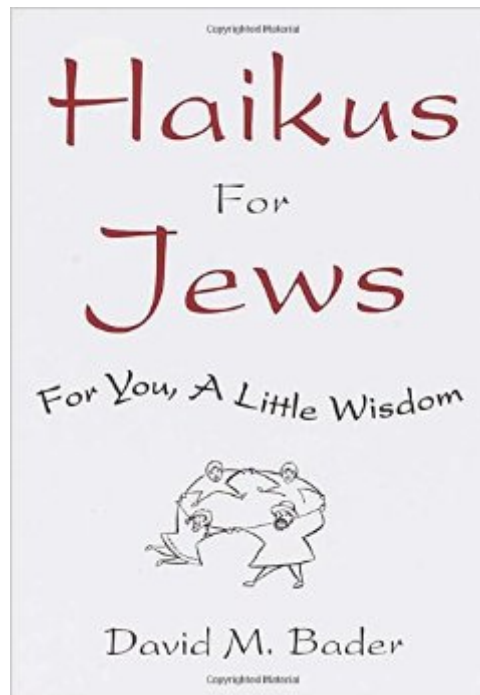


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# Haikus For Jews: For You, A Little Wisdom



## Synopsis

Why is this haiku book different from all other haiku books? For centuries, the Japanese haiku has been one of the world's most dazzling poetic forms. In just three short lines, it captures the sublime beauty of nature--the croak of the bullfrog, the buzzing of the dragonfly, the shriek of the cicada, the scream of the cormorant. Now, with *Haikus for Jews*, there is finally a collection that celebrates the many advantages of staying indoors. Inspired by ancient Zen teachings and timeless Jewish noodging, this masterful work is filled with insights that will make you exclaim, "Ah!" or at least "Oy!" Whether you are Jewish or you simply enjoy a good kosher haiku, these chai-kus (so called because of their high chutzpah content) are certain to amuse. What's more, with each poem limited to seventeen syllables, *Haikus for Jews* is perfect for people in a hurry. Find out why God has made these The Chosen Haikus.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars See all reviews (52 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

As an author of Jewish humor, I hate admitting anyone but me is funny, but *Haikus for Jews* had me roaring with laughter, and so did everybody that I gave a copy of the book to. This is a perfect gift to bring the hostess when you're invited to dinner. It's a lot cheaper and will last longer than a good bottle of wine ... unless one of the other dinner guests steals it. It is a perfect gift for anyone with a sense of humor. I loved it.

This is a unique book. I haven't seen another one like it! Japanese imagery is intertwined with Jewish themes to create some highly original humor. It doesn't rely on stereotypes. It parodies old

stereotypes and it includes new areas in its haikus. "No fins, no flippers... the gefilte fish swims with...some difficulty" or "Seven-foot Jews in ... the NBA slam-dunking... my alarm clock rings." Some of the poems are downright hilarious. All have a certain fun quality. I have given the book to countless people at this point, all of whom enjoyed it. Almost any intelligent reader will get it and sometimes even laugh out loud.

So you thought I would / Write a Jewish haiku to / Sell this book. Guess not. Bader, a Hahvahd Lawyer, and the author of "How to Be an Extremely Reform Jew" provides the essence of the faith in 5-7-5 / 17 syllable portions. Like the Japanese haiku, the Jewish haiku (or CHAI-ku) includes 'a kigo', or a 'season word' hinting at a time of year. It is sheer genius. My favorites were one about a mohel pruning the growth in his garden and: Heimlich. Is that a / Jewish name? I wonder as / a diner turns blue.

I am part of a vast network of Jews who send jokes back and forth over the Internet. None are as funny as the ones in this book (and I'm very sensitive about stereotypes). I suspect people who don't laugh out loud of 1) not being Jewish, 2) not being able to read, or 3) having problems that must be solved with powerful drugs. I say that we pressure publishers to reissue Bader's other book, How to Be an Extremely Reform Jew.

I have been a student for Haiku for a long time and now am teaching at workshops about the Haiku form, but most importantly, the Haiku spirit. I came from Japan and I am very flattered to notice how popular Haiku is in the Western contemporary literary circle. While Haiku is a form of Japanese poetry that states in 3 lines of 5-7-5 syllables a spiritual insight, I tend not to bother with the syllables (because Japanese syllables and English syllables are totally different) but focus on whether the poet has captured the Haiku spirit- which means Zen. As far as I am concerned, David M. Bader's Haiku for Jews has got it! You can tell within 2 poems. And the rest is just a truly enjoyable read. The other great poetess that I think also got the essence of the Haiku spirit is Lily Wang. Her newest work, BABY HAIKU, contains many moving Haiku. Though the subjects are totally different, their powerful applications of the Haiku form are impressive. I am using them both for my Haiku classes.

David Bader has come up with a masterful concept: combine the poetic form of Japanese Haiku with kvetchy Jewish plaint. And bubule, it works. The book is best savored like bonbons, just a few at a time. Some are wry, some confirm the American Jewish experience, and some are laugh-out-loud

funny; even my shaygitz husband completely lost it with: Today I am aman. Tomorrow I return to the seventh grade. I got it as a birthday gift and I LOVED it! Buy one for a gift and another for you.

So, lots of money for a little book. Buy it anyway. You'll plotz

Funny, insightful, provocative, and wise, this book will cause the reader to laugh out loud while shaking the head and saying, "It's true." Great gift.

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