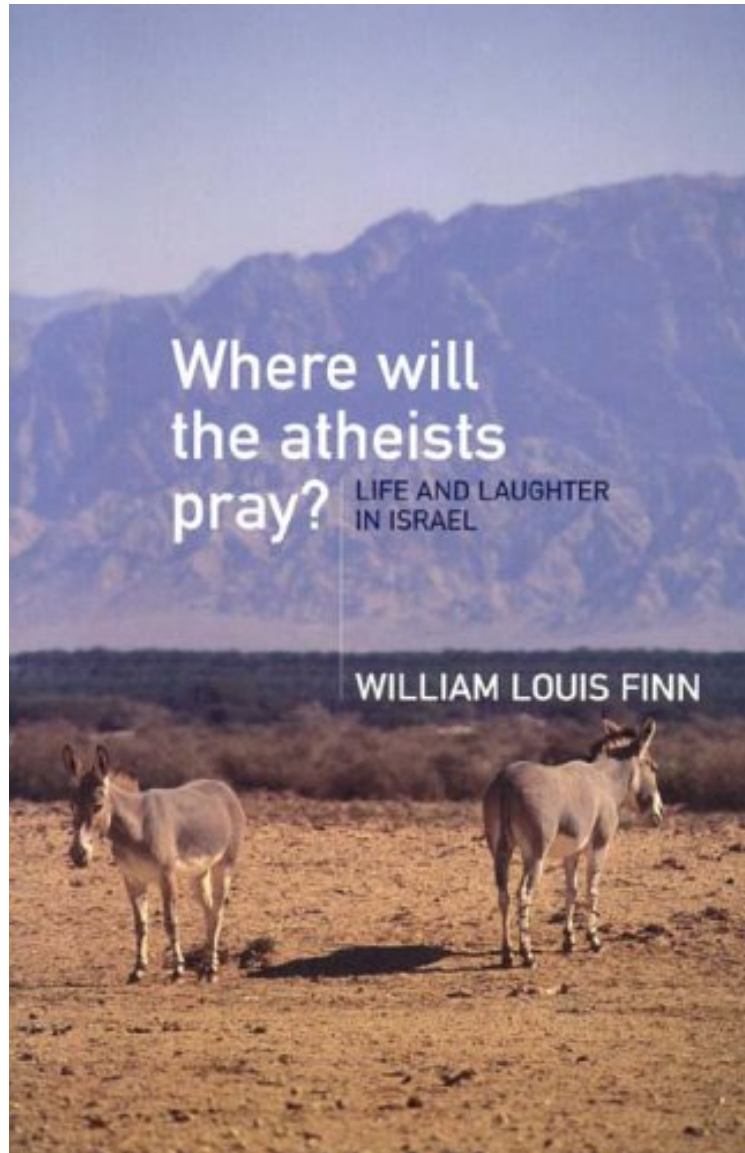


[Free] Where Will the Atheists Pray?: Life and Laughter in Israel

Where Will the Atheists Pray?: Life and Laughter in Israel

William Finn

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#4217037 in Books Ruder-Finn Press 2005-06-20 Original language: English 9.48 x .68 x 6.841, 1.05 #File Name: 193264606X176 pages | File size: 53.Mb

William Finn : Where Will the Atheists Pray?: Life and Laughter in Israel before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Where Will the Atheists Pray?: Life and Laughter in Israel:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Quest for Spiritual and National Identity -- With Humor! By Jeremy G. Butler I am not a religious person, or Jewish, for that matter, or well schooled in Middle-Eastern politics. I did not think a book on these topics would appeal to me. I was wrong. William Finn does write about Large Issues and Major Events (e.g., the assassination of Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin in 1995), but he succeeds in

personalizing those issues and events. And, most importantly, he manages to keep his sense of humor and his passion for peace in a region of the world not known for either quality. An American Jew raised in 1960s suburbia and spiritualized through 1980s Jewish Renewal, Finn's account of his six years in Israel begins before he moved there and ends after he returned to the U.S. It is essentially a story of expatriation and repatriation -- even of an exodus or pilgrimage -- that vividly details the places, incidents, and people that most surprised him during his time in the Middle East. Finn's journey of self-discovery and his quest for a spiritual and national identity are quite touching at points. The lessons they teach are important ones for all of us -- especially us baby boomers who are still struggling to find a spiritual compass.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. *Science of survival* By Colette Schulmann

My family lived in what is now the land of Israel for five generations. I have made numerous trips to this country. My time there has totaled about three and a half years. Although they will not tell you that (Israelis do not like to act dramatic, at least not in front of strangers), the law in the land of Israel is very simple: Plain Survival. But the science of survival there is made of a great part of sweet and sour humor, and this is what Bill Finn has captured during his years in this beleaguered and tiny country. Each anecdote is recounted with a dose of salt and pepper, gudgingly covering the writer's love and admiration for the Israelis' resiliency-coupled with a necessary dose of fatalism-for a nation having known in its 57 years of existence, four wars and incessant and almost daily terrorist attacks in between. People who have been to Israel will smile and maybe shed a tear; those who have not will be surprised, touched, and will want to know more.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. *There and Back Again* By Reuven Goldfarb

Bill Finn's is a voice like no other, at once refreshingly mordant and bitingly satirical as he probes the conflicts, contradictions, and idiosyncrasies of life in Israel. Not beholden to any political or religious ideology, Bill is a principled skeptic, waiting to be convinced, yet mesmerized by the twists and turns of the Israeli psyche. A citizen of two worlds, Bill's askew Zionism distinguishes him from every other writer who has sought to encompass this elusive subject. For the record, this commentator is an American-born Jewish writer based in Tzfat, in the Upper Galilee region of northern Israel. I've known Bill for 25 years and have shared a few adventures with him. We see things differently, but I admire his pertinacity and resiliency.

Bill Finn and his wife, Linda, spent six years living in Israel before returning to the U.S. with suitcases full of adventures that make up the tapestry of life in that ancient land. The book is cohesive, insightful and timely, and all his many experiences, told with a wonderful sense of humor