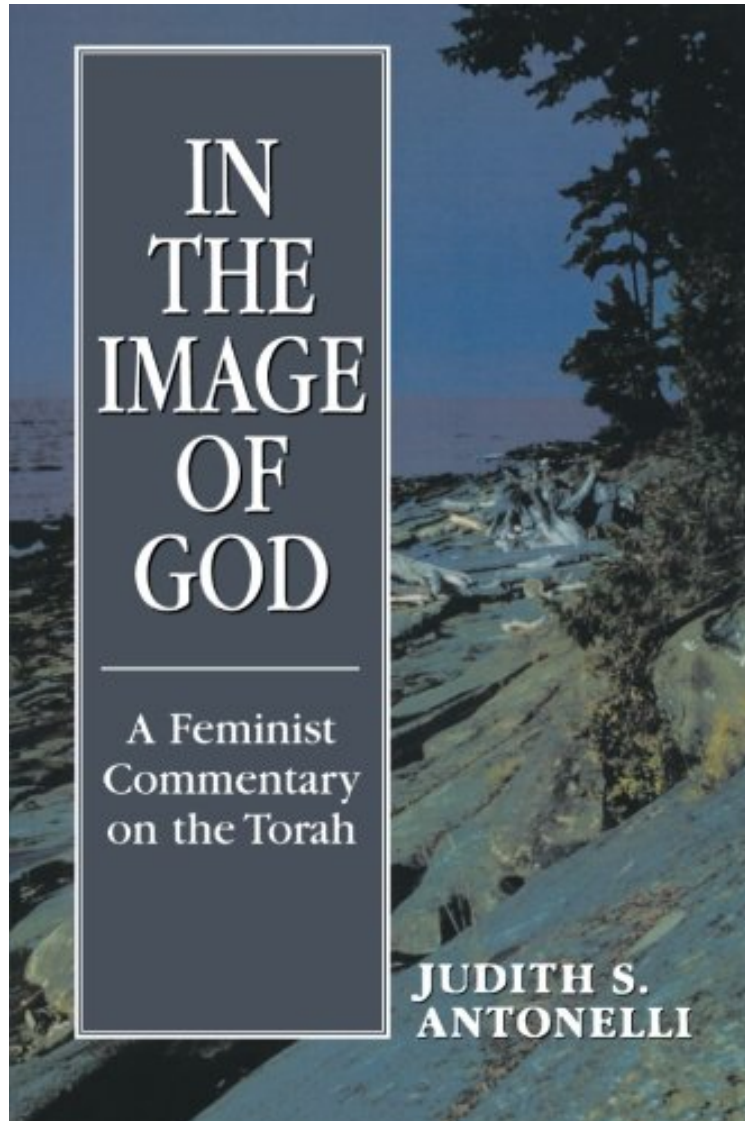


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## In the Image of God: A Feminist Commentary on the Torah

*Judith S. Antonelli*

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**Judith S. Antonelli : In the Image of God: A Feminist Commentary on the Torah** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In the Image of God: A Feminist Commentary on the Torah:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wow... this really opened my eyes to ...By David D GrahamWow... this really opened my eyes to some new information about the Torah that I was never aware of. I didn't realize that genital mutilation in ancient Mesopotamia was commonly practiced, and the voluntary giving of gold, copper, and

silver from the female Hebrews for the making of the trappings of the first Tabernacle involved giving up the chastity belts they were required to wear in Egypt. So the ornaments in the Tabernacle literally symbolized freedom from sexual oppression and were objects of their liberation. (Torah portion: Vaya'khel) This is stuffed full of ghost-pimple skin raising facts such as these. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Different Take:By Sunnie LevyFor the student of Judaism this will be quite a turn of events. I find the concept excellent: the views and analogies to be very intriguing. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. In the Image of GodBy S. HarrisAn interesting study. Not altogether accurate, panders to feminists, but then the author is a self-proclaimed feminist/Jewess. Valuable in providing another viewpoint. I keep it in my library for reference and comparisons with other similar books. Not for reading through cover to cover. Better for study of specific topics.

In the Image of God: A Feminist Commentary on the Torah is a unique blend of traditional Judaism and radical feminism and is a groundbreaking commentary on the Bible, the central document of Jewish life. Using classical Jewish sources as well as supplementary material from history, anthropology, sociology, psychology, ancient religion, and feminist theory, Judith Antonelli has examined in detail every woman and every issue pertaining to women in the Torah, parshah by parshah. The Torah is divided into fifty-four portions; each portion, or parshah, is read in the synagogue on the Sabbath (combining a few to make a yearly cycle of readings). This book is modeled on that structure; hence there are fifty chapters, each of which corresponds to a parshah. One may, therefore, read this book from beginning to end or use it as a study guide for the parshah of the week. The reader will discover in these pages that the Torah is not the root of misogyny, sexism, or male supremacy. Rather, by looking at the Torah in the context in which it was given, the pagan world of the ancient Near East, it becomes clear that far from oppressing women, the Torah actually improved the status of women as it existed in the surrounding societies. Not only does this book refute the common feminist stereotype that Judaism is a "patriarchal religion" but it also refutes the sexism found in Judaism by exposing it as sociological rather than "divine law."

From the Back CoverThis book is a unique blend of traditional Judaism and radical feminism. 'Isn't that an oxymoron?' more than one person asked upon hearing of my topic. It was precisely to correct such an unfortunate misunderstanding that I wrote this book. About the AuthorJudith S. Antonelli is a religious Jew of Italian descent who lives in Boston, Massachusetts. She has numerous works published by both Jewish and feminist presses. She was associate editor of The Jewish Advocate newspaper and continues as a contributing writer. She was coeditor of Neshama, a quarterly publication on women's spirituality in Judaism. Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, Antonelli has degrees in psychology, journalism, and women's studies, as well as many years of expertise in the study of Western religious tradition.