

Gershon Winkler is a widely recognized scholar in the fields of Jewish mysticism, theology, law, and lore. He has published thirteen books since 1980, four of which have seen several printings, and two of which were banned by the Orthodox rabbinate.

Gershon was born in Copenhagen, Denmark, and educated in Orthodox Jewish communities both in the United States and Israel. Initiated in Jerusalem by the late Rabbi Eliezer Benseon, Founder and Dean of Yeshivat Bet Yosef-Novoredok (seminary), Rabbi Winkler is a charismatic teacher whose lifestyle is as unconventional as is his mindset. For the past twenty-three years he has lived exclusively in very remote wilderness regions across the U.S., often augmenting his work as an itinerant rabbi and writer with stints as a farm hand. His peculiar lifestyle has taken him through intriguing episodes of spiritual dissolution and re-emergence, out of which he has brought ever-fresh and pragmatic perspectives from the ancient wisdom of his people that for over a decade have won the hearts of interdenominational audiences across North America, Israel, and Europe. His non-mainstream exploits have won him media recognition, including a Front Page feature in the *Wall Street Journal*, a segment on the PBS series *Religion and Ethics Newsweekly*, and detailed coverage in Israel's *Ha'aretz*, *Chayyim Acherim Magazine*, and *The Jerusalem Post*.

As a circuit-riding rabbi, Gershon has served rural Jewish communities across West Virginia, including as Hillel director for West Virginia State University and itinerant chaplain for Federal Prison Camps in Morgantown and Alderson. Currently, he serves the Jewish communities of Durango, Colorado, and Missoula, Montana, and periodically as Visiting Chaplain throughout the Colorado state prison system. He also teaches regular monthly Kabbalah seminars in Santa Fe and Albuquerque, New Mexico, and is a regular presenter at Elat Chayim Jewish Retreat Center in upstate New York, the New York Open Center in New York City, and is on the faculty of Chochmat Halev Center For Jewish Meditation in Berkeley, Academy of Jewish Religion in Los Angeles, and the California Institute for Integral Studies. His Walking Stick Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the recovery and preservation of indigenous spirituality. Rabbi Winkler resides with his family in the remote region of the San Miguel Mountains of northwestern New Mexico.

What they say about Gershon Winkler:

"A stand-up routine worthy of Jerry Seinfeld."
-- *Roanoke Times*, Roanoke, Virginia (December 13, 2001)

"A stand-up theologian."
-- *Tallahassee Democrat* (September 29, 2001)

"An excellent student of his own teachings... He treats everyone with a genuine openness, great love, and a rich sense of humor."
-- *Missoula Independent*, Missoula, Montana (September 13, 2001)

"His mastery of Hebrew and Aramaic sacred texts is matched only by an outrageous, reverently irreverent sense of humor..."

-- *Four Corners Magazine* (Aug-Sept 2001)

"Combines the wit of actor Robin Williams with the wisdom of the Ba'al Shem Tov."

-- *The Jerusalem Post* (May 25, 2001)

"Resembles the famed brazen trickster of folklore... A mischievous maverick of modern Judaism... Funny and provocative... Down-to-earth, warm and gregarious..."

-- *Intermountain Jewish News*,
Denver, Colorado (February 19, 1999)

"There's an old Native American saying: 'If it doesn't grow corn, what good is it?'
Gershon Winkler grows corn."

-- David Carson, Choctaw Elder, co-author of *Medicine Cards:
The Discovery of Power Through the Ways of Animals*

"Travels an unusual path." -- *The Wall Street Journal* (July 20, 1992)

Books by Gershon Winkler

Travels With the Evil Inclination

Humor; Autobiographical: 224 pp. (North Atlantic Books)

Magic of the Ordinary: Recovering the Shamanic in Judaism

Jewish mysticism: 280 pp. (North Atlantic Books, 2003)

The Way of the Boundary Crosser: An Introduction to Jewish Flexidoxy

Jewish theology: 290 pp. (Jason Aronson Publishers, 1998)

Sacred Secrets: The Sanctity of Sex in Jewish Law and Lore

Jewish theology: 152 pp. (Jason Aronson Publishers, 1998)

The Place Where You Are Standing is Holy:

A Jewish Theology of Human Relationship

Jewish philosophy/psychology: 225 pp. (Jason Aronson Publishers, 1995
and 1998)

They Called Her Rebbe: The Maiden of Ludomir

Historical novel: 235 pp. (Judaica Press, 1990 and 1992)

The Sacred Stones: Return of the Golem

Mystical novel: 220 pp. (Judaica Press, 1991)

The Secret of Sambatyon

Juvenile adventure novel: 128 pp. (Judaica Press, 1987)

*The Soul of the Matter: The Journey of the Soul Before, During,
And After Life*

Jewish philosophy and mysticism: 85 pp. (Judaica Press, 1982 and 1992)

Dybbuk

Jewish folklore and occult: 372 pp. (Judaica Press, 1981, 1982, and 1994)

The Hostage Torah

Juvenile adventure novel: 128 pp. (Judaica Press, 1981)

The Golem of Prague

Jewish folklore and occult: 368 pp. (Judaica Press, 1980, 1981, and 1994)