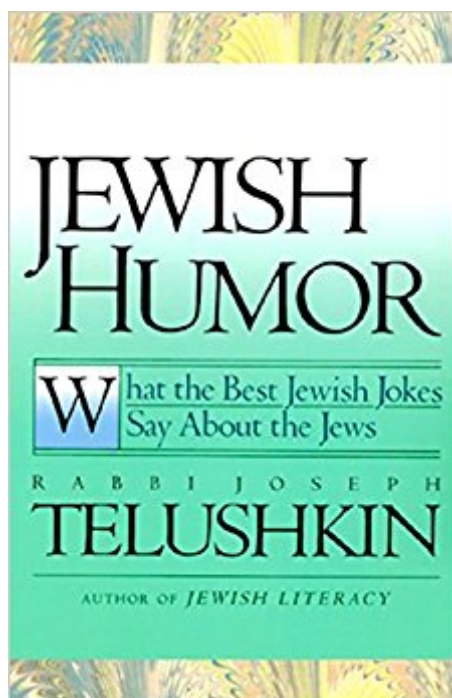


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# Jewish Humor: What The Best Jewish Jokes Say About The Jews



## Synopsis

Here are more than 100 of the best Jewish jokes you'll ever hear, interspersed with perceptive and persuasive insight into what they can tell us about how Jews see themselves, their families, and their friends, and what they think about money, sex, and success. Rabbi Joseph Telushkin is as celebrated for his wit as for his scholarship, and in this immensely entertaining book, he displays both in equal measure. Stimulating, something stinging, and always very, very funny, Jewish Humor offers a classic portrait of the Jewish collective unconscious.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Rabbi Telushkin (*An Eye for an Eye*, 1991), rooted in the tradition of reverence for past learning, has gathered lots of hoary jokes and aged wisecracks, together with a few more recent japes, that make Jews laugh. To coreligionists, they'll seem like old friends; to others, the gags and their elucidation may be more in the nature of revelation. Another book of ethnic gags? Hold the cry of "gevalt!" because Telushkin has an unstated agenda. True to his calling, he uses the funny stuff to instruct. In this collection (in which some bits are, naturally, funnier than others), everything stands for something else--but all of it carries explanations. The exegesis of the jokes becomes a little primer on a religion and a way of life mystifying to strangers and sometimes just as puzzling to nominal adherents. It's a truism that Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle applies to humor--observing and analyzing it alters it. That effect can be seen here as Telushkin trots out Jackie Mason and Sigmund Freud, as well as Leo Rosten and a host of Unknown Comics for a higher purpose. The tales of the wise rabbis, the fabled fools of Chelm, the anti-Semites, the schnorrers, and the big

shots all serve to illustrate his lessons. Was the shtetl a forerunner of Catskills on Broadway? Why are comedians so often Jewish? Why are Jews so often comedians? Why ask questions? Just listen to the rabbi and his jokes. Fine, funny fare for Jew and non-Jew alike. -- Copyright ©1992, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Joseph Telushkin is a rabbi, scholar, and bestselling author of eighteen books, among them *A Code of Jewish Ethics* and *Words That Hurt, Words That Heal*. His book *Jewish Literacy* is the widest-selling work on the topic of Judaism. He lives with his wife, Dvorah, in New York City, and lectures regularly throughout the United States.

The seller asked me for a review of this book on historical Jewish comedy, It is an excellent compilation of stories and their analysis by the famous Rabbi Telushkin. It's funny for everyone, not just for Jewish people. I wholeheartedly give it 5 stars. It's difficult to put down once you've started (and the author chose the great Moose and Moskowitz Woody Allen story as one of the most representative of the multiple level jokes).

Knowing the author, I would expect nothing less.

Some good laughs.

Wonderful stories written in a very entertaining manner. Gave me some insight into how Jewish humor developed. It is something you can read in sections= and you should. So that you can absorb the concepts behind the humor.

An older book of Telushkins--a good perspective of humor through the 80's.

Funny, smart and witty. Great book for those who wish to know and understand Jewish Humor.

Very informative for the atheist gentile.

The kind of humor usually found in this language is subtle, full of self deprecation and irony can make one smile belatedly. It makes it's point after a moment's hesitation. And, never uses

unpleasant language. Humor is an indication of the culture it represents.

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