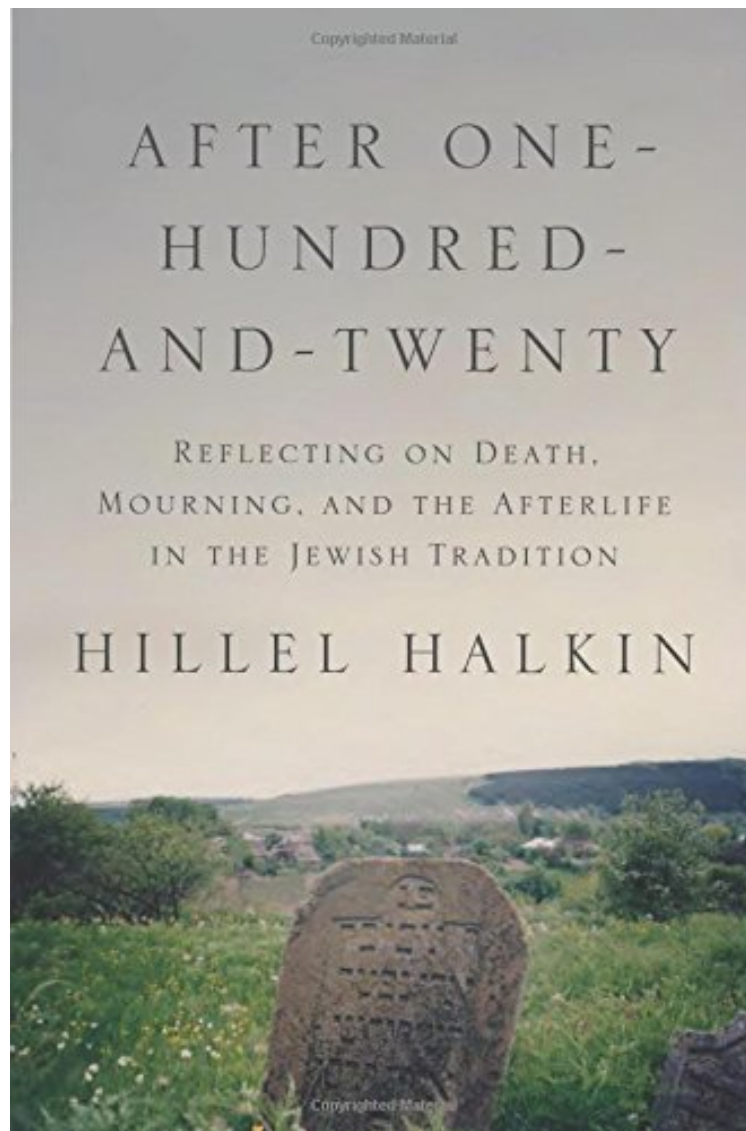


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## **After One-Hundred-and-Twenty: Reflecting on Death, Mourning, and the Afterlife in the Jewish Tradition (Library of Jewish Ideas)**

*Hillel Halkin*

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#446906 in Books Hillel Halkin 2016-05-03 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.70 x .80 x 5.801, .0 #File Name: 0691149747232 pages After One Hundred And Twenty Reflecting on Death Mourning and the Afterlife in the Jewish Tradition Library of Jewish Ideas | File size: 77.Mb

**Hillel Halkin : After One-Hundred-and-Twenty: Reflecting on Death, Mourning, and the Afterlife in the Jewish Tradition (Library of Jewish Ideas)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised After One-Hundred-and-Twenty: Reflecting on Death, Mourning, and the Afterlife in the Jewish Tradition (Library of Jewish Ideas):

10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Terrific  
By Ira E. Stoll  
This is a beautifully written book about Jewish views and traditions regarding death and afterlife, woven together with accounts of the author's own experiences with mourning and with contemplating and preparing for his own death. There were some marvelous and, in my view, at least, fascinating Jewish texts included, including a midrash that in paradise everyone is grouped with members of his or her own profession, and Maimonides' view that there will continue to be rich and poor even in the world to come. Halkin is particularly attentive to how Jewish mourning traditions and views of the afterlife evolved over time; the regular recitation by mourners of the prayer known as kaddish, for example, "appears first to have become a daily practice in thirteenth-century Germany, from where it spread gradually to the rest of Ashkenazi Europe and beyond." This material is unavoidably somewhat morose, but Halkin, who was my former colleague at the New York Sun and the Forward, is good, amiable company in confronting it and guiding readers through it. I hope he lives long enough to write more books as edifying as this one.  
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A great conversation!!!!  
By Tom Weisz  
While reading this book I often felt like I was having a personal conversation with Rabbi Halkin. I call him Rabbi because he is definitely a great scholar and teacher. No exaggeration, I would compare reading this book to Plato's dialogues - I was sitting at the feet of Sophocles and listening to his arguments and debating him. The argument is the thing - conclusions are unattainable. I really would dearly love to meet him. (I live close by in Netanya)  
Anyone who wants to live an "examined life", especially one who has more yesterdays than tomorrows needs to drink from this fountain of wisdom.  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Thought-provoking and enlightening  
By Customer  
After One-Hundred-and-Twenty: Reflecting on Death, Mourning, and the Afterlife in the Jewish Tradition (Library of Jewish Ideas)

After One-Hundred-and-Twenty provides a richly nuanced and deeply personal look at Jewish attitudes and practices regarding death, mourning, and the afterlife as they have existed and evolved from biblical times to today. Taking its title from the Hebrew and Yiddish blessing to live to a ripe old age Moses is said to have been 120 years old when he died the book explores how the Bible's original reticence about an afterlife gave way to views about personal judgment and reward after death, the resurrection of the body, and even reincarnation. It examines Talmudic perspectives on grief, burial, and the afterlife, shows how Jewish approaches to death changed in the Middle Ages with thinkers like Maimonides and in the mystical writings of the Zohar, and delves into such things as the origins of the custom of reciting Kaddish for the deceased and beliefs about encountering the dead in visions and dreams. After One-Hundred-and-Twenty is also Hillel Halkin's eloquent and disarmingly candid reflection on his own mortality, the deaths of those he has known and loved, and the comfort he has and has not derived from Jewish tradition.

Long-listed for the 2017 Jewish Quarterly Wingate Prize  
"It's refreshing to read a Jewish book on death that does not presume to offer guidance, either through that dark portal, or around it. Instead, Hillel Halkin . . . has written a brief, pellucid account of the role death has played in Jewish texts, law, thought and lives--including his own."  
--Esther Schor, Wall Street Journal  
"[A]n accessible and trenchant exploration of Judaism's evolving concepts of death with his own struggle with understanding it. . . . Halkin's frankness about his own difficulties in coming to terms with his parents' deaths and traditional Jewish rituals such as sitting shiva help make this nuanced quest for meaning personal and affecting."  
--Publisher's Weekly  
"By combining historical examples with his firsthand experiences, Halkin has created a well-rounded and thoroughly readable examination of how Jews face the unknown."  
--Jeff Fleischer, Foreword  
"Literary scholar, premier translator of Hebrew and Yiddish literatures, depth reporter on modern Israeli life, and on the far side of 75, Halkin is just the man to condense the riches of Jewish thanatology. . . . What begins as analytic history ends in deeply moving, reflective memoir."  
--Ray Olson, Booklist  
"A very user-friendly historical account of Jewish ideas about death . . . and how those ideas change. . . . [Halkin] is a master at 'popularisation' in the best sense of that term, bringing to a non-academic audience what are, in essence, some very complicated ideas."  
--David Hillel-Ruben, Jewish Chronicle  
"Hillel Halkin, an American-born Israeli scholar and novelist, poignantly explores his own experiences while providing a history of Jewish thought."  
--Amy Frykholm, Christian Century  
"Hillel Halkin's After One-Hundred-and-Twenty: Reflecting on Death, Mourning and the Afterlife in Jewish Tradition is both instructive and thought-provoking. . . . One would be hard-pressed to find a more knowledgeable or astute guide through the vast literature of Jewish thanatology than Hillel Halkin. . . . Warm and affable, Hillel Halkin is also one of the flat-out brainiest persons I've ever met. . . . The Biggest of Mysteries being tackled by one of our best and brightest."  
--Matt Nesvisky, Jerusalem Post  
"As he completes the eighth decade of his life, the distinguished author, critic, translator, and journalist Hillel Halkin ruminates in this learned and beautifully written book on mortality, including his own, and death, mourning, and the afterlife in the Jewish tradition'. . . . Anyone interested in the history of Jewish views concerning the afterlife and changing Jewish thinking about death from biblical times to the present should begin with this volume."  
--Choice  
"At once scholarly and passionate, secular and religious, detached and autobiographical."  
--Edward Alexander, Chicago Jewish Star  
"Charming, frankly vulnerable, and deceptively deep book about death."  
--Abraham Socher, Jewish of Books  
From the Back Cover  
"Hillel Halkin is an uncommon and essential figure in Jewish intellectual life--a man at home in the entirety of the tradition and its languages, a secularist

fascinated by religion, a scholar in the thick of the world, a critic with an insatiable appetite for exploration. All his writing is informed by a princely pride, wholly justified, in the resources of Jewish literature for the understanding of human existence. After One-Hundred-and-Twenty--this lively, even scintillating book about the passing of life--generously displays all of Halkin's virtues. It will enlighten its mortal readers, and even help them."--Leon Wieseltier  
"This is a most remarkable and beautifully written book. Halkin elegantly weaves together illuminating scholarly examinations of various Jewish ideas about death, mourning, and the afterlife with his own wonderfully honest, humane, and deeply moving personal reflections on these subjects and on his own mortality. After One-Hundred-and-Twenty is in a class by itself."--Leon R. Kass, author of *The Beginning of Wisdom: Reading Genesis*  
"Hillel Halkin displays an impressive mastery of source material and writes with his customary flair and grace."--Allan Nadler, Drew University, author of *The Faith of the Mithnagdim: Rabbinic Responses to Hasidic Rapture*  
About the Author  
Hillel Halkin is an author, translator, critic, and journalist. His books include *Jabotinsky: A Life* and *Yehuda Halevi*, which won the National Jewish Book Award. He lives in Israel.