



Aegis Press

P.O. Box 3023
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Del Mar, California
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92014
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Moses the Heretic

Daniel Spiro

“This is a deeply philosophical and perfectly paced gripping novel. Like all great works of art, and indeed like its main character, Rabbi Moses Levine, it will mean different things to different people; it will at once entertain and challenge, please and infuriate, excite and annoy, comfort and at times anger. But, Rabbi Levine’s struggles with the twin evils of apathy and dogmatism will resonate with every person of principle who cares about the fate of humanity. For me, as a Muslim, this novel struck a powerful and compelling chord. The parallels between the Jewish concept of *tikkun olam* and the Muslim *ta’aruf* and *islah* were eye-opening. Rabbi Levine’s pursuit of *hikma* (wisdom), empathy, humility and beauty in all aspects of life embody the very principles that are supposed to guide the life of faithful Muslims. Whether one ultimately agrees with Rabbi Levine’s choices and actions or not, if there is any wisdom in this world, the Rabbi will become famous with millions of readers from every faith all around the world.”

—Khaled Abou El Fadl, Professor of Law, UCLA

author of *Confession of the Books: The Search for Beauty in Islam*

“An extraordinary treatment of a Biblical hero imagined into contemporary times saying those things that need to be said even when they confuse, irritate or enrage the listeners. Readers will alternately respect Moses Levine, wish he would curb his excesses, wonder why he won’t say exactly what they want him to, curse him for being too human and then respect him again for opening a way to tolerance, understanding, and peaceful coexistence. Speaks truth to confront the religious struggles and divides of our time.

—Ruth W. Messenger, President *American Jewish World Service*

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“Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav sang, ‘The whole world is a narrow bridge but the main thing is not to be afraid.’ Daniel Spiro’s novel is a bridge of courage and hope in a frightened and dispirited world. It is a novel of heart, mind and spine.”

—Rabbi Harold Schulweis, author of *Evil and the Morality of God* and *For Those Who Can’t Believe*

“Like the Biblical Moses who led his people to the Promised Land, Daniel Spiro’s *Moses* offers us a vision of a Promised Land. This land is not found on a map, but in the hearts and minds of those who live as captives to fear and hate. This land offers the world the ‘milk and honey’ of respect, acceptance and peace. There will always be those who say that this is a dangerous journey. They will tell us that we are better off where we are, bound by history and ignorance, and that to reach out to each other in trust and hope is too risky. I hope and pray that this astonishing and deeply honest book will be the trumpet call to all who are caught up in the tragedy of the war between the children of Abraham, leading us, as sisters and brothers, to take the first bold steps that will lead this region to true peace.”

—Reverend Christine Brownlie, Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Blacksburg, VA

“Adventurous and daring, Daniel Spiro’s novel challenges our understanding of the Middle East and gets to the core of the region’s tragedy as nonfiction so rarely does. His modern Moses is comic and heartbreaking, much like the real peace process on which this insightful novel provides such sorrowful commentary.”

—Matt Beynon Rees, author of *A Grave in Gaza*

“In *Moses the Heretic*, Daniel Spiro has created a fascinating journey about the life of a contemporary prophet. As lucid as it is thought-provoking, and as poignant as it is provocative, *Moses the Heretic* is a brilliant novel of ideas. This book entertains and enlightens from start to finish, and yet ultimately, it has but one message: that each of us must pursue peace with a passion. I can think of no better summary of Jewish philosophy than that.”

—Douglas Stone, author of *Difficult Conversations* and former Associate Director of the Harvard Negotiation Project

“A smart, audacious and entertaining book that re-imagines the biblical Moses in the modern world --- deeply rooted in scripture, full of compassion and insight, and yet hard-wired to today’s headlines”

—Jonathan Kirsch, author of *Moses, A Life* and *The Grand Inquisitor’s Manual*

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