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JEWISH VIEWS OF THE AFTERLIFE

Third Edition

By Simcha Paull Raphael

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About the Book

Originally published in 1994, *Jewish Views of the Afterlife* is a classic study of ideas of afterlife and postmortem survival in Jewish tradition and mysticism.

This newly released twenty-fifth anniversary edition presents new material on little-known Jewish mystical teachings on reincarnation, a chapter on “Spirits, Ghosts and Dybbuks in Yiddish Literature”, and a foreword by the renowned scholar of Jewish mysticism, Rabbi Arthur Green.

Both historical and contemporary, this book provides a rich resource for scholars and laypeople and for teachers and students and makes an important Jewish contribution to the growing contemporary psychology of death and dying.

About the Author

Simcha Paull Raphael is founder and director of the DA’AT Institute for Death Awareness, Advocacy and Training, adjunct professor in the Department of Religion and Theology at LaSalle University, and on the faculty of the New York Open Center’s Art of Dying Institute. He works as a transpersonal psychotherapist and bereavement counselor affiliated with Mount Airy Counseling Center in Philadelphia and is a Fellow of the Rabbis Without Borders network. His website is www.daatinstitute.net.

Praise for the Book

“*Jewish Views of the Afterlife* is a profound and comprehensive guide to the multiplicity of Jewish perspectives on death, the soul, and eternal life. The book includes Jewish perspectives on heaven and hell, ancestors and the underworld, reincarnation and resurrection. A cornucopia of primary sources and commentary illuminate the development of a variety of Jewish beliefs about the afterlife, spanning centuries of Jewish history. Raphael’s book is both well-organized and sensitive to the power of this topic. There is no other book like this—it is a treasure.”

— Rabbi Jill Hammer, director, Spiritual Education at the Academy for Jewish Religion

“While many modern Jews may not realize it, Judaism has an extensive mythology about the afterlife. Simcha Raphael has devoted himself to exploring the geography, traditions, and rituals of heaven-and-hell-related Jewish myth found in the Bible, the Talmud, and many rabbinic, kabbalistic and Hasidic texts. *Jewish Views of the Afterlife*, now in its third expanded edition, is the most extensive in English to describe these realms of the afterlife, and a revelation to those unaware of these traditions. This new edition presents a fascinating exploration of images of afterlife and the world beyond in Yiddish literature. *Jewish Views of the Afterlife* is a masterpiece of scholarship, worthy reading for everyone curious about these once widely known Jewish traditions.”

— Howard Schwartz, author of *Tree of Souls: The Mythology of Judaism*

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