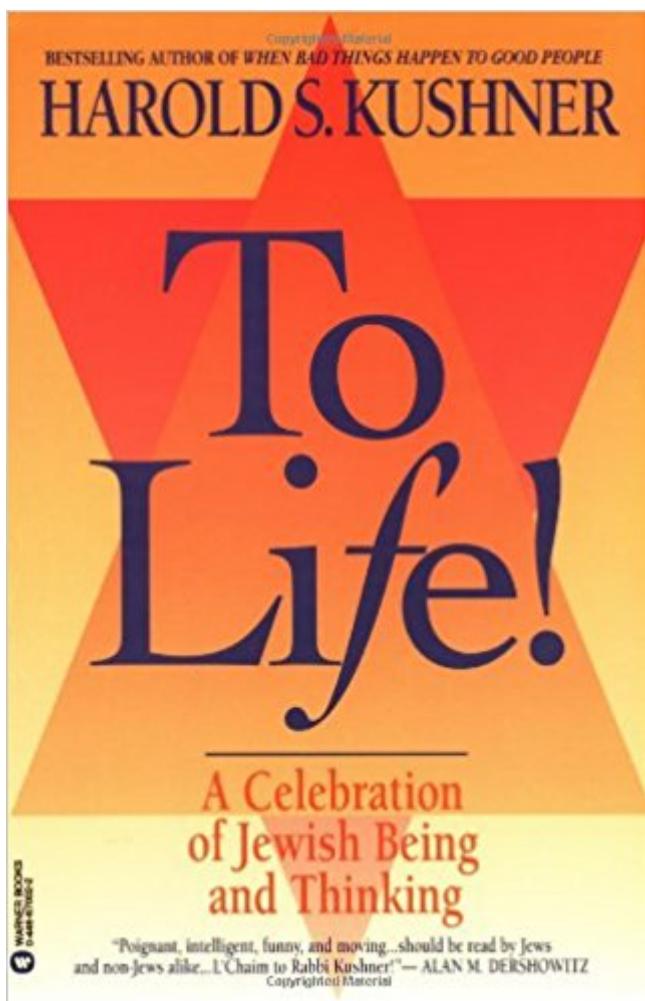


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# To Life: A Celebration Of Jewish Being And Thinking



## Synopsis

Filled with wisdom and gentle humor, here is the essential book on Judaism's traditions and practices from the bestselling author of *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*. Both practical and spiritual, Kushner makes Jewish tradition relevant to a new generation as he explores its many facets.

## Book Information

Series: Celebration of Jewish Being and Thinking

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## Customer Reviews

Kushner, a rabbi and author of the bestseller *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*, here presents a wise and lucid guide to what it means to be Jewish. Distilling his extensive study and reflection, he defines the goal of Judaism as "bringing God into the world" by sanctifying ordinary events and by helping people to become fully human through their relatedness to others. As he sees it, God's covenant with the Jews means that God and humans have obligations to one another. Kushner illuminates this reciprocal relationship, emphasizing that people exercise free choice in what direction they take toward goodness and articulating Judaism's expectation that social justice will ultimately prevail. His exuberant approach and organic bonds to a living faith pervade this book, which includes chapters on rituals, holidays, prayer, anti-Semitism, Jews' attachment to Israel and Jewish-Christian relations. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.

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Kushner ( *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*, Avon, 1983) has here written a lucid analysis of Jewish life, thought, and customs. Enlightening to those who want to learn more about Judaism,

this work serves as an excellent introduction to the roots of Christianity and Jewish belief. Kushner discusses the essence of Judaism in a simple and clear language, touching upon the meaning of Jewish customs and ceremonies and the purpose of prayer. He talks about such topics as the love of Israel by Jews, how Jews and Christians need to understand one another, and anti-Semitism in terms of why people hate. The essence of the book is its tone of optimism, its sense of living and making the ordinary sacred; this tone is enhanced by an ease of writing and the use of examples and memories from the author's life. Recommended to all libraries.- Maurice Tuchman, Hebrew Coll. Lib., Brookline, Mass. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I bought this book for a Judaism course along with the Jewish Literacy book. I was very disappointed in the fact that the arguments concerning Christian beliefs were so easily disputable and incorrect. I truly went in with an open mind, as I have always been interested in Judaism and learning the Jewish origins of my faith. I could have written an entire thesis of counter arguments with all of the underlining I did from both books. The author seems to use mainly protestant interpretations of Christian beliefs to prove his points, which is much different from the Orthodox/Catholic doctrine. His arguments simply don't work when the Ortho/Cath doctrines are applied, which have been around for thousands of years, since the first church fathers. It also seems to be used a lot that the Gospels were written 'generations' after Jesus, discounting that these second and third generations were also followers during Jesus's lifetime as children. They were known as followers of 'The Way', which was the pre-Christian name for his disciples. There are other places where things are just flat left out, one example being the visions people experienced after the crucifixion being basically discounted as people in mourning, but failing to mention the Roman Guards, or Saint Paul, who at that time was not a follower, but a persecutor of the early followers, and was even involved in the killing of the first apostle to be martyred. This also became the man who went on to write about 30% of the New Testament. I could go on and on, but there isn't enough space here. I didn't get to argue my points much in class because the Rabbi only seemed interested in converting the people there for marriage as quickly as possible, before I had a chance to cast any hesitancy. Plus, there was only enough class time before the wedding dates and necessary Mikvah(s). I hope this doesn't seem negative, as I'm not trying to be 'anti' anything. I do respect others beliefs AND am happy for the people in my class who went on to convert. They are very good people. I just wish things could have been represented in a more challenging way. I'm only expressing my observation/opinion. Thanks.

I had strayed from any form of observance after my younger brother became Bar Mitzvah in the mid-70s. Reading Rabbi Kushner's book when it first came out in the early '90s just as I was contemplating \*how\* I wanted to raise my kids confirmed for me a commitment to live as a Jew again, to raise my kids as Jews. I have since gifted this book to several Gentile friends who wanted to better understand what we're all about, as well. This and Rabbi David Lieb's "Apples and Oranges" should be requisite reading for teens still enrolled in Hebrew School. It makes a very convincing argument to remain affiliated and to think about observance, regardless of "belief."

Brilliant. All anti-semites and Jew haters should read this book to understand that Judaism is a kind way of celebrating life and making it happen, and not a dogmatic bunch of crapola! We believe in Deeds of *Âfâ* *Âver Creeds*, and Action over Faith. Mend the world...fix it...

Excellent book for Jews to read and learn. And for those contemplating conversion to Judaism. Very God style.

If you want to learn about Judaism, either as a non-Jew or one such as I who received a crappy Jewish education as a child and wants to renew my association with my heritage, this is the first step. Clearly and enjoyably outlines all the basics of being Jewish in a positive and easily readable way. *L'chaim!*

This book is amazing!! I'm converting to Judaism, and my Rabbi recommended a few books for me to read to start the process - and out of all of them, this was by far my favorite. The tone is candid, knowledgeable, and warm. I learned a lot, but not in a boring way. It was an easy read that I was actually excited to pick up!

Love the reading and have re-read more than once. Thank you so much

this book is wonderful once you start reading it .... you wont be able to put it down.. love it..

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