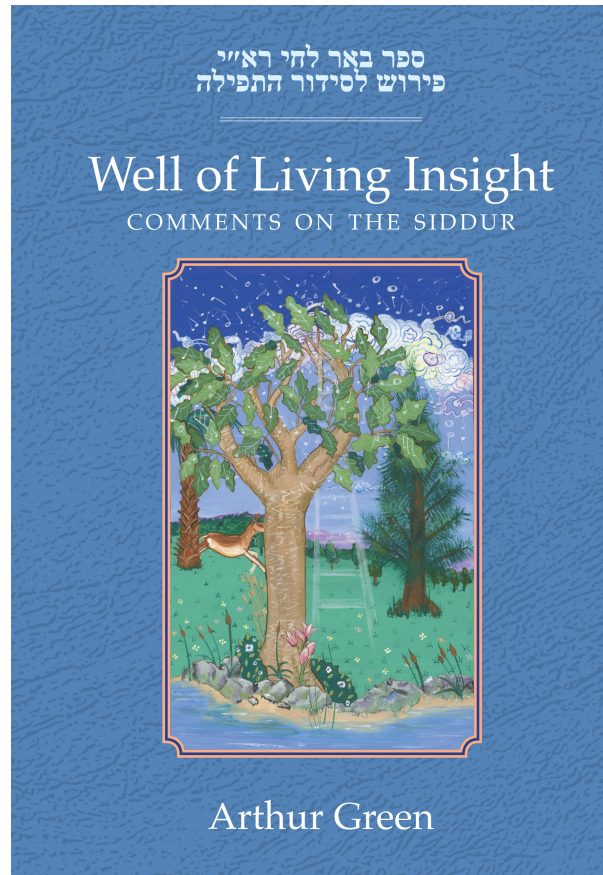


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*Well of Living Insight* is a contemporary and personal commentary on the traditional Hebrew prayerbook.

Contemporary Jews, including those who attend synagogue regularly, are well aware of the wide gap between the text of the *siddur*, composed over the course of many centuries, and their own beliefs. Over the course of the past century or more, there have been many attempts to alter the language of the prayerbook in order to “update” it.

But that is not the way of Jewish tradition. Our path has always been that of maintaining the ancient forms, with their deep echo-chamber of antiquity, and updating their meaning by the ongoing process of **reinterpretation**.

That is the purpose of this volume. It works with the traditional (Hasidic version) prayerbook, skipping nothing. Green is a scholar of Hasidism and Jewish mysticism, but also an open-minded and inquiring seeker. His own faith is deeply shaped by monism, the belief that all is one within God, that we exist as part of an ever-flowing divine universe, manifest in the natural world and alive in each human soul.

But how do we pray to such a God? How do we do so while reading from a book written by biblical psalmists, ancient and medieval poets, philosophers and kabbalists, all of whom belonged to another age? Following an introduction that deals with all these questions, Green's commentary goes through the entire liturgy, offering comments meant to inspire and to stimulate thought.

The book begins with the daily liturgy and will be especially helpful to those who engage with it regularly. It is meant to be used as a companion to the prayerbook itself. It then goes on to deal with the prayer services for shabbat, for holidays (including sections on the *hallel* psalms and the Passover *haggadah*) and the High Holy Days.

***Well of Living Insight*** is a must for rabbis, cantors, and other leaders of Jewish prayer. But it is really written **for seekers**, within the Jewish community and beyond, who long to mine the ancient wisdom of Judaism to shape a contemporary spirituality that is both intellectually rigorous and religiously inspiring.

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The *Well of Living Insight* is the work of a master teacher in conversation with readers who wish to ground their spiritual lives in prayer. It is a book full of continuous insight into the words of the liturgy, a resource readers will wish to turn to again and again.

**Rabbi Edward Feld**

Senior Editor, *Machzor* and *Siddur Lev Shalem*

Rabbi Arthur Green's masterful commentary on the *siddur* speaks to me on a human, Jewish and Orthodox level. Rabbi Green is a radical thinker who is able to make the traditional *siddur* relevant and meaningful for all types of people. The commentary enables age old words, repeated every day, to resonate on an emotional, intellectual and spiritual level. My *tefillah* will be forever transformed.

**Rabbi Asher Lopatin**

Former President of Yeshivat Chovevei Torah,  
Rabbi, Kehillat Etz Chayim, Detroit

With his enormous erudition in classical Judaism and sensitivity to the questions modern Jews ask, Arthur Green presents us with a magnificent commentary on the prayerbook and on the experience of praying.

**Professor Susannah Heschel, Ph.D.**

Eli M. Black Distinguished Professor of Jewish Studies at Dartmouth College

Green has unlocked for us the deep spirituality of Kabbalistic and Hasidic sources, and reformulated Jewish theology in contemporary and relevant ways. Here he invites us to a renewed encounter with the prayerbook. His inspired commentary helps us open our hearts and to see its words in a new light.

**Rabbi Rolando Matalon**

Senior Rabbi, B'nai Jeshurun: Manhattan Synagogue and Virtual Shul