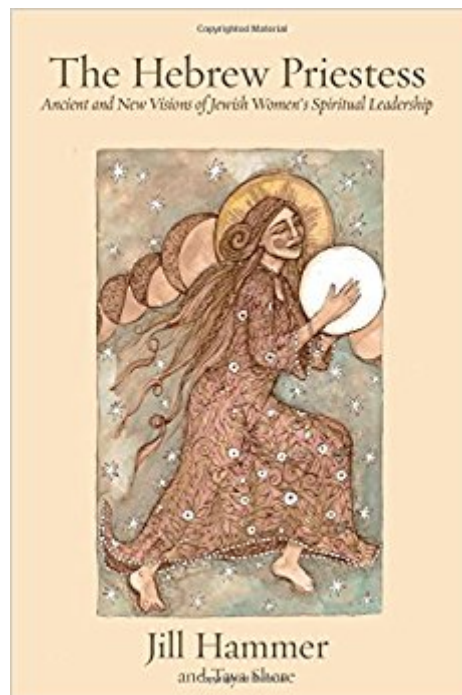




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The Hebrew Priestess: Ancient And New Visions Of Jewish Women's Spiritual Leadership



Synopsis

It has been barely 40 years since rabbinical seminaries began ordaining women as rabbis. But women have played a role in Jewish religious leadership from the days of the Bible and even before. Miriam the Prophetess and Deborah the Judge are just the two most prominent of these women, most of whose names are lost to history. The Hebrew Priestess tells the stories of these women, often reading between the lines of the Bible and Talmud to rediscover the women that rabbinic editors tried to erase. The authors bring a unique vantage point: They are founders of the Kohenet Institute, which trains Jewish women as religious leaders - as Hebrew priestesses. They believe the spiritual gifts of Jewish women cannot be incorporated into Judaism unless women explore the Divine through their own lens. The Kohenet Institute offers an embodied, ecstatic earth-based approach to Jewish spiritual practice and leadership. The Hebrew Priestess weaves together a careful examination of historical antecedents of these new priestesses, along with the personal experiences of women who embarked on this new path of Jewish priestesshood. The Hebrew Priestess delineates 13 models of spiritual leadership - among them prophetess, weaver, drummer, shrinekeeper, midwife, mother, maiden, witch, and fool - and shows how each model was manifest in ancient times, its continuation through Jewish history, and how women in our day are following that path. Finally, it shows how you can incorporate part of that path into your own life. Ambitious, erudite, practical, and deeply personal, the Hebrew Priestess offers a deep connection to Jewish history and to profound holy experiences today. "A very readable and much-needed book!" - Starhawk "An extraordinary and amazing work." -Alicia Ostriker "A book to savor." -Max Dashu "The articulation of my dreams and longings." -Rabbi Shefa Gold "Read this book, but don't stop there-live it as well!" -Rabbi Rami Shapiro

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Customer Reviews

The Hebrew Priestess: A Book Review by Joyce Zonana – Feminism & Religion | 2.29.2016

As I read and re-read the book, I try to imagine what my own growing-up Jewish might have been like had I been welcomed into a community that invited me to see myself as Goddess, to envision the Divine as the Earth itself, to celebrate my own beauty and power. And I am grateful to brave visionaries like Hammer and Shere for creating new possibilities for our daughters, granddaughters, sons, and grandsons. Read the rest at [Feminism and Religion](#):

feminismandreligion.com/2016/02/29/the-hebrew-priestess-a-book-review-by-joyce-zonana/

I so enjoyed delving into the stories of powerful spiritual women, their courage, their vision, and their creativity. I loved connecting with the sacred roles on such a deep and inspiring level with the meditations following each rich description.

As described and quick delivery.

Excellent

Fast shipping and wonderful bookthank you!

Integrates scholarship on Jewish mysticism, Jewish religious history from the time of the Temples, sacred text, archeological records, with medieval Kabbalistic study and modern feminism to focus on the submerged divine feminine in ancient Judaism and Judaism today. Describes the formation of an innovative modern Hebrew Priestess Training institute by the authors, Rabbi Jill Hammer and Taya Shere. Hammer and Shere describe how events in their own lives led to their experiencing the Sacred Feminine Divine in Judaism, and then to creating the Kohenet Hebrew Priestess training program in 2006. Includes information on 13 priestess pathways

(*ĀfĀĉĀ ā -Ā ā,,ĉnetivotĀfĀĉĀ ā -Ā ā,,ĉ*) based on Jewish sacred texts and psalms referencing *ĀfĀĉĀ ā -Ā* Ēœforemother*ĀfĀĉĀ ā -Ā ā,,ĉ*s' lives and stories. Includes exercises and meditation on each netivah, or pathway of women*ĀfĀĉĀ ā -Ā ā,,ĉ*s sacred service. Combines modern feminist sensibilities and interfaith appreciation, with solid grounding in Jewish scholarship,

biblical interpretation, tradition and history. Highlights stories from varied women who have learned with the Kohenet program, sharing intimate moments of healing, revelation, struggle and growth. A fascinating documentation of a living, breathing, 21st century Jewish Priestess School. Scholarly, intimate and visionary. Highly recommended.

Disclosure: I am a graduate of the Kohenet Institute. With that out of the way, I think a biased review is probably what you want. I was in the first cohort of women and have spent the past 9 years in this community. This book is an amazing synthesis of the core content from the first level of Kohenet training. Reading it won't make you a Kohenet -- but it will help you to understand not only Kohenet's unique contributions to Jewish theology -- but also the hidden women's histories and mysteries within Judaism. The book begins with a few chapters of background on priestesses in Jewish and ancient near eastern culture. Then each chapter is one of the "netivot" or pathways of Divine Feminine that a priestess can embody, according to Kohenet methodology. With the chapter you will receive history (or herstory, if you prefer) and ways to embody that pathway. That mixture of book knowledge and body knowledge that is so core to the Kohenet culture. It barely needs to be said that the book is also just a great read. R' Jill Hammer is an experienced writer and storyteller. And the embodied practiced sections authored by Taya Shere showcase her voice and wisdom beautifully. I read this book in about a week, and could barely put it down. I also read it in hard copy -- and I am a dedicated Kindle owner.

This book combines solid scholarship, ingenious interpretations, personal experiences and individual meditations to offer insights into the history of female divinity and the role of women in spiritual leadership. Opening the book to a randomly chosen passage, a technique known as bibliomancy, yielded Chapter 7, Maiden Priestesses: *“there is evidence that . . . young girls of ancient Israel had a ritual role to fill. The Book of Psalms . . . mentions the role of drummer-girls in a Temple procession (68:24-25). . . . Elsewhere, the same psalm speaks of mevasrot, “welcomers,” or female musicians spreading the news of a military victory. So for all you young women, people preparing to walk a new path, historians, ritualists, drummers, musicians, people celebrating victories, and, indeed, everyone else* this book is for you.

If you are interested in the history of women in Judaism, or if you have a broader interest in women in religion, from ancient times to the present, this is a book you should read. Beginning with her own

story, Rabbi Jill Hammer delves into the surviving evidence for Hebrew priestesses and the history of women's roles in Jewish practice. Along the way, she describes how she and a group of fellow-thinkers founded an institute that trains priestesses right now, today. *The Hebrew Priestess* is a moving and inspiring combination of history and self-invention, and a rich contribution to thinking on women and religion.

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