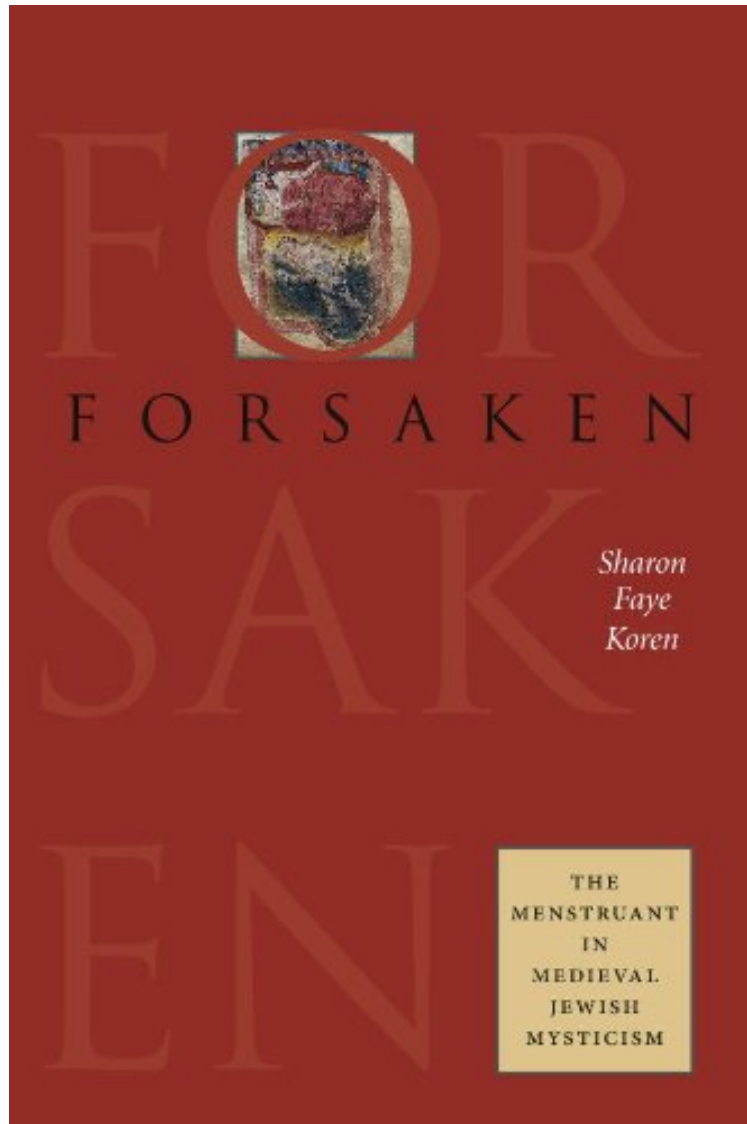


[Free read ebook] Forsaken: The Menstruant in Medieval Jewish Mysticism (HBI Series on Jewish Women)

## **Forsaken: The Menstruant in Medieval Jewish Mysticism (HBI Series on Jewish Women)**

*Sharon Faye Koren*

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#2620425 in Books Brandeis 2011-10-11Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.96 x .77 x 6.34l, .94 #File Name: 1584659823306 pages | File size: 53.Mb

**Sharon Faye Koren : Forsaken: The Menstruant in Medieval Jewish Mysticism (HBI Series on Jewish Women)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Forsaken: The Menstruant in Medieval Jewish Mysticism (HBI Series on Jewish Women):

This book addresses a central question in the study of Jewish mysticism in the medieval and early modern periods: why are there no known female mystics in medieval Judaism, unlike contemporaneous movements in Christianity and Islam? Sharon Faye Koren demonstrates that the male rejection of female mystical aspirations is based in deeply rooted attitudes toward corporeality and ritual purity. In particular, medieval Jewish male mystics increasingly emphasized that the changing states of the female body between ritual purity and impurity disqualified women from the quest for mystical connection with God. Offering a provocative look at premodern rabbinical views of the female body and their ramifications for women's spiritual development, Koren compares Jewish views with medieval Christian and Muslim views of both female menstruation and the possibility of female mystical experience.

They may have been scientifically literate, but medieval Jews weren't always sensible: Witness the fact that unlike Christianity and Islam, medieval Judaism had no female mystics. Sharon Faye Koren's *Forsaken: The Menstruant in Medieval Jewish Mysticism* argues that this strange dearth resulted from traditional Jewish understandings of menstruation as a ritual impurity, which Jewish men felt was incompatible with higher spirituality despite women in the Bible and even in the Talmud having proved themselves perfectly capable of religious insight and leadership. Tablet