



The Jewish Mourner's Companion (with complete liturgy) (Companion Series)

By Rabbi Zalman Goldstein

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A Source of Comfort and Practical Guidance, plus all necessary transliterated liturgy for the funeral and Shiva services. This wonderful pocket-sized book will guide you through the difficult times of illness and death, presenting Jewish tradition in a way that is both sensitive and instructive. Endorsed by leading rabbis, hospital chaplains, and family counselors, this all-in-one guide will help you know what to do when faced with these life-changing challenges. Written for Jews of all backgrounds, levels of observance, and understanding, this book is a fitting companion for family and friends, including visitors at the funeral and Shiva home. Includes: -An overview of life, illness, and death in Jewish thought. -Laws and customs for visiting the sick. -Jewish perspective on end-of-life issues (e.g. living wills, organ donations, etc.). -Dealing with the last moments of life what everyone should know. -Before the funeral, at the cemetery, following burial. -Mourner's Kaddish, Shiva, Shloshim, Yartzeit, and Yizkor. -All necessary liturgy, including Shiva Mincha (afternoon), Maariv (evening) prayer services, and Mishnayot, along with easy-to-read English transliteration and translation. -Inspirational readings and meditations.

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- Sales Rank: #919348 in Books
- Published on: 2006-12-31
- Released on: 2006-12-31
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 6.65" h x .64" w x 5.53" l, .57 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 288 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

A COMPANION FOR LIFE-CHANGING TIMES FROM THE JEWISH LEARNING GROUP. When a life-changing event occurs, the questions come fast and furious. Should the doctors use extraordinary measures? Can I donate a kidney to save the life of a sibling or parent? What should we do if the worst happens? The Jewish Mourner's Companion answers these and many other questions. The Jewish Mourner's Companion differs from other books on bereavement in several ways. For one thing, The Jewish Mourner's Companion is comprehensive. It covers everything from illness through burial and beyond, without being unwieldy or overwhelming. For another, it has been written in a clear yet sensitive style, so it's fit for the layman, yet it contains enough guidance for an officiating rabbi or chaplain. And the Jewish Mourner's Companion provides a Jewish perspective that has been illuminated by Jewish mystical insights. For example, the section, The Duty of the Moment, describes the first actions that should take place after the passing of a loved one. Rabbi Goldstein writes: --Kabbalah teaches that the separation of the soul and body is a very gradual process; and following passing, the soul hovers near the body. The soul does not feel free to ascend to heaven until the body is prepared for burial in the traditional Jewish way and buried in the ground. We therefore must do all we can to expedite this process, enabling the soul to rest in peace quickly.-- Similarly, Rabbi Goldstein brings meaning to kriah, the Biblical commandment for a mourner to tear one's outer garment. This is typically understood to express our grief at the loss of a loved one and the destruction of the family unit. Rabbi Goldstein suggests that kriah serves an additional purpose. In his view, it creates an opening for the person to release the feelings of his heart. (This beautiful explanation may be why the Rabbis ruled that tearing a black ribbon does not qualify as kriah.) The Jewish Mourner's --Leonard Estrin

About the Author

Rabbi Zalman Goldstein is the founder of The Jewish Learning Group, a publishing house dedicated to creating easy-to-use guides on practical Judaism. He has written ten books, including the bestselling Shabbat Table Companion and Shabbat Synagogue Companion. His ability to blend sensibility and passion along with an authentic Jewish education has helped thousands live more Jewishly every day.

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