

## A Few Parting Comments

---

I wrote this book because it seems to me that far too often nowadays, Jews and Judaism are two ships passing in the night. This is a shame and need not be the case. Based on what I have learned about Jews and Judaism while working on this book, there is a lot of potential for connection.

I say this because I believe the three main benefits Judaism offers are the same three things most Jews (and all people, for that matter) seem to be looking for in their lives. Specifically, I am referring to ethical guidance, spiritual satisfaction, and a sense of belonging. Now that you have read this book, I hope you can see that there are a lot of meaningful ways to “get more out of being Jewish.”

### Now What?

As I have stated from the outset, the intent of this book is not to convince you to adopt any level of practice or affiliation. This book is meant to be a “Judaism appetizer” that is intriguing enough for you to want to taste more.

If it has whetted your appetite, please consider one or more of the following user-friendly next steps. Your first reaction to some of them could be “no way.” Still, I suggest you look into them anyway—you may be pleasantly surprised.

1. **Sample any of the items** listed in the bibliography at the end of the last chapter.
2. **Ask questions** about Judaism! You can start by simply having a dialogue with friends and relatives. Ask people who are knowledgeable—they do not have to be rabbis.
3. At the same time, don’t be afraid to **ask a local rabbi** if he or she would candidly talk to you about their notion of God or why they choose

Judaism for themselves — or pick any subject. Also tell them candidly what you think.

4. Share this book with some friends. Then, **get together and talk** about what you thought of each chapter.
5. **Visit [www.BeingJewish.org](http://www.BeingJewish.org)** based on the ESP circles in this book. At this website, you will find columns, articles, and other resources to help you answer one or all three of these questions: How can I be a more **Ethical** person? How can I have a richer Jewish **Spiritual** life? How can I enhance my sense of belonging to the Jewish **People**? I hope you'll spend some time here!
6. **Check out what classes** about Judaism are available at your local Jewish Community Center (JCC), Jewish Federation, college, synagogue, or temple.
7. **Take a trip to Israel!** You cannot visit Israel without getting in touch with being Jewish — whatever that means for you. (Israel is not necessarily a religious experience.) No two people react the same way to Israel — but most come back enriched by the journey.
8. Before bidding you adieu, I offer you the following next step: **Speak up!** In doing the research for this book, I heard from a lot of people who expressed unhappiness with different aspects of Jewish life. If you feel that way as well, I want to encourage you to express yourself constructively — ideally with suggestions on how to improve things.

Share your ideas with people in positions of authority: rabbis, principals, teachers, presidents, executive directors, and board members of Jewish institutions and organizations. If nothing else, send your thoughts in writing to me. Jewish leaders need and deserve to know what you are thinking. If you keep your thoughts to yourself, there is little or no chance that your concerns will be fixed. As the popular 1960s civil rights slogan said, "You are either part of the problem or part of the solution."

## **In Conclusion**

To sum up, I offer a one-sentence answer to the question: Why be Jewish? My response: I think Judaism is good for the world because it is about making people be the best they can be. Of course, the U.S. Army makes a similar claim. Judaism could learn a thing or two about marketing from the Army.




For as I mentioned in the introduction to this book, lately Judaism has found that sales are down in spite of the fact that our R&D department over the last 2,000 years, has produced an excellent product. But don't take my word for it; try some of the choices listed above under "Now What?" I am optimistic that you will be pleased with what you will find while pursuing Judaism.

To me, this book will have been a success if in its pages you have found some ways to establish or reestablish a connection with your Judaism. If you are already involved Jewishly, and this book strengthens your feelings and understanding of Judaism, then to me that, too, is success. Finally, if you work with Jews as a lay or professional leader, my dream would be that this book serve as a door opener that you can use to help others find a connection to Judaism.

In closing, I'd like to say thank you. I care deeply about Judaism and I also realize your time is valuable, so I am very appreciative of your taking the time to read my book. My sincere hope is that in these pages you have found many ways to get more out of Judaism. I also hope our paths will cross again. Please see the last two pages of this book for ways that might happen. Thanks again.

**Rather than  
tear this sheet out,  
please photocopy  
the reverse side,  
or  
JUST CALL:  
1-800-304-9925  
THANK YOU!**

## Order Form

- FAX** Fax orders: Photocopy, fill out and fax this page to 763-542-0171.
-  Telephone orders: **Call toll free 1-800-304-9925** or 763-545-3666. Have your VISA or MasterCard ready.
-  On-line orders: LeoPublish@aol.com or www.BeingJewish.org.
-  Postal orders: Photocopy, fill out and mail this page to Leo & Sons Publishing, 175 Oregon Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55426.

**Please send the following books:**

\_\_\_ copies of *How To Get More Out of Being Jewish Even If...*

Copies	Discount*	Unit Price*	Shipping & Handling*
1-2		\$14.95	\$3.00
3-5	15%	\$12.70	\$6.00
6-10	20%	\$11.95	\$9.00

\*Prices subject to change.

For more than 10 copies, call 1-800-304-9925 for volume discounts.

Sales tax: Please add 6.5% sales tax for orders shipped to Minnesota addresses.

I would like information about other books and material by Gil Mann.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Total

**Please send the books to:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Day Telephone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment:**

Check – mail order only



Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

**Call toll free and order now: 1-800-304-9925**

Gil Mann  
c/o Leo & Sons Publishing  
175 Oregon Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55426  
Fax: 763-542-0171  
E-Mail: MannGil@aol.com  
Website: [www.BeingJewish.org](http://www.BeingJewish.org)

Dear Reader:

As I mentioned in the introduction, the response to this book since it was first published in 1996 has been so positive that a series of developments have occurred. They give me the opportunity to stay in touch with readers and I want to invite you to take advantage of these developments.

The easiest way for us to stay in touch is via the website I created called [www.BeingJewish.org](http://www.BeingJewish.org). Please check out the website and feel free to send in your emails!

The email I have received since this book was published, has been so compelling that I began selecting one per week and responding publicly in a column that has been syndicated to Jewish papers all over North America and on Jewish websites. The column is called Jewish Email or Email of the Week. If you go to [www.BeingJewish.org](http://www.BeingJewish.org) and click on Email of the Week you can read these columns and also send in your comments.

Additionally, I have started publishing a magazine called *Being Jewish...Relevant Judaism for Modern Life*. On the last page of this book is information about getting a free copy of *Being Jewish Magazine*.

I welcome your visits and even more, your emails about this book or any Jewish issue or experience you care to share.

Finally, I have written a new book featuring the best of the thousands of emails people have sent to me. Based on feedback I have heard, this second book is both enjoyable and helpful to readers. I hope you'll agree. To order the book or learn more, please go to [www.BeingJewish.org](http://www.BeingJewish.org) or call 1-800-304-9925.

I look forward to crossing paths with you again soon!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gil Mann', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gil Mann

If you liked this book, you'll love:

[www.BeingJewish.org](http://www.BeingJewish.org)

&

**Being Jewish Magazine... Relevant Judaism for Modern Life!**



— Published by  
Gil Mann

The website and magazine are as readable as *Reader's Digest*, only more user friendly! You will find them filled with relevant, enjoyable and valuable information and inspiration about the Jewish way of life.

Gil has taken the ESP circles introduced in his book to select and organize the magazine and website. All the content is designed to help you look at your modern life and our ancient tradition and answer one or all three of these questions:

- E** — How can I be a more Ethical person?
- S** — How can I have a richer Jewish Spiritual life?
- P** — How can I enhance my sense of belonging to the Jewish People?



Every article is carefully selected and edited so that all concepts are easily understood even by those of use who left the synagogue as teenagers and did not return for 20 years or more!

*Being Jewish Magazine* and [www.BeingJewish.org](http://www.BeingJewish.org) will show you ways to access each of the ESP circles and where they overlap, so that in your modern life, you can more fully enjoy the wisdom and beauty of *Being Jewish!*

**For a free copy of *Being Jewish Magazine*, send a self addressed 9"x12" envelope affixed with 55¢ postage to:**

***Being Jewish*  
175 Oregon Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55426**