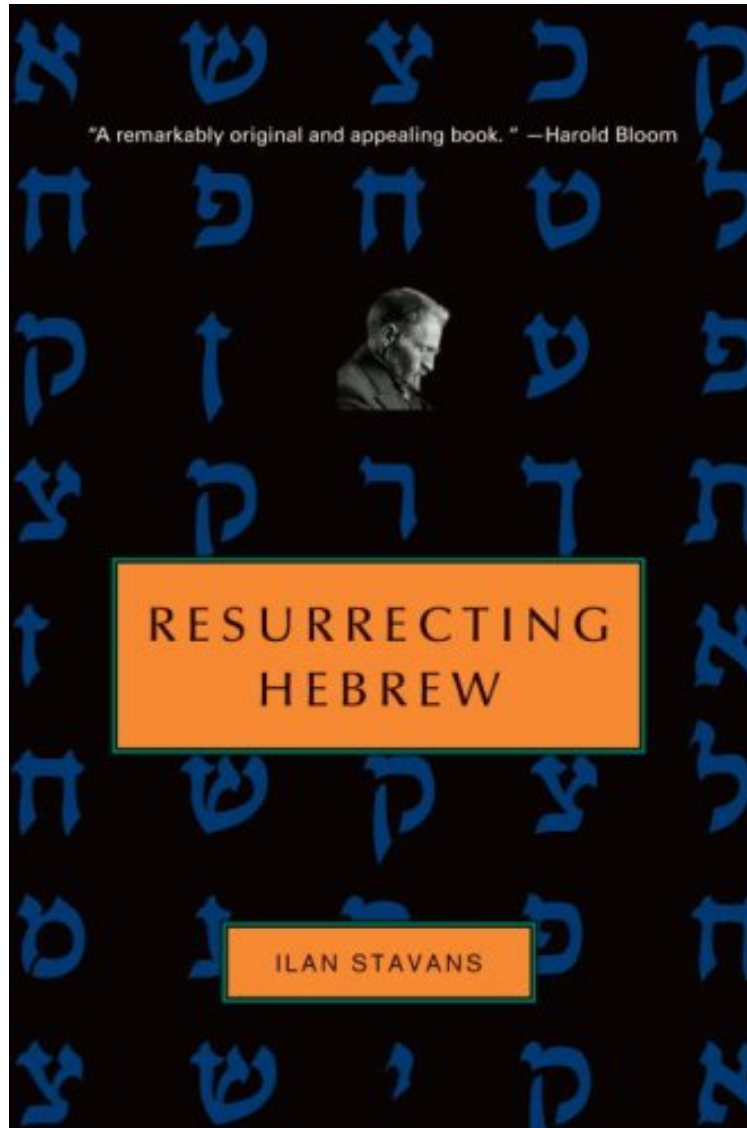


(Download pdf ebook) Resurrecting Hebrew (Jewish Encounters Series)

Resurrecting Hebrew (Jewish Encounters Series)

Ilan Stavans

*audiobook | *ebooks | Download PDF | ePub | DOC*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#426530 in Books 2008-09-16 2008-09-16 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.90 x 1.00 x 5.50l, .75 #File Name: 0805242317240 pages | File size: 53.Mb

Ilan Stavans : Resurrecting Hebrew (Jewish Encounters Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Resurrecting Hebrew (Jewish Encounters Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy Bavio (Please DO NOT PUT MY FULL NAME ON COMMENT)Interesting account of a very unusual phenomenon.20 of 20 people found the following review helpful. Interesting, but a bit of a slow readBy Armchair InterviewsThe Hebrew language is perhaps one of the most fascinating tongues in the history of civilization. It is the only language that has officially died and that has experienced a resurrection. Dr. Ilan Stavans, the Chair of Spanish at Amherst College, illustrates the rebirth of this

amazing language in Resurrecting Hebrew. The good professor approaches the rebirth from a pretty weird angle - his recollection of a dream that propels him to reconnect with his lost Hebrew. In his dream, a lady sits next to him at a party and speaks in a language he does not immediately recognize. Conveniently, a group of rabbis are nearby, and one informs him that the mysterious language is Hebrew. His dream haunts him since a Jewish native from Mexico City should recognize the tongue of his youth. To add to the mystery, the lady completely undresses herself during the conversation. Bothered, the dream propels Dr. Stavans to search out its meaning. After much reflective thought and conversations with well-intended friends, he believes the dream means he is "missing" his Hebrew. This displaced Jewish man is in the midst of a language identity crisis. To find his language he investigates the life of Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, a lexicographer who is credited with helping Hebrew to achieve its national status once again. Ardently he searches and passionately he writes. The prose, however, is dreadfully slow in places. The various conversations he alludes to in full quotation do not ordinarily occur in casual circumstances. Love language? Read this book. Don't read it in bed, however, or the Hebrew language won't be the only thing that needs a resurrection. Armchair Interviews agrees. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Undisciplined meditation that often misses the mark. By Alan A. Elsner. This book was a major disappointment. Ilan Stavans set out on a quest to unearth the secrets behind the miraculous revival of Hebrew into the living, breathing language it has become today -- but it turns into a self-indulgent, ill-disciplined journey into his own psyche that was just not very interesting. The wellspring of the book is a tiresome dream that may have had great significance for the author but is of little interest to the reader, no matter how many times it is repeated. The revival of Hebrew is one of the great achievements of the Zionist movement. Hebrew has become the glue that holds Israel together. Today, even most of the ultra-orthodox who wanted to keep the language in deep freeze used only for prayer speak a vigorous vernacular Hebrew. The language changes incredibly fast, constantly sprouting new slang and phrases, many of which are incredibly witty. Everyday Israeli speech seamlessly melds Biblical quotations and Talmudic references with English, Arabic and Russian phrases. It has become a flexible, muscular, living language as well as a powerful literary language. Listening to it and speaking it are a joy. Stavans notes that only around 8 million people speak it -- but how many speak Danish or Latvian? One gets the impression that Stavans doesn't actually know Hebrew that well. And this book does not really explain how the language was revived. Stavans speaks about Eliezer Ben Yehuda, the man credited with inspiring the revival who compiled the first modern dictionary and coined many new words -- but he doesn't get to the heart of the man. How was a language that nobody had actually spoken for more than 2,000 years revived? Stavans doesn't say. Instead, he discusses irrelevant matters like an essay by Borges and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. There is an interesting but limited discussion of the pained relationship between Hebrew and Yiddish -- but this is cut short before one actually learns anything. The great poet Bialik is mentioned -- but not the other wonderful lyrical voices of the early 20th century such as Shaul Chernikovsky. Stavans discusses the problems of translation but I've read deeper and more interesting essays on this subject elsewhere. There is a great book waiting to be written on this subject. This is not it.

Part of the Jewish Encounter series. Here is the stirring story of how Hebrew was rescued from the fate of a dead language to become the living tongue of a modern nation. Ilan Stavans's quest begins with a dream featuring a beautiful woman speaking an unknown language. When the language turns out to be Hebrew, a friend diagnoses language withdrawal, and Stavans sets out in search of his own forgotten Hebrew as well as the man who helped revive the language at the end of the nineteenth century, Eliezer Ben-Yehuda. The search for Ben-Yehuda, who raised his eldest son in linguistic isolation not even allowing him to hear the songs of birds so that he would be the first Hebrew-speaking child, becomes a journey full of paradox. It was Orthodox anti-Zionists who had Ben-Yehuda arrested for sedition, and, although Ben-Yehuda was devoted to Jewish life in Palestine, it was in Manhattan that he worked on his great dictionary of the Hebrew language. The resurrection of Hebrew raises urgent questions about the role language plays in Jewish survival, questions that lead Stavans not merely into the roots of modern Hebrew but into the origins of Israel itself. All the tensions between the Diaspora and the idea of a promised land pulse beneath the surface of Stavans's story, which is a fascinating biography as well as a moving personal journey.

From School Library Journal. In this short, poignant, and thoroughly engaging memoir, Amherst professor and Latin American literary studies scholar Stavans takes us on his own personal journey to understand the reemergence of Hebrew as a vital and necessary step in his own intellectual and emotional development, as well as an important milestone in the origins of the modern state of Israel. His journey is also a quest to understand better the secularist Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, who at the end of the 19th century sought to revive Hebrew, engaging in a "linguistic resurrection." Stavans's intellectual journey parallels his search for concrete traces of Ben-Yehuda in Israel, ending with a visit to his gravestone. This personal memoir is supplemented with an informative acknowledgments section that will enable readers to find the sources for Stavans's immense knowledge of Ben-Yehuda's life and the history and development of Hebrew, Zionism, and the interrelationships with other languages and cultures. While an index of terms and names would have been helpful, the abbreviated chronology is a welcome addition. Recommended. Herbert E. Shapiro, Empire State Coll. of the State Univ. of New York, Rochester. Copyright Reed Business Information, a

division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist This is the eleventh book in the Jewish Encounters series, and 18 more are forthcoming. Stavans, a Mexican Jew, posits that he needed to gain some perspective on the development of Hebrew as an ancient language. His book is both a history of the language and of Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, who worked to revive the language at the end of the nineteenth century. Stavans reveals that he realized his search for Hebrew was for something more multifarious than a language. It was an existential condition, a way of being, of establishing contact, with others, with God, and with myself. His book is both personal journey and a biography of Ben-Yehuda. --George Cohen "Resurrecting Hebrew is exciting and penetrating. This story will be read with deep interest by all those who are fascinated by the renaissance of an ancient language." --Elie Wiesel "Ilan Stavans's personal search to discover his relationship with Hebrew leads him to explore the unlikely quest of Eliezer Ben-Yehuda to revive the language of the Bible, a language not spoken outside of the synagogue for two thousand years, as a spoken language. This quixotic, Borgesian undertaking, as unlikely as reviving Latin as the language of everyday Italians, somehow miraculously succeeded. Resurrecting Hebrew reveals, in a fascinating and informative way, how this impossibility became a reality. Written with commendable clarity and vitality, it is a brief, unforgettable masterpiece." --Howard Schwartz, author of *Tree of Souls: The Mythology of Judaism* "There are fewer than eight thousand distinct words in the Hebrew Bible, yet a lone zealot and ragged refugees from every corner of the globe transformed the ancient Jewish tongue into the spoken language of millions. It is a story too fantastic for fiction, and Ilan Stavans tells it with erudition, charm, and a barely contained sense of astonishment." --Aaron Lansky, president, National Yiddish Book Center and author of *Outwitting History*