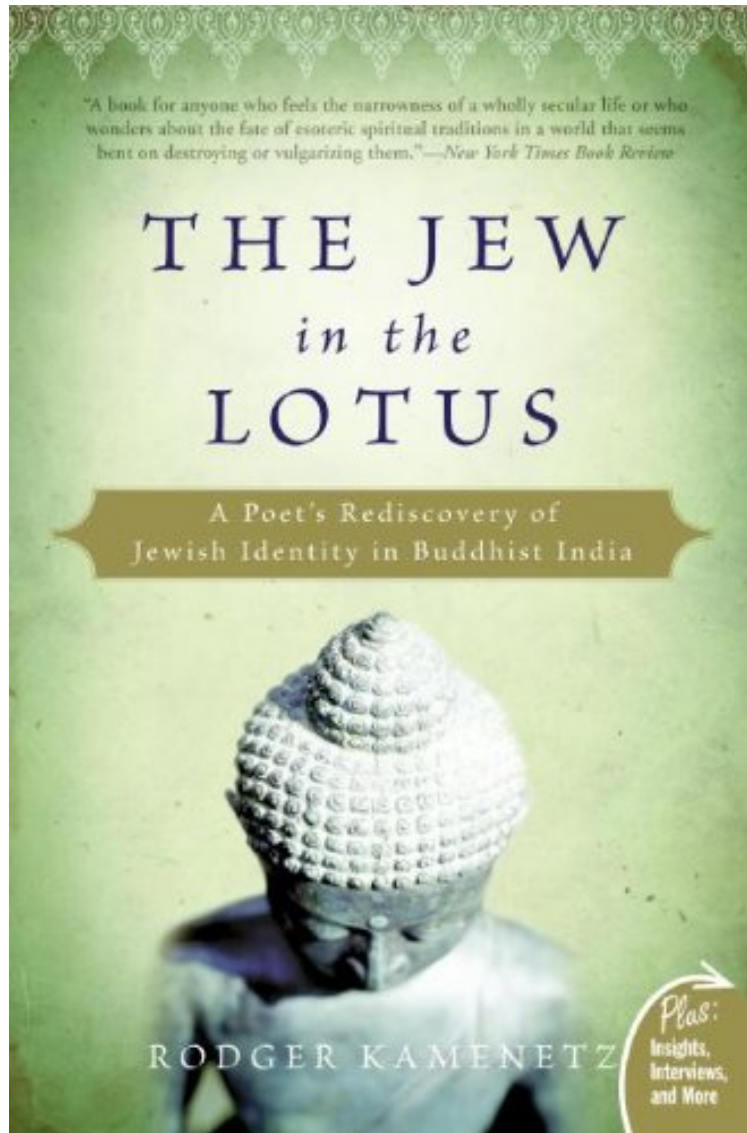


(Free read ebook) The Jew in the Lotus: A Poet's Rediscovery of Jewish Identity in Buddhist India (Plus)

## The Jew in the Lotus: A Poet's Rediscovery of Jewish Identity in Buddhist India (Plus)

Rodger Kamenetz

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#210488 in Books Harper Collins 2007-08-21 2007-08-21 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .76 x 5.311, .69 #File Name: 0061367397336 pages The Jew in the Lotus A Poet s Rediscovery of Jewish Identity in Buddhist India Plus | File size: 26.Mb

**Rodger Kamenetz : The Jew in the Lotus: A Poet's Rediscovery of Jewish Identity in Buddhist India (Plus)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Jew in the Lotus: A Poet's Rediscovery of Jewish Identity in Buddhist India (Plus):

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I've read a good half dozen books about the Jewish faith  
By Real HappyWow, what a book!  
I've read a good half dozen books about the Jewish faith, but this one tops the list. I'm even tempted to read it again. This memoir wonderfully outlined and discusses the strengths and challenges within the Jewish faith, and other religions. It is so encouraging to see these spiritual leaders coming together and supporting each others religion. One of the things I love about studying world religions, is that I've discovered how much each religion influences the other religion. There are so many similarities.  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. In writing this book the author did the world a ...  
By Michael A.  
In writing this book the author did the world a favor. Through the authors travel and experiences we are gradually introduced to the notion that many of the deepest mystical and meditative ideas that attracted many Westerners (and Jews in particular) to Buddhism were also known and practiced by Jewish sages for thousands of years. Of course there are is an ultimate difference in the Jewish conception of G-d and in some of the intrinsic goals of meditation and life as practiced in Judaism. But remarkably, there are many striking overlaps and similarities. Literally most of what this author was searching for was in his own backyard and he shares this with the world in this book and his his sequel, In Search of Elijah.

While accompanying eight highspirited Jewish delegates to Dharamsala, India, for a historic BuddhistJewish dialogue with the Dalai Lama, poet Rodger Kamenetz comes to understand the convergence of Buddhist and Jewish thought. Along the way he encounters Ram Dass and Richard Gere, and dialogues with leading rabbis and Jewish thinkers, including Zalman Schacter, Yitz and Blue Greenberg, and a host of religious and disaffected Jews and Jewish Buddhists. This amazing journey through Tibetan Buddhism and Judaism leads Kamenetz to a renewed appreciation of his living Jewish roots.

From Library Journal  
Kamenetz (English, LSU) recounts his experience as one of a group invited to Dharamsala by the Dalai Lama to discuss how the Jewish experience of spiritual survival in exile might be helpful to Tibetans. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.  
From Booklist  
Kamenetz, a poet and a Jew, was invited to attend and write about a historical meeting between a delegation of American Jews and a group of Tibetan Buddhists that included the Dalai Lama. This interfaith get-together was inspired, in part, by the increasing number of Jews who have become Buddhists as well as the Dalai Lama's perception of Jews as "survival experts." The Dalai Lama felt that the Jews, experts in exile and the preservation of faith and practice, would offer advice and comfort; participating rabbis were intrigued by the surprising similarities between the two religions, including esoteric traditions and a profound awareness of suffering. Kamenetz not only chronicles the resultant discussions, which proved to be enlightening and emotional, but also profiles a number of Jewish Buddhists, including Allen Ginsberg and Ram Dass. As his investigation throws his own beliefs and assumptions into high relief, Kamenetz is amazed and humbled by the intensity and altruism of Buddhism. Kamenetz defines and comments upon these complex matters with skill, personableness, and a welcome dash of levity.  
Donna Seaman  
From Kirkus sA personal journey of Jewish spiritual renewal in dialogue with the Dalai Lama. Summoned by the Dalai Lama to Dharamsala, the retreat in northern India that the Tibetan exile community has inhabited since the Chinese invasion of Tibet in 1959, a group of eight Jewish leaders goes to India for a week of discussions in order to teach the Tibetan spiritual leader what the Jewish tradition has learned about religious self-preservation. Jewish poet and designated eyewitness Kamenetz (English/Louisiana Univ.) comes along for the ride and on the way learns about the richness of his own Jewish identity by hearing about its similarities to Tibetan Buddhism. Familiar with survival in the face of exile and near-annihilation, the Jewish leaders, mostly rabbis, communicate their wisdom to the Dalai Lama. While we are prepared for a two-way exchange, Kamenetz tells us mostly about the rich, contradictory life of modern Judaism: from the Orthodox Irving ("Yitz") and Blu Greenberg, who are concerned with maintaining the purity of religious observance, to the kabbalistic Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, who, as a leader of the Reconstructionist movement, unites the esoteric traditions of Jewish mysticism with a post-1960s eclecticism. At the heart of the book is an exchange between Schachter-Shalomi and the Dalai Lama about the nature of angels and reincarnation, during which the Jews and Buddhists present realize the close parallels between their traditions. The large number of "JUBUs," Jewish Buddhists (including Allen Ginsberg) Kamenetz encounters leads him to question the problem of some American Jews' conversion to Buddhism in response to what they perceived as Judaism's closed spiritual door. But as the reader discovers, the Jewish esoteric tradition, including specific spiritual practices such as meditation, is available to the ardent seeker. A highly entertaining personal account of one man's surprising journey into the mystical heart of Judaism. -- Copyright 1994, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.