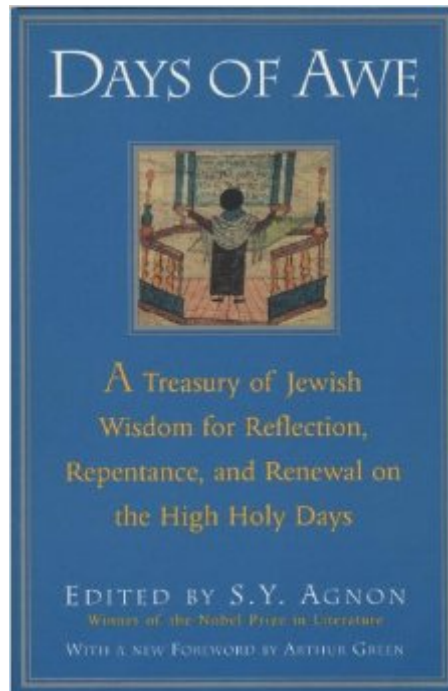


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# Days Of Awe: A Treasury Of Jewish Wisdom For Reflection, Repentance, And Renewal On The High Holy Days



## Synopsis

Compiled by S.Y. Agnon, one of the greatest Hebrew writers of the twentieth century and winner of the 1966 Nobel Prize in Literature, *Days of Awe* is the long-acknowledged classic companion to the High Holy Days prayerbook. Here in one volume are readings from the meditations from the Bible, the Talmud, the Midrash, and the Zohar, to deepen the spiritual experience of the holiest days of the Jewish year. More than three hundred texts, selected from the vast storehouse of Jewish literature from ancient to modern times, are arranged to follow the order of the synagogue service for the High Holy Days. "From the moment of its appearance," writes Judah Goldin in the Introduction, "[this] volume seemed as though it had always been here, as though it had always been the companion of the holiday prayerbook."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a remarkable collection of commentaries on the High Holy Days and the month of Elul leading up to them. Agnon acts as a Talmid Chachim (a wise scholar) and as a master creator of literature in putting these commentaries, stories, insights together. The reading of this work makes reading a religious act. The work could not be more highly recommended.

When I first received this, I tried to read it through like a regular book. It was really tough to do --- it isn't a fluid book, but one comprised of many little snippets from Jewish sources (over the span of 2,000 years!) about all sorts of topics relating to the Days of Awe. So, I wouldn't buy it if you're expecting a good novel-like read. But, I found this book extremely useful as a source book. When I

wanted to research a specific topic, i was able to look for that section in the book (its organized by topic, organized in chronological order of when the topics become relevant throughout the Days of Awe) and find a ton of sources on that topic. The sources range from Halakhah (Jewish law) to Machshavah (Jewish thought/philosophy). And, they all include full citations so that the original sources can be looked up. It was really helpful. I happen to be Orthodox, but i imagine this book will be helpful and enlightening to anyone (all denominations of Jews) interested in researching or just learning more about the Days of Awe

If you need to really follow along with the scriptures, this book is an excellent resource to help you do that. It brings things into perspective as well as provides more information. It is a teaching book, not a fun reading book, so be prepared to read and learn. The main key is to have an open mind as you read.

The acknowledged classic in the machzor-companion genre.

#### A WONDERFUL COMPANION BOOK FOR THE HIGH HOLY DAYS

S.Y. Agnon, the Israeli writer of fiction and winner of the Nobel Prize in literature, compiled a book in 1948 called *Days of Awe: A Treasury of Traditions, Legends, and Learned Commentaries Concerning Rosh Ha-Shanah, Yom Kippur, and the Days Between*. Agnon combed through numerous texts to provide an outline of the High Holidays from the perspective of religious observance, custom, and communal and individual intention. The book is interesting, but the overall feel and tone of it is very old, and very orthodox. Of course, that is the point. These are old sources that Agnon is accessing; he is just giving us them in a new format. But the translation, made in the 60s, feels too Protestant Old Testament-like to have an authentic Jewish voice. No doubt the Hebrew original, which Agnon says he reworked in certain places to make it easier to read, doesn't suffer from this archaic touch. All and all an interesting book, but not particularly compelling to read; it is a compendium which suffers from the illness that many compendiums do: it is uneven and sometimes flat out boring.

perfect

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