

Three Times Chai Jacket Copy

How can it happen that when two men climb down a chimney, one comes out clean while the other comes out dirty? Why do the disciples of the Ba'al Shem Tov want to sneak out of prayer services? What lesson does the mother teach her son by grabbing his pinky finger and pointing to his fingernail? If God is everywhere, why does the seer of Lublin go into the forest to find God?

The answers to these curious questions, and many others, are revealed in the fifty-four stories in *Three Times Chai*. Storytelling has always been central to the Jewish tradition, and it's easy to understand why: A good story entertains, enlightens, and at its best, inspires. It's little wonder that to inform hearts as well as minds, we often choose to tell a story.

Three Times Chai presents the very best of the Jewish tradition of storytelling in the voices of fifty-four contemporary rabbis. Some of their stories are light and humorous; others invite more reflection. And whether it leaves a smile on your lips or a lump in your throat, each story reflects a Jewish ideal. Each one can help us think about who we are, the nature of our relationships, and the way in which we would ideally lead our lives.

The stories in *Three Times Chai* are diverse in origin, style, and content: There are classic Bible stories, rabbinic and modern commentary, folktales, and legends. And the rabbis who retell these stories are likewise diverse in their backgrounds and personal beliefs. Some of them are well-known in the Jewish community; some are well-known for their

storytelling abilities; some have only just begun to establish their own voice. All of them retell their favorite stories, allowing their unique style and personality to shine through. Each story is followed by a brief lesson and explanation about why it is the rabbi's favorite.

You need not be religious to appreciate what these stories have to say; the lessons are universal. They remind us that even while we are entertained, we have a tremendous responsibility—to ourselves, to our families, to our neighbors, and to our communities.

Most certainly, among these fifty-four engaging stories you will discover your own new favorites!

About the Author:

Laney Katz Becker is an award-winning writer and the author of the novel *Dear Stranger, Dearest Friend*. Her articles have appeared in more than fifty magazines and newspapers. She lives in Westchester County, New York, with her husband, Harold, and their children.



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