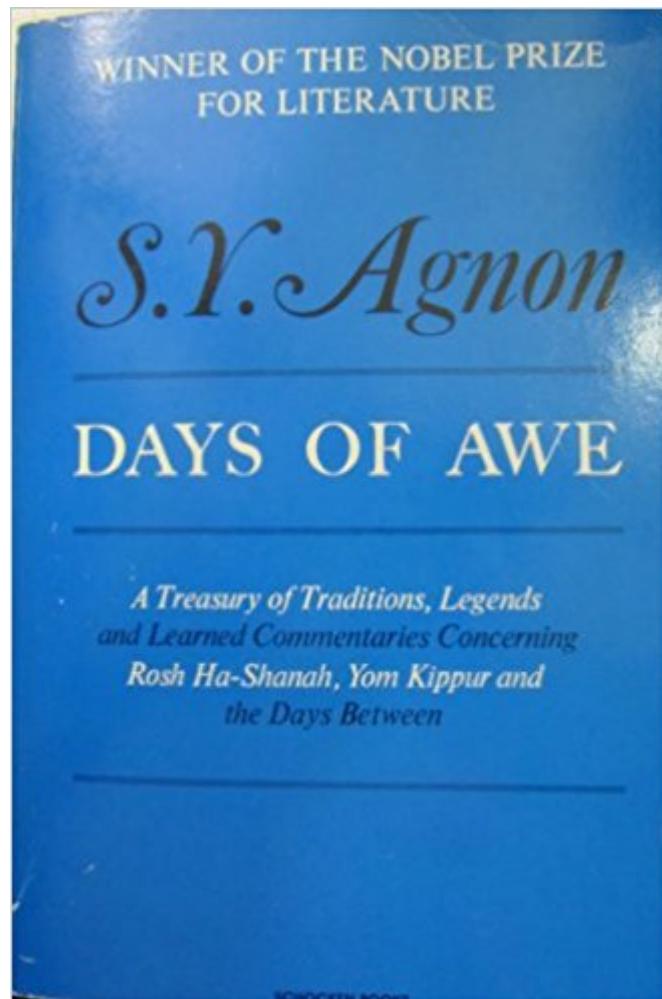


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Days Of Awe



Synopsis

Days of Awe

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Days of Awe

Agnon begins with Chodesh Elul and goes through the Yamim Noraim, bringing to each time, a wealth of religious insights from a wide variety of sources. He in one sense is a scholar- anthologist simply presenting before the reader quotations from the works of others, but in another he is the master artist- arranger- interpreter creating new and deeper connections. I have for many years accompanied my effort at living the Yamim Noraim truly by reading and studying this work. It is by this time a Jewish religious classic, and cannot be recommended more highly.

For those curious about the Jewish High Holy Days, this book is indispensable. Agnon, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1966, is considered by many to be the greatest Hebrew writer of the 20th century (and for some, of all time). Although this is a non-fiction work, Agnon was known primarily for his writing of fiction. The subtitle of the book, "Being a treasury of traditions, legends and learned commentaries concerning Rosh Ha-Shanah, Yom Kippur and the days between culled from three hundred volumes ancient and new" aptly describes the scope of the work. Although the book is a collection of material from many sources, it reads as if it were written by one person (Agnon notes that he did modify the style of various passages to make them more palatable). The translation is superb and a major achievement. I usually re-read the book during the High Holy Days

and get much more out of it than with the Machzor (the holiday prayer book). One note of caution. If you are not at all familiar with this holiday, I would suggest starting with a more basic work on Judaism.

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