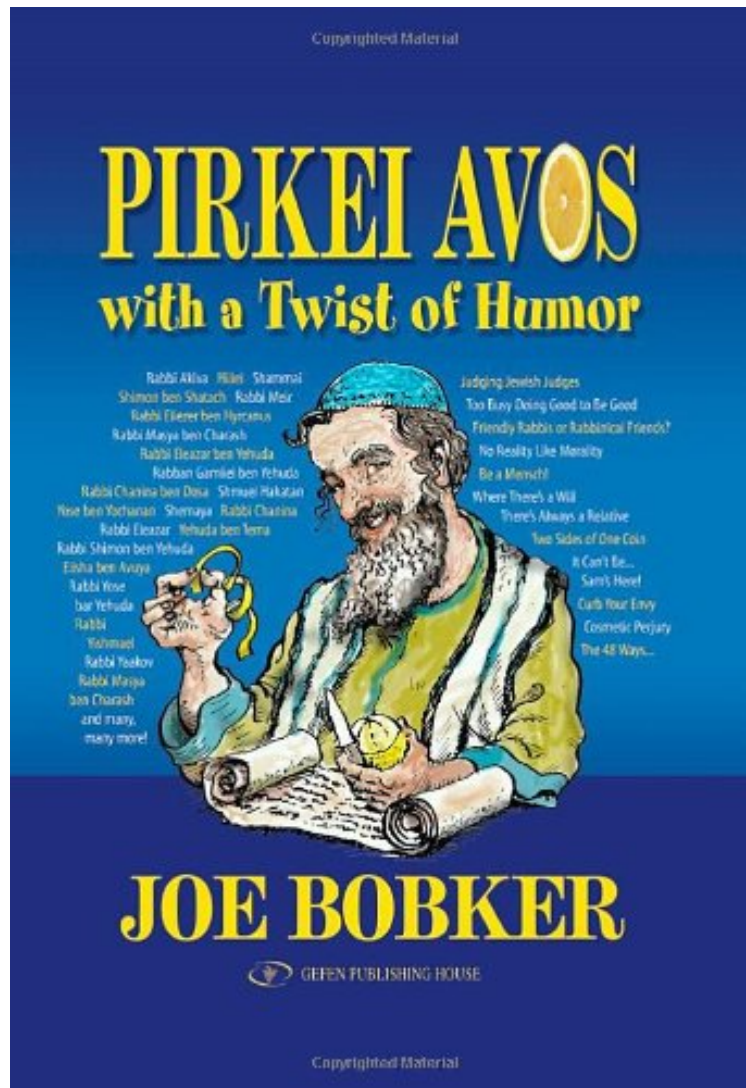


## Pirkei Avos with a Twist of Humor

Joe Bobker

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**Joe Bobker : Pirkei Avos with a Twist of Humor** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pirkei Avos with a Twist of Humor:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. very very good people most reded is show to by amachBy esther gorfinkelvery very good people most reded is show to by amach person4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Jewish for the WorldBy Elliot's ReviewsI don't know all there is to know about the Talmud as when I was growing up in the early 1950's in Detroit off of Dexter and Davidson I was surrounded by relatives from Poland, The Pale in Russia, Germany and Yiddish. Please forgive for saying so but when my Bubbi brought me to the Orthodox

Temple the rituals and High Hebrew were a whole new world for me. The Pirkei Avos, often also called The Sayings of the Fathers, is a collection of rabbinical teachings and sayings from various sages, and is a part of the Mishna, one of the two books making up the Talmud, which is the record of Jewish oral law. Over the years my approach to interpreting the Pirkei Avos and other parts of the Talmud were mostly self directed. The discussions in or out of Hebrew School tended to be fairly serious, since the Talmud is a pretty serious document and the book by Joe Bobker is like a breath of fresh air and a new way for Jews and non Jews to look at Jewish law and philosophy. The book also has a great introduction and teaches the reader a little about the many sayings. But even with all the verbiage the book never sets itself up as a scholarly end all way of looking at this part of the oral interpretations of the Talmud. Joe Bobker writes in an statement labeled "Caution" that the book should be seen as merely an introduction to "Jewish law and lore," and that "the information contained in it may not always be entirely accurate". So don't use this book to study with use it to be basically amused, laugh at life, and yet it's also beautiful and has some wonderful things to teach whether Gentile or Jew. Read this if you're interested in a easy discussion of Jewish ethics or if you like Jewish humor. This is a cute book, funny on a serious topic, meant to bring that topic down to earth a little and help people relate to it. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A Humorous Approach to a Serious Subject By Karen Marie Pirkei Avos is the thirty-ninth tractate of sixty-three tractates of the Mishna, the Oral Law. The Mishna is the legal commentary on the Torah, the Five Books of Moses (the first five books of the Bible). Pirkei Avos is also known as The Chapters of Our Fathers and is the only portion of the Mishna that focuses on ethics. Once I understood that, not being Jewish, I was able to read the book in context. Pirkei Avos With a Twist of Humor is a profoundly "Jewish" book that has lessons for everybody. It is a light-hearted approach to the serious subject of ethics which combines in-depth commentary on each of the sayings with a humorous story or joke. There are 294 notes at the end of the book, some of which are great lessons in and of themselves. I enjoyed reading this book very much. Since I did not understand any of the Hebrew or Yiddish, it's fortunate that Mr. Bobker translated most words and phrases. I gained respect for the ethical structure that the Jewish people use in their everyday lives. I enjoyed the subtleness of some of the discussions and was surprised at the variety of opposing opinions cited. There are many interpretations and many logical approaches to each of the sayings. Mr. Bobker is extremely knowledgeable about the subject. He grouped the sayings by topic (Law and Order, Charity, etc.) which gives you a focused discussion on each topic. I read this book straight through, but the savoring of thoughts and theories and quotations will have to come later, as I dip back into it; reading a page here and there. As Mr. Bobker says, "Go ahead! Open it at random: you will be pleasantly surprised."

Pirkei Avos with a Twist of Humor is a unique and whimsical journey through the impressive Sayings of Our Sages. Enjoy Joe Bobker's educational romp through Jewish ethics, heritage, law and lore, all stirred with a twist of humor and served with the intent of inspiring the reader to explore Judaism!

About the Author Joe Bobker was born in 1947 in Ulm, a displaced persons camp in Germany, to Polish Holocaust survivors Chaskel, of blessed memory, and Ida Bobker. On May 21, 1949, the family arrived in Sydney, Australia, on board the Luciano Marnaro liner as refugees from Adolf Hitler's reign of terror. The most searing influences on his Jewishness were his parents, two simple Yiddishers who saw over 131 family members turned into ashes by the genocidal Nazi war machine and yet never swayed from their beliefs. Their faith was clearer than vision. Mr. Bobker studied at the famed Mercaz HaRav Kook Yeshiva in Kiryat Moshe, Jerusalem. Over the years he has spoken frequently and is well known for his dozens of articles about Jews and Judaism in the 100-year-old Los Angeles Jewish Times, of which he was publisher and editor-in-chief. A prolific and creative writer, Bobker has covered a wide variety of Jewish subjects from a very personal, philosophical, erudite and witty perspective. Since 1980, he has lived in Los Angeles and New York with his wife Miriam, a barrister from Melbourne, Australia, herself a child of Polish Holocaust survivors.