

Encyclopedia Of Jewish Humor From Biblical Times To The Modern Age

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The Genius of the Jewish Joke
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101 Classic Jewish Jokes
Semites and Stereotypes
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The First Book of Jewish Jokes
The Last Jewish Joke
Humor, Psyche, and Society: A Socio-Semiotic Analysis
Jewish Comedy
Jews and Humor
Joking Asides
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the first book on jewish humor in which individual jokes are singled out for comprehensive study
life is like a glass of tea devotes a chapter to each of eight major jokes tracing its history and variants and looking closely at the ways in which the comic behavior enacted in the punchline can be interpreted one of the unique properties of classic jewish jokes is their openness to radically different interpretive options having nothing to do with wordplay or double entendre this openness to alternate interpretations never before discussed in the literature on jewish humor gives classic jewish jokes their special flavor as they leave us wondering which of several possible attitudes we are expected to hold toward the comic figure an additional chapter is devoted to the ways in which jewish jokes tend to evolve over time and across language and cultural barriers throughout the book in fact one can see the processes that

jewish jokes undergo over decades as their comic potential is unfolded in successive stages and when they are transplanted from european to american soil now in its second edition this expanded version adds two new chapters and new introductory material it includes a 2015 foreword by marc galanter who notes that the author is concerned not only with what makes jokes funny but with what makes some of them profound his imaginative response to this puzzle makes this little book a distinctive and engaging contribution to the literature on jewish jokes and on jokes generally it will appeal to the general reader as well as to readers especially interested in jewish culture the psychology of humor religion ethnography and folklore richard raskin s book on jewish humor was the most original and useful i found in years of research on the topic i m delighted to see it back in print and with added chapters ruth wisse professor emerita yiddish and comparative literature harvard university author no joke making jewish humor 2013 a fascinating book that explores the richness of jewish humor raskin offers a thought provoking analysis of what makes jewish humor special raskin merges an understanding of jewish culture fresh psychological insights and a sophisticated reading of jokes and their evolution to create a gem of a book however it is not just an outstanding book on jewish humor it is an outstanding book on humor period after reading it you won t laugh the same way again dov cohen professor department of psychology university of illinois co editor handbook of cultural psychology 2007

the genius of the jewish joke focuses on what is distinctive and unusual about jewish jokes and jewish humor jewish humor is humor by jews and about jews in whatever medium this humor is found jokes are defined as short stories meant to amuse with a punch line though jewish humor exists in many other forms riddles comic definitions parodies as well the book makes a radical suggestion about the origin of jewish humor namely that sarah and abraham s relation to god and the name of their son isaac which in hebrew means laughter recognizes a special affinity in jews for humor abraham does not sacrifice isaac humor and thus humor and the jews are linked early in jewish history berger discusses techniques of humor and how they can be used to analyze jokes he also compares old world jewish humor the humor of the shtetl with its fabulous schlemiels schlimazels schnorrers and other characters and new world humor the humor of jewish doctors lawyers accountants and other professional types living mostly in the suburbs nowadays jewish humor is contrasted with other forms of ethnic humor such as polish jokes and italian american jokes this humor in addition to providing pleasure reveals a great deal about jewish character and culture and in addition the human condition now available with a new introduction by the author the genius of the jewish joke is an entertaining and informative inquiry into jewish humor that explores its distinctiveness its unique spirit and its role in jewish identity

the thirteen chapters in this book are derived from the first international conference on jewish humor held at tel aviv university the authors are scientists from the areas of literature linguistics

sociology psychology history communications the theater and jewish studies they all try to understand different aspects of jewish humor and they evoke associations of a local logical nature with jewish tradition this compilation reflects the first interdisciplinary approach to jewish humor the chapters are arranged in four parts the first section relates to humor as a way of coping with jewish identity joseph dorinson s chapter underscores the dilemma facing jewish comedians in the united states these comics try to assimilate into american culture but without giving up their jewish identity the second section of the book deals with a central function of humor aggression christie davies makes a clear distinction between jokes that present the jew as a victim of anti semitic attacks and those in which the approach is not aggressive the third part focuses on humor in the jewish tradition lawrence e mintz writes about jokes involving jewish and christian clergymen the last part of the book deals with humor in israel david alexander talks about the development of satire in israel other chapters and contributors include psycho social aspects of jewish humor in israel and in the diaspora by avner ziv humor and sexism the case of the jewish joke by esther fuchs halachic issues as satirical elements in nineteenth century hebrew literature by yehuda friedlander do jews in israel still laugh at themselves by o nevo and political caricature as a reflection of israel s development by kariel gardosh each chapter in this volume paves the way for understanding the many facets of jewish humor this book will be immensely enjoyable and informative for sociologists psychologists and scholars of judaic studies

engaging and insightful history and analysis generously illustrated with samples of the genre
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jewish humor has defined comedy in 20th century america

with an ongoing international conference jewish humor in recent years has been a subject of serious scholarly inquiry most academic publications however have been individual works representing a particular thesis or viewpoint generally on literary aspects the present collection of essays by scholars from england france the united states denmark israel and australia explores characteristics of jewish humor from a variety of perspectives including anthropology literature psychology sociology and religion geographically the work distinguishes between the jewish humor of israel and that of the diaspora historically it traces jewish humor to the bible the linkages with judaism and the yiddish language are explored essays deal with the jewish use of humor in stressful and tragic situations with self disparagement in jewish humor with anti semitism and stereotyping and with jewish women as the objects of humor the contributions to world culture of humorists sholom aleichem woody allen philip roth charlie chaplin and numerous contemporary performers are discussed as are the jewish theorists of humor including sigmund freud henri bergson and arthur koestler an interdisciplinary book it will be of interest to students and researchers of jewish tradition and folklore jewish american literature

american studies and humor popular culture anthropology psychology and sociology

these 107 tales come from the canefields of the antebellum south the villages of caribbean islands and the streets of contemporary philadelphia they robustly demonstrate the ways an uprooted people have drawn from the traditions of their past to fashion a life and with it a whole new and vital culture in the new world illustrated 320pp

this book details the evolution of jewish humor highlighting its long history from the period of the bible to the present day and includes a wide spectrum of styles that are expressed in various works and fields including the bible the talmud poetry literature folklore jokes movies and television series it focuses upon three socio geographic regions where the majority of jewish people lived during the 18th to 21st centuries and where jewish humor was created developed and thrived eastern europe the united states and israel the text is a complicated mosaic based on three central components of jewish life historical experience survival and wisdom it shows that one cannot understand jewish humor without referring to the various factors which led the jewish people to create their unusual sense of humor

jews and humor is for most people a natural and felicitous collocation in spite of or perhaps because of a history of crises and living on the edge jews have often created or resorted to humor but what is humor and what makes certain types instances or performances of humor jewish these are among the myriad queries addressed by the fourteen authors whose essays are collected in this volume and thankfully their observations always apt and often witty are expressed with a lightness of style and a depth of analysis that are appropriate to the many topics they cover the scholars who contributed to this collection allow readers both to discern the common features that make up jewish humor and to delight in the individualism and eccentricities of the many figures whose lives and accomplishments are narrated here because these essays are written in a clear jargon free style they will appeal to everyone even those who don t usually crack a smile

from the host of npr affiliate s forum with michael krasny a compendium of jewish jokes that packs the punches with hilarious riff after riff and also offers a window into jewish culture michael krasny has been telling jewish jokes since his bar mitzvah and it s been said that he knows more of them than anyone on the planet he certainly states his case in this wise enlightening and hilarious book that not only collects the best of jewish humor passed down from generation to generation but explains the cultural expressions and anxieties behind the laughs what s jewish alzheimer s you forget everything but the grudges you must be so proud your daughter is the president of the united states yes but her brother is a doctor isn t jewish humor masochistic no and if i hear that one more time i am going to kill myself with his background as a scholar and public radio host krasny delves deeply into the themes topics and

form of jewish humor chauvinism undercut by irony and self mockery the fear of losing cultural identity through assimilation the importance of vocal inflection in joke telling and calls to communal memory including the use of yiddish borrowing from traditional humor and such jewish comedy legends as jackie mason mel brooks and joan rivers larry david sarah silverman jerry seinfeld and amy schumer let there be laughter is an absolute pleasure for the chosen and goyim alike

humor has had a profound effect on the way the jewish people see the world and has sustained them through millennia of hardships and suffering god laughed reviews organizes and categorizes the humor of the ancient jewish texts the hebrew bible the talmud and midrash in a clear readable and accessible manner these works have influenced the jewish people in many ways and all are replete with humor and wit inevitably this oeuvre of jewish humor has itself influenced generations of comics as well as genres of humor the authors use examples of biblical humor from several broad categories including irony sarcasm wordplay humorous names humorous imagery and humorous situations because their primary purpose is not to entertain but to teach humanity how to live the ideal life much of the humor in the talmud and the midrash has a single purpose to demonstrate that evil is wrong and even at times ludicrous this may help explain why approximately 1 500 years after its closing the talmud is still such a fascinating work god laughed is the latest addition to transaction s jewish studies series

here are more than 100 of the best jewish jokes you ll ever hear interspersed with perceptive and persuasive insight into what they can tell us about how jews see themselves their families and their friends and what they think about money sex and success rabbi joseph telushkin is as celebrated for his wit as for his scholarship and in this immensely entertaining book he displays both in equal measure stimulating something stinging and always very very funny jewish humor offers a classic portrait of the jewish collective unconscious

works on jewish humor and jewish jokes abound today but what formed the basis for our contemporary notions of jewish jokes how and when did these perceptions develop in this groundbreaking study and translation noted humor and folklore scholar elliott oring introduces us to the joke collections of lippmann moyses büschenthal an enlightened rabbi and an unknown author writing as judas ascher originally published in german in 1812 and 1810 these books include jokes and anecdotes that play on stereotypes the jokes depict jews dealing with gentiles who are bent on their conversion jews encountering government officials and institutions newly propertied jews attempting to demonstrate their acquisition of artistic and philosophical knowledge and jews engaged in trade and moneylending often with the aim to defraud in these jokes we see the antecedents of modern jewish humor and in büschenthal s brief introduction we find perhaps the earliest theory of the jewish joke oring provides helpful annotations for the jokes and contextualizing essays that examine the current state of jewish

joke scholarship and the situation of the jews in france and germany leading up to the periods when the two collections were published intended to stimulate the search for even earlier examples oring challenges us to confront the jewish joke from a genuine historical perspective

the golden age of jewish humour flourished in the second half of the twentieth century enjoyed by jews and non jews alike but its twilight years are now in sight telling jokes has the potential to reaffirm community once religion political loyalties and victimhood are stripped away from the 1960s on a unique cultural dynamism bound up in these jokes reminded jews around the world of what it means to be jewish often jokes pit one group against another but jewish jokes opted for self deprecation instead and in this case laughing at the group reinforced it they enabled jews to live in harmony with others in full conscience of their differences and they safeguarded a desire for survival at the heart of jewish identity moreover absurd larger than life characters such as rabbi jacob generated tolerance empathy and tenderness among non jews after the horror and guilt of the shoah from the early 2000s however the space that allowed jewish jokes to flourish began to shrink due to a decline in the understanding of the shoah a less positive image of israel and a waning of the importance of jewish culture in american intellectual and cultural life this playful and personal book by michel wieviorka includes jewish jokes but also laments the disappearance of the jewish joke and eulogises its ability to allow the thriving of community alongside difference it is an original and wide ranging analysis of the evolution of the diaspora and its relationship with the state of israel its history and dramas as well as its cultural creativity

it is the age old saying that laughter is the best medicine scientific research has substantiated the claim made by this proverb by verifying the positive effects it has on both our mind and body but what is it about a good joke comic or sitcom that makes us laugh humor psyche and society is a compilation of berger s previously published articles and new chapters on the nature of humour its importance for our psyches and its social and political significance written in an accessible style it uses semiotics psychoanalytic theory sociological theory as well as other theories of humour to explore the multifaceted nature of humour various styles of jokes and sitcoms using berger s typology of forty five techniques found in all forms of humour developed to explain what makes us laugh this book analyses a variety of humorous texts balancing theory entertaining jokes and other humorous texts as well as the author s illustrations the chapters in this book delve into a diverse range of topics such as humour and the creative process humour and health and visual humour along with an examination of the sitcoms frasier and cheers and finally the exploration of jokes including jewish jokes and jokes on russia and communism and trump this book will be of particular interest to university students studying courses in humour comedy popular culture applied semiotics american politics and culture and cultural studies due to the accessible nature of this book the general public may find it to be both a fascinating and entertaining read

finalist for the national jewish book award dauber deftly surveys the whole recorded history of jewish humour economist in a major work of scholarship that explores the funny side of some very serious business and vice versa jeremy dauber examines the origins of jewish comedy and its development from biblical times to the age of twitter organizing jewish comedy into seven strands including the satirical the witty and the vulgar he traces the ways jewish comedy has mirrored and sometimes even shaped the course of jewish history dauber also explores the classic works of such masters of jewish comedy as sholem aleichem isaac babel franz kafka the marx brothers woody allen joan rivers philip roth mel brooks sarah silverman jon stewart and larry david among many others

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nothing in the understanding of humor is as simple as it might seem in joking asides elliott oring confronts the problems of humor analyzing the key contemporary approaches to its study and addressing controversial topics with new empirical data and insights a folklorist drawn to the study of humor oring developed his formulation of appropriate incongruity as a frame to understand what jokes must do to produce humor he tests appropriate incongruity against other major positions in the field including the general theory of verbal humor conceptual integration theory benign violation theory and false belief theory oring draws on the work of scholars from several disciplines anthropology folklore philosophy psychology linguistics and literature to ask basic questions about the construction and evolution of jokes untangle the matter of who the actual targets of a joke might be and characterize the artistic qualities of jokes and joke performances although oring guides the reader through a forest of jokes and joke genres this is not a joke book a major work from a major scholar joking asides is a rigorous exploration of theoretical approaches to jokes and their functions and is filled with disquieting questions penetrating criticisms and original observations written in a clear and accessible style this book will prove valuable to any scholar or student who takes matters of jokes and joking seriously

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