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# The Bedside Torah : Wisdom, Visions, And Dreams



## Synopsis

The Bedside Torah guides you into the wisdom, counsel, and holiness of the sacred text that is the center of Jewish spirituality. Rabbi Bradley Artson, one of the truly inspirational and knowledgeable teachers of Torah of our time, weaves together the insights of ancient rabbis and sages, medieval commentators and philosophers, and modern scholars and religious leaders. The reflections in this collection offer three different commentaries on each of the 50 Torah portions, enlightening you into the Torah's infinite layers of meaning and offering opportunities to discover interpretations of your own. "The Bedside Torah is an introduction to Jewish text study that is both learned and engaging . . . The language is conversational, the insights provocative, and the chapters are just the right length for reading before an inspired night's sleep." --Anita Diamant, author of *The New Jewish Wedding*, *Choosing a Jewish Life*, *How to Be a Jewish Parent*, *The Red Tent*, and *Good Harbor* "Bradley Artson is one of the most insightful and articulate rabbis of his generation, as this volume clearly attests."--Rabbi Harold Kushner, author of *When Bad Things Happen to Good People* "In *The Bedside Torah*, Rabbi Artson combines wisdom garnered from traditional Jewish sources and commentaries with anecdotes and insights drawn from his own life as well as the lives of all those he has served. In so doing, he has turned each weekly Torah portion into a series of revelations for the reader. *The Bedside Torah* is a treasure that will surely enrich the religious life of Jews as well as all those who seek comfort and guidance from Jewish scriptures."--Rabbi David Ellenson, Ph.D., president, Hebrew Union College--Jewish Institute of Religion

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This a wonderful book with insightful Torah commentaries focusing on Jewish personal values like love, family, helpfulness, and so forth. This book can be a powerful introduction to Judaism, or a powerful introduction to a personal, loving side of Judaism that is sometimes overlooked in favor of community values. The book starts with an introduction that explains the centrality of Torah in Judaism and how to read Torah when the stories seem crude or unjust. The rabbi interprets Torah while assuming a just, loving God. The bulk of the book is made up of commentaries. There are three commentaries for each section of the Torah. Each section of the Torah is also paraphrased, so if you have never read the Torah, this is an easy way to get the general idea. But it's the three commentaries for each of the Torah sections that are the best part. The rabbi's commentaries mix basic good human judgment with an open heart, bouncing the mixture off the Torah. He interprets Judaism in a sensible, loving light. Are Jews a "chosen people"? Yes, he says, chosen to live a responsible life in concert with the values of Torah, not chosen to view ourselves as better than others. He asks, what are we to make of these long lists of names in the Torah? He suggests lists of names are created for a reason, because the names were important to an event or people. He suggests we get ourselves on other people's lists in our own lives, by helping our communities, friends and family.

I was stunned by Mr. Hinkle's criticism that this book is "Judeacentric." Well, a Rabbi writing about a book that is central to our religion - what did he expect? If he wants a balanced viewpoint, he should read a comparable book by an academic scholar of religion. I would never dream of criticizing a Christian scholar for writing from a Christian standpoint, a Buddhist writing from a Buddhist standpoint, etc. Allow we Jews the same courtesy, Mr. Hinkle.

This is very nice bed time reading that makes you want to stay awake and read on to the next entry. I love the different angles for each Torah portion which gives the feeling of a very good Torah discussion. All the insightful commentary in this book brings out the beauty of the Torah. I recommend this book to anyone who is interested in learning more about Judaism and anyone who wants add more insight to their weekly Torah study.

Rabbi Artsen provides a short synopsis of the weekly Torah Portion. The Rabbi then writes three different encapsulated views about the parasha for the week. The author brings modern insight to the ancient laws of the Jewish people. The book is written with the plan to bring the Torah into our

lives sprinkling a daily taste of the ancient scrolls into our lives. I recommend this book for those who want to try understanding the Torah by getting a quick read daily and perhaps use this to whet our appetite for the full version of the Five Books of Moses.

Thank you, Rabbi Artson, for your spiritual guidance, companionship, wisdom and inspiration. There are not many books in my extensive library that are as dog-eared as my copy of The Bedside Torah. As I flip through the pages, I'm amazed at the bent pages, highlights, circles, stickers, business cards, Torah commentaries, and day-glow pages of scribbled notes tucked into this tome. Clearly, I was touched and inspired by Rabbi Artson's thought provoking comments as he guided me through the Torah. I loved that for each parasha there were three different views, and each time, I could count on finding some wisdom that spoke to me that day. Artson's language is contemporary and reaches into the heart, creating relevancy from the words of ancient Torah to our lives today. While we continue to seek meaning from the labors of Rashi and Maimonides, our Modern Rabbis like Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson have much wisdom to share, influencing our lives in new and modern ways.

Rabbi Artson has a wonderful grasp of Torah and its relationship to the modern world. For anyone looking to deepen their understanding of the Torah and how it relates to us today, I strongly suggest this volume.

The stories and thoughts are very insightful and uplifting. It's easy to pick up the book and jump around if you miss a week. Three dvars per weekly reading are diverse and fun to read. Weekly summaries are concise yet very good recaps.

This is a delightful, charming and insightful collection of commentaries of each weekly Torah portion. Definitely suitable for Jews and Christians alike. Each Torah portion has three succinct comments from different contributors.

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