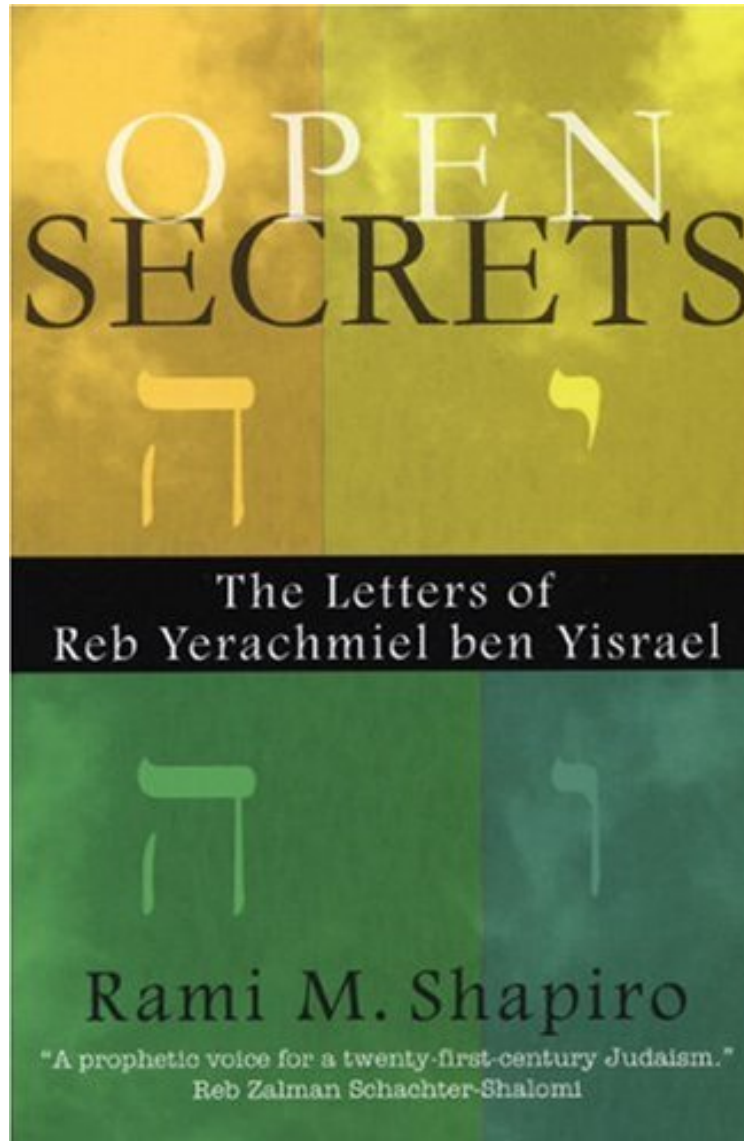


Open Secrets: The Letters of Reb Yerachmiel ben Yisrael

Rabbi Rami M. Shapiro

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Rabbi Rami M. Shapiro : Open Secrets: The Letters of Reb Yerachmiel ben Yisrael before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Open Secrets: The Letters of Reb Yerachmiel ben Yisrael:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Open secretsBy Delbert T. AmosThis is a typical Rabbi Rami book. It makes for very good reading and each chapter is an explanation of is perennial wisdom.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is an amazing book.By ZebraThis is an amazing book...I am learning so much. It is an

interesting perspective. It is a small book but for me not a quick read since I ponder what is read. 8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. The Thou of Reality By Peter M. Schogol According to The Alliance for Jewish Renewal (ALEPH) "Jewish renewal seeks to bring creativity, relevance, joy, and an all embracing awareness to spiritual practice, as a path to healing our hearts and finding balance and wholeness--tikkun halev." Rami Shapiro's writings are perhaps unique in the literature of the Renewal in their particular relevance to non- or post-halakhic Jews. Rami emphasizes principle over practice, spirit over letter, and does not make idols of God, Israel, and Torah. Rami's writings also embody the basic principle of Reconstructionism that Jewish people invent Jewish religion. In Rami's case, he brings his experience of the non-dual Advaita, Zen, and Taoist traditions to his reading of Hasidism, the Prophets, and the Wisdom literature. For those of us who meditated or chanted our way through the late 60s and 70s, Rami's approach will feel familiar and his Judaism both natural and compelling. OPEN SECRETS is a series of letters written by a fictitious Old World rabbi of the late 1800s or early 1900s to a student who has emigrated to America. The letters from "Reb Yerachmiel ben Israel" cover such matters as God, creation, human nature, evil, Torah, mitzvah, prayer, death, other religions, even Jesus! They are short letters, at most a few pages, and they are written in a homey style by a rabbi who who likely would have been impossible in his time and place but one we would all have loved to know and learn from. Reb Yerachmiel is the rabbi Rami Shapiro says he would like to be, and therefore to whatever extent already is. All of Rami's books are worth reading, but OPEN SECRETS is one you will want to read and read again as its soul speaks to yours. I can't recommend this book highly enough for Liberal Jews who perceive and relate to God as the Thou of Reality and who wish to repair the brokenness in themselves and in the world in a spirit of peace and joy.

. . . a rare jewel, a powerhouse of spiritual wisdom that you can read and reread. Joan Borysenko, Ph.D. author of A Woman's Journey to God and Seven Paths to God [Open Secrets] invites us into the most intimate of settings, the whispered wisdom passed from an authentic Hasidic master to his student. It radiates warmth, passion for the divine, and earthy confidence in sacredness. A treasure for the spiritual seeker of any tradition. Judith Simmer-Brown, Naropa University, author of Dakinis Warm Breath Open Secrets is my favorite way to introduce readers to the essence and depth of Judaism. Bo Lozoff, author and founder of the Human Kindness Foundation A master teacher. Thomas Keating "A prophetic voice for a 21st-century Judaism" Reb Zalman Schachter-Shalomi The fictional East European Hasidic Master Reb Yerachmeil writes to his hasid Herschel who has moved to America, in response to his student's perennial questions about God, what it means to be Jewish, whether all religions are true, about death, the soul, good deeds, intermarriage and more. The rebbe writes, My Judaism seeks only the heart of the teaching and the essence of the practice and leaves the details to others. At the urging of his own rebbe, Shapiro, through these letters, creates a . . . a Judaism for people who wish to learn from it as they do from Buddhism or Sufism, a Judaism for everyone. Rabbi Rami M. Shapiro is regarded as one of the most creative voices in contemporary American Judaism. He is an award-winning poet and essayist, and his liturgies are used in prayer services throughout North America. His previous books include Minyan: 10 Principles for Living a Life of Integrity and The Way of Solomon: Finding Joy and Contentment in the Wisdom of Ecclesiastes.

About the Author Rabbi Rami Shapiro is an award winning poet and essayist, whose liturgical writings are used in prayer services throughout North America. He has written over a dozen works of poetry, liturgy, short story and nonfiction. He is a graduate of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and holds a doctoral degree in religious studies from Union Graduate School. A congregational rabbi for 20 years, Rabbi Shapiro currently directs both the Simply Jewish Foundation and the One River Foundation. His most recent books are Minyan, Wisdom of the Jewish Sages, The Wisdom of Solomon, The Way of Solomon, and Hasidic Tales Annotated and Explained.