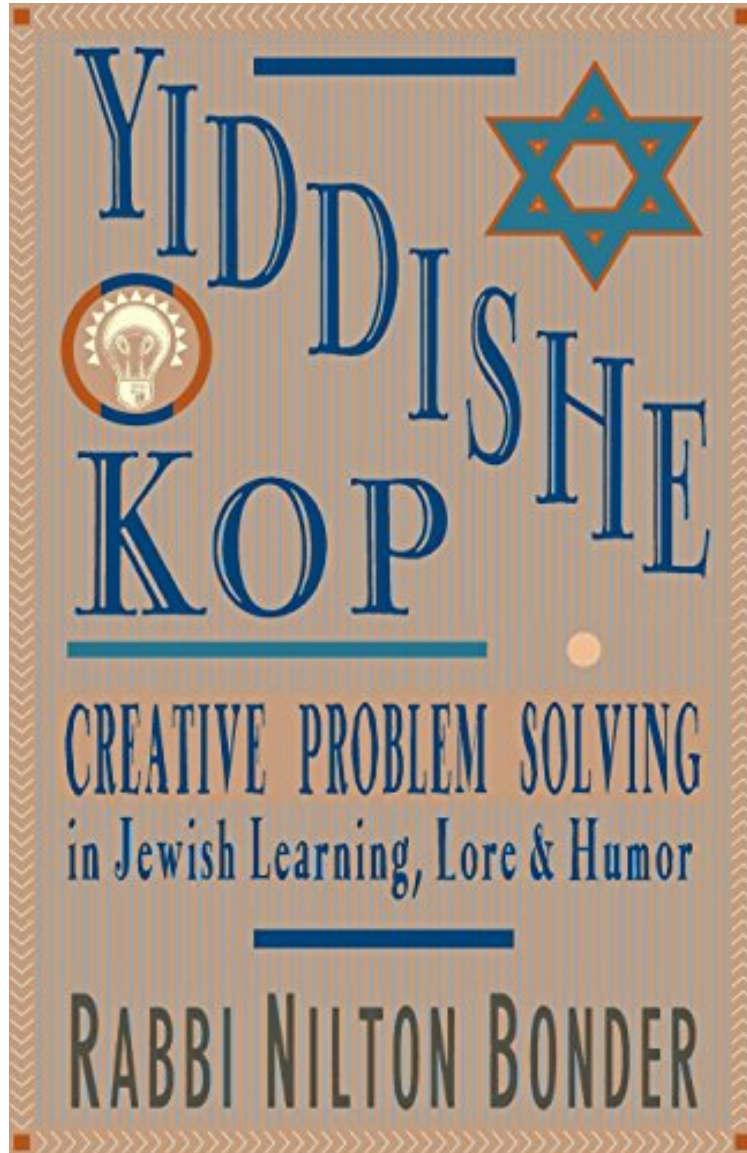


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# Yiddishe Kop: Creative Problem Solving in Jewish Learning, Lore and Humor

*Nilton Bonder*

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1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. not for the literalBy JCCaitI've learned a fair amount of Kabbalah,

usually from others who have learned more of it, rarely from writings about it. This book is not for the literal, not for those who don't 'get' poetry or metaphor, not for those who resist metaphysical reality. It IS for those open to metaphorical and metaphysical realities, for those who want to 'see' more of reality than the literal obvious, for those who are willing to think 'outside the box.' There is as much learning of Kabbalah from any of Rabbi Norton's writings as there is from much in-person learning with a master, if the reader is open to it, ready for it, and willing to let it in. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. "The Kabbalah of Money" is much better (5 stars)By Kiva Y ShtullHis other book, "The Kabbalah of Money" is much better (5 stars).0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. One StarBy Richard E. Marksboring, technical, hard to read

The Jews are known for their intuitive genius in getting out of a pickle. With their long history of persecution, they've developed a knack for escaping seemingly hopeless predicaments: when your back is against the wall, you learn to think fast. Centuries of reasoning and interpreting the Holy Scriptures have also contributed to the Jews' skill in solving the most puzzling problems. This astute way of thinking is known in Yiddish as yiddishe kop , literally "Jewish head." Through Jewish humor, folklore, and tales of the great rabbis, Rabbi Nilton Bonder presents the basic principles of this creative approach to thinking, which sees beyond appearances to the hidden truth of any problem. Once these are mastered, they may in turn be applied to many "impossible" situations that arise in business and in life. The book focuses on four levels of solving a problem: 1. On the level of Information, we approach problems literally, in response to the obvious and the concrete. 2. On the level of Understanding, we obtain concealed information through techniques such as questioning, reframing, and emptying the mind. 3. On the level of Wisdom, we access the world of intuition, where a "fool" can achieve the impossible by relying on feelings, premonitions, dreams, and coincidences. 4. On the level of Reverence, we discover the hidden Reality behind appearances. This is the realm of those who dare to take risks, make commitments, and learn from mistakes, who act out of their living experience without relying solely on reason and conceptual thinking.

From Library JournalA rabbi and graduate of the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, Bonder offers an intriguing glimpse into what he views as the Jewish tradition of life: negotiating information, understanding, wisdom, and reverence in order to use both faith in God and daily experience to live life with insight and closeness to God. Bonder's revisitation of the mystical awareness of the Talmud and the teachings of the rabbis should prove popular with spiritual seekers and devout Jews alike. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Rabbi Bonder's Hasidic stories enable us to experience the joy of seeing beyond appearances to the hidden reality of the Universe. Yiddishe Kop is a wonderful primer on fostering the art of intuition and creative problem solving."— Spirituality Health "Bonder offers an intriguing glimpse into what he views as the Jewish tradition of life: negotiating information, understanding, wisdom, and reverence in order to use both faith in God and daily experience to live life with insight and closeness to God."— Library Journal About the AuthorRabbi Nilton Bonder was born in Brazil and ordained at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. He leads workshops on spirituality in management for such corporations as IBM, the Brazilian Oil Company, and the Federation of Industries of Sao Paulo. Rabbi Bonder is known in Brazil as the Green Rabbi for his activism in environmental causes. He also serves as president of the Institute for Religious Studies, the largest forum for civil rights activities in Latin America. Rabbi Bonder is the author of eight books, several of them best-sellers in Brazil.