



# The Book of Blessings

*By Marcia Falk*

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"[Falk] manages to create extraordinarily beautiful prayers—in Hebrew and English—that are both radically new and deeply resonant with Jewish tradition."

—Judith Plaskow, *The Women's Review of Books*

"Marcia Falk's work in Hebrew blessings is as beautiful as it is innovative; and it is innovative in the sweetest, most nourishing sense, saturated in love for the language itself (its overtones and melodies as well as its deep structure), its history, its people. Even those who do not hear the traditional liturgies as exclusionary will respond to the meticulously flowering poet's passion of Marcia Falk's wholly original contribution."

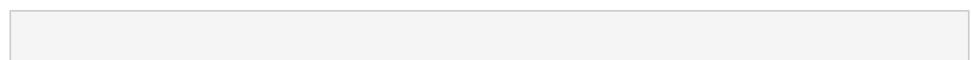
—Cynthia Ozick

"A truly magisterial and exciting collection of brakhot . . . that invites us to re-encounter not only the blessing, but the Source of blessing. . . . Falk rekindles the flame of Jewish ardor and devotion."

—Hadassah

"[Falk's] prayers are re-creations of traditional prayers, her versions striking in the beauty and power of their language, in English and Hebrew: this is a poet's siddur, full of profound meaning."

—Sandee Brawarsky, *Jewish Week*



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## **The Book of Blessings** By Marcia Falk Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1220452 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Beacon Press
- Published on: 1999-08-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: .0" h x .0" w x .0" l,
- Binding: Paperback
- 576 pages

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Poet and liturgist Falk (*The Song of Songs*) has created a new collection of Jewish blessings from a feminist perspective. In her helpful preface, Falk explains how her original prayers, and her translations into English of poems written by Jewish women in Hebrew and Yiddish, are intended as alternatives to the patriarchal nature of traditional Jewish prayers. The blessings, in both Hebrew and English, are arranged in three sections, each with its own introduction and suggestions for prayer services. The Daily Cycle includes blessings for such activities as awakening and meals, as well as psalms for daily reflection; the Weekly Cycle offers prayers for the havdalah, the ritual separating the sabbath from the rest of the week; and the Monthly Cycle focuses on liturgies for Rosh Hodesh, the festival of the New Moon. In addition, Falk has provided a section of Commentary which explains each prayer's relationship to the traditional liturgy. Falk has fashioned a beautiful and inspirational book of elegant prayers, poems, psalms and blessings.

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Language Notes

Text: English, Hebrew

From the Publisher

"Marcia Falk's long-awaited magnum opus brilliantly demonstrates the importance of rethinking Jewish theology and prayer. Her bold and controversial work reflects a poet's sensitivity and a scholar's insights." -- Rabbi David Teutsch, President, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

"Marcia Falk recasts the English of our blessings with her exquisite poetry and uniquely refacets the Hebrew with the caution, precision and artistry of a jeweler." --Susan Weidman Schneider, Editor-in-Chief, *Lilith: The Independent Jewish Women's Magazine*

Through the act of blessing, we awaken our appreciation of the world's abiding gifts. In *The Book of Blessings*, Marcia Falk re-creates Jewish prayer by offering new blessings, poems and meditations that focus on the sacred potential of each moment. Evoking the diversity of human experience, *The Book of Blessings* provides a collage of poetic form that invites us to celebrate "the dynamic, alive and unifying wholeness within creation." Steeped in dialogue within rabbinical tradition, it calls into question the tradition's patriarchal assumptions and challenges hierarchical structures of power.

A groundbreaking work in the literature of spirituality, *The Book of Blessings* offers, for the first time, a complete new liturgy, in Hebrew as well as English, for use in both house and the community on weekdays, Sabbaths and the festival of the New Moon. The liturgy is enhanced by a Commentary that illuminates its meanings for scholars and general readers alike.

*The Book of Blessings* is for those who are in the habit of praying and for those who are not. It is for those dissatisfied with the traditional liturgy and for those who wish to supplement it. *The Book of Blessings* is a part of an ongoing conversation that seeks to keep Judaism vital and responsive to our spiritual needs and moral concerns.

Poet and translator Marcia Falk received a B.A. in philosophy from Brandeis University and a Ph.D. in English and comparative literature from Stanford. She was a Fulbright Scholar and Postdoctoral Fellow at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where she studied Bible and Hebrew literature. A university professor for many years, she now lectures widely. Her other books include *The Song of Songs: A New Translation*

and *Interpretation* and *With Teeth in the Earth: Selected Poems of Malka Heifetz Tussman*. She is currently at work on further volumes of blessings for the major and minor festivals, the High Holidays, the Passover Haggadah and the ordinary and extraordinary events of the life cycle.

More Praise for *The Book of Blessings*:

"Not since Miriam danced at the Red Sea or Deborah praised God in song has the voice of women's soul in prayer been so passionately articulated." --Rabbi Naamah Kelman, Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism

"Marcia Falk's work on Hebrew blessings is as beautiful as it is innovative; and it is innovative in the sweetest, most nourishing sense, saturated in love for the language itself (its overtones and melodies as well as its deep structure), its history, its people. Even those who do not hear the traditional liturgies as exclusionary will respond to the meticulously flowering poet's passion of Marcia Falk's wholly original contribution." --Cynthia Ozick

"If anyone can revive the habit of praying, it is Marcia Falk. *The Book of Blessings* is a collection of eloquent and inspiring prayers that avoid anthropomorphisms and male domination. Marcia Falk invites the so-called secularist to pray without sacrificing intellectual or moral integrity." --Rabbi Ira Eisenstein, President Emeritus, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, and Judith Kaplan Eisenstein, Ph.D., Hebrew Union College

"Falk's rare poetic, spiritual, and intellectual gifts ensure that this long-awaited volume of feminist prayer will remain an enduring treasure, expanding the vocabulary of Jewish liturgy and awakening and deepening awareness of the holy in every aspect of life." --Judith Plaskow, author of *Standing Again at Sinai: Judaism from a Feminist Perspective*

"This is a work of art, a comprehensive revisioning of Judaism's liturgical genius from the pen of consummate poet and Hebraist Marcia Falk." --Rabbi Lawrence A. Hoffman, Professor of Liturgy, Hebrew Union College

About Marcia Falk's *The Song of Songs: A New Translation and Interpretation*:

"An exceptional poetic job. Marcia Falk has great power in her language." --Isaac Bashevis Singer, Nobel Laureate

"One of the great classics of the art of translation. It's always a thrill when (as rarely happens) the scholar's mind and the poet's soul come together." --Adrienne Rich

## **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**Luz Davis:**

Reading a reserve tends to be new life style on this era globalization. With studying you can get a lot of information which will give you benefit in your life. Having book everyone in this world may share their idea. Guides can also inspire a lot of people. A lot of author can inspire their particular reader with their story or perhaps their experience. Not only situation that share in the ebooks. But also they write about the ability about something that you need illustration. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your children, there are many kinds of book that exist now. The authors in this world always try to improve their proficiency in writing, they also doing some investigation before they write for their book. One of them is this *The Book of Blessings*.

**Donna Casey:**

Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to accomplish! A lot of people spent their sparetime with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they doing activity like watching television, likely to beach, or picnic inside park. They actually doing same every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? May be reading a book is usually option to fill your no cost time/ holiday. The first thing that you'll ask may be what kinds of publication that you should read. If you want to consider look for book, may be the reserve untitled The Book of Blessings can be excellent book to read. May be it could be best activity to you.

**Amy Mueller:**

Many people spending their time by playing outside with friends, fun activity along with family or just watching TV 24 hours a day. You can have new activity to pay your whole day by reading through a book. Ugh, you think reading a book can definitely hard because you have to take the book everywhere? It all right you can have the e-book, bringing everywhere you want in your Mobile phone. Like The Book of Blessings which is obtaining the e-book version. So , try out this book? Let's observe.

**Mary Hubbard:**

This The Book of Blessings is new way for you who has attention to look for some information as it relief your hunger of information. Getting deeper you in it getting knowledge more you know or else you who still having small amount of digest in reading this The Book of Blessings can be the light food in your case because the information inside this specific book is easy to get by simply anyone. These books acquire itself in the form which can be reachable by anyone, sure I mean in the e-book contact form. People who think that in reserve form make them feel sleepy even dizzy this e-book is the answer. So there is no in reading a e-book especially this one. You can find actually looking for. It should be here for an individual. So , don't miss it! Just read this e-book sort for your better life in addition to knowledge.

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