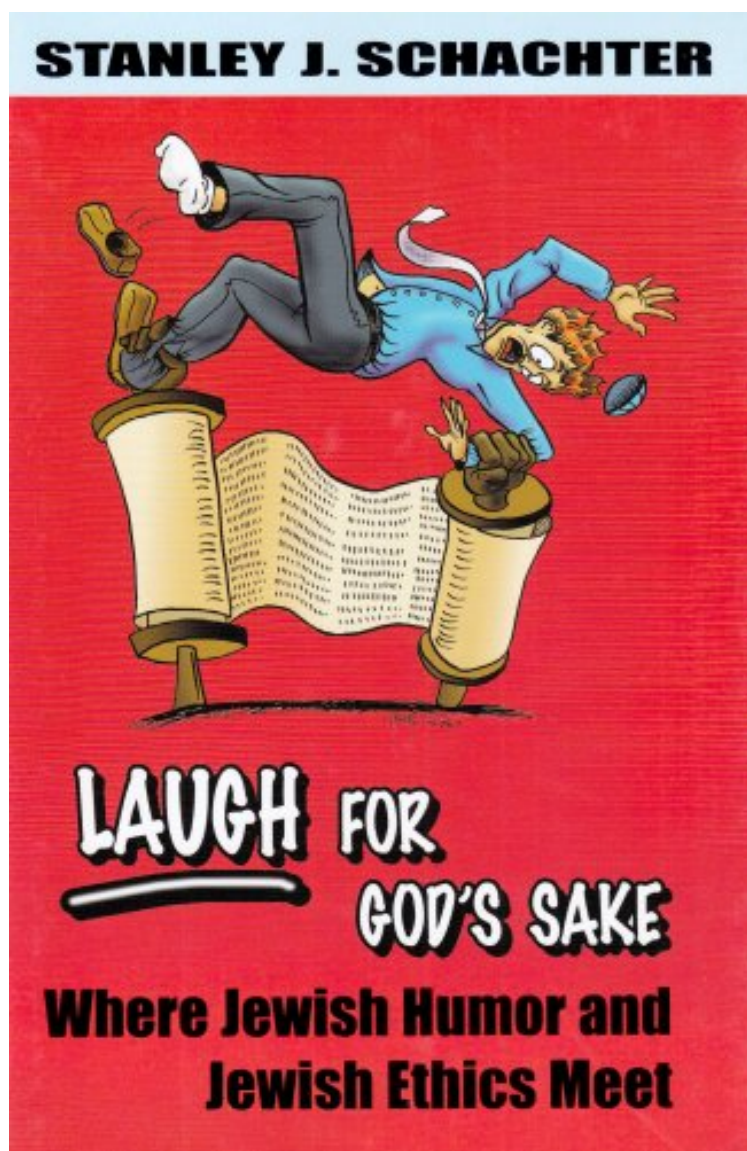


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Laugh for God's Sake: Where Jewish Humor and Jewish Ethics Meet

Stanley J. Schachter

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Stanley J. Schachter : **Laugh for God's Sake: Where Jewish Humor and Jewish Ethics Meet** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Laugh for God's Sake: Where Jewish Humor and Jewish Ethics Meet:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Spoonful of Sugar By R. Berger This is a beautifully written, easy

to read, examination of Jewish humor with a new twist. The author, an extraordinarily articulate scholar with a wonderful sense of humor, shows how Jewish jokes and humor reflect and teach interesting lessons about traditional Jewish ethical values. The book is a very pleasant way to learn important life lessons. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Thoughtful, fascinating, entertaining and surprising

By Noah Efron This book does something you would have thought was impossible. It is at once very serious and very funny, intertwining a description of Jewish ethics with garlands of traditional jokes by and about Jews. The insight upon which Rabbi Schachter builds his analysis is that jokes reflect the culture that produces them and, in the case of Jews, that jokes especially reflect what their inventors thought about right and wrong, good and bad. After an introduction, each chapter of the book examines a set of ethical convictions -- about, say, loyalty or truthfulness -- and then collects a set of jokes that illuminate the (sometime ambivalent) Jewish attitudes towards these convictions. The final product is a mosaic of traditional Jewish attitudes towards ethics that is more subtle and nuanced than any straightforward explication could be. Some of the jokes in this book are funny by themselves (you'll find yourself retelling them), and some are poignant rather than funny. Both sorts of jokes serve the author's purpose. The book's cumulative impact is that it leaves one with a deeper understanding and appreciation of Jewish humor and the very serious things it says about Jewish life and belief. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. With few exceptions the humor is more instructional than funny

By andris virsnieks Very few of the jokes are really funny but with them and between them Rabbi Schachter imparts to the reader insights into Jewish thought and belief. A few examples are the following: Rabbinical legislation can amend biblical law -- by taking the sin out of interest on loans helped Jews in this world. They gained an early leg up in finance and banking. Gossip is a greater evil than Jewish comedians (they have the good jokes) might lead you to believe. Jews have always had and continue to have hope for a better life in this world (as opposed to another world) despite the incredible disasters and suffering they have experienced in this world.

Jewish humor is a venerable part of the Jewish historical experience. It has been a constant companion of Jews, as individuals and communities, accompanying them in many lands and expressing itself in a number of languages. Jewish jokes penetrate virtually every aspect of human relationships, sparing neither Jew nor non-Jew. Stanley Schachter's study, enhanced by his translations of nearly 150 jokes drawn from Yiddish and Hebrew sources, examines Jewish humor from a novel perspective, revealing their connection to primary teachings of Jewish ethics. His analysis uncovers Jewish humor as an active partner of Judaism's timeless teachings, couched in laughter, and intended to remind Jews of their ethical obligations in life's ever tangled encounters.

About the Author Stanley J. Schachter was ordained by The Jewish Theological Seminary of America. Following active duty as a U.S. Navy chaplain, he served congregations in Kansas City and Chicago before returning to The Jewish Theological Seminary as Vice-Chancellor and member of the faculty. He appeared frequently as commentator on Jewish affairs on the Seminary's renowned Eternal Light radio and television programs. He holds a doctorate in medieval Jewish liturgical studies. More recently he served Bnai Jeshurun Congregation in Cleveland, Ohio as Senior Rabbi. He has taught Jewish religious thought at the Siegal College of Judaic Studies as adjunct professor and is currently Jewish Chaplain for the Cleveland Clinic. His novel approach to Jewish humor has brought him before many audiences over the years.