

Book Review:
The Annotated Passover Haggadah
Edited by Zev Garber and Kenneth Hanson

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Abstract: *The Annotated Passover Haggadah, coedited by Professors Zev Garber and Kenneth Hanson, is a meticulous collaboration that incorporates a set of essays by various authors. The book offers unique reflections from myriad vantage points to the well known and often repeated story of the Jewish ritual. The essence of The Annotated Passover Haggadah lies not only in the central theme of celebration of the Haggadah but also in the numerous ways in which it can be celebrated in other traditions, as well as how it has evolved through times. It is this renewed prospect that imparts multiple connotations to the Jewish Passover ritual. The book has an eclectic prominence that manifests through a careful hermeneutical exploration of the Passover Haggadah from the Judeo-Christian prism. With significant overlaps between the Christian and Jewish liturgy, this culturally rich interfaith volume transcends the scope of the Jewish ritual of Passover and Haggadah.*

Keywords: Zev Garber, Kenneth Hanson, Passover, Haggadah, Judaism

The *Annotated Passover Haggadah* is a meticulous collaboration of Professor Zev Garber (Professor Emeritus and Chair, Jewish Studies and Philosophy, Los Angeles Valley College) and Professor Kenneth Hanson (Coordinator of the Judaic Studies Program, University of Central Florida). The volume is broadly categorized into two major divisions. The first section lays the background of Passover Haggadah while the second section is a compilation of contributions from various invited authors.

Through his set of essays, in this section Professor Garber makes a case for taking into cognizance the hermeneutical non-historical nature of the Passover Haggadah. Regarding hermeneutics, Professor Garber advocates the need of reading the (literal) texts together with the prooftexts in order to ensure an effective understanding of them. For this he proposes a hermeneutical chronology comprising of confrontation, analysis, interaction and internalization. In his following essays, Professor Garber explains the

Commentary

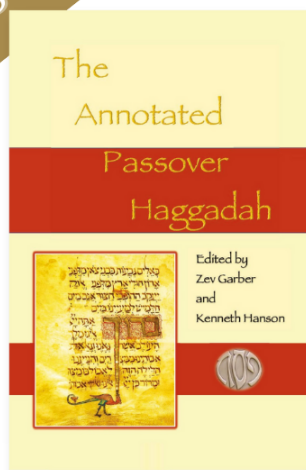
The essence of *The Annotated Passover Haggadah* lies not only in the central theme of celebration of the Haggadah but also in the myriad ways in which it can be represented and celebrated in other traditions as well as how it has evolved through times. It is this renewed prospect that imparts multiple connotations to the Jewish ritual. With an eclectic prominence that manifests through a careful hermeneutical exploration of the Passover Haggadah from the Judeo-Christian prism, this culturally rich interfaith volume transcends the scope of the Jewish ritual of Passover and Haggadah.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Mehak Burza currently serves as the Head of Global Holocaust and Religious Studies at the Global Center for Religious Research. Her Ph.D. thesis titled, “Literary Representations of the Holocaust: An Assessment,” analyzes the gendered response to the Holocaust with a focus on women memoirists and diarists. As an Assistant Professor at the University of Delhi, she teaches English Literature. Her primary research interests include Holocaust/Genocide Studies, Holocaust Trauma and PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). She has presented her research papers at international conferences in The Annual Scholar’s Conference in the University of Texas at Dallas and also in Gettysburg College. Her research paper “The Myriad Expressions of Solidarity Amongst Female Prisoners in the Concentration Camps” has been published in the Contemporary Literary Review India (CLRI) Journal, India. Her articles, “Altering Landscapes of the Holocaust: Mediation of Holocaust Memory Through Art”, “From Physical Shift to Psychic Shift: Anne’s Move From 37 Merwedeplein to 263 Prinsengracht), “From Wounds to Graphics: The Representation of Holocaust Trauma in Art Spiegelman’s *Maus*” and “At the Crossroads between Psychiatry and the Holocaust” have been published in the Strife Blog & Journal, Department of War Studies, King’s College, London, United Kingdom where she serves as the commissioning editor. Her creative works have been published in Trouvaille Review, Visual Verse and Galaxy International Multidisciplinary Research Journal. She also translates from Hindi/Urdu into English and her translations have been published in *Purple Ink*, the online magazine of Brown University, Los Angeles. She is a copy editor in JIWS (Journal of International Women’s Studies) and is in the award nomination committee in the CLRI (Contemporary Literary Review India) Journal. She is also associated with LLIDS Journal as a peer reviewer and as a copy editor (part time) in Journal of International Women’s Studies.

**CELEBRATE
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The Annotated Passover Haggadah



While preserving both the traditional Hebrew text along with an equally traditional English translation, this book provides important analytical, philosophical, and theological perspectives on the seminal event of Jewish consciousness and self-awareness.

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