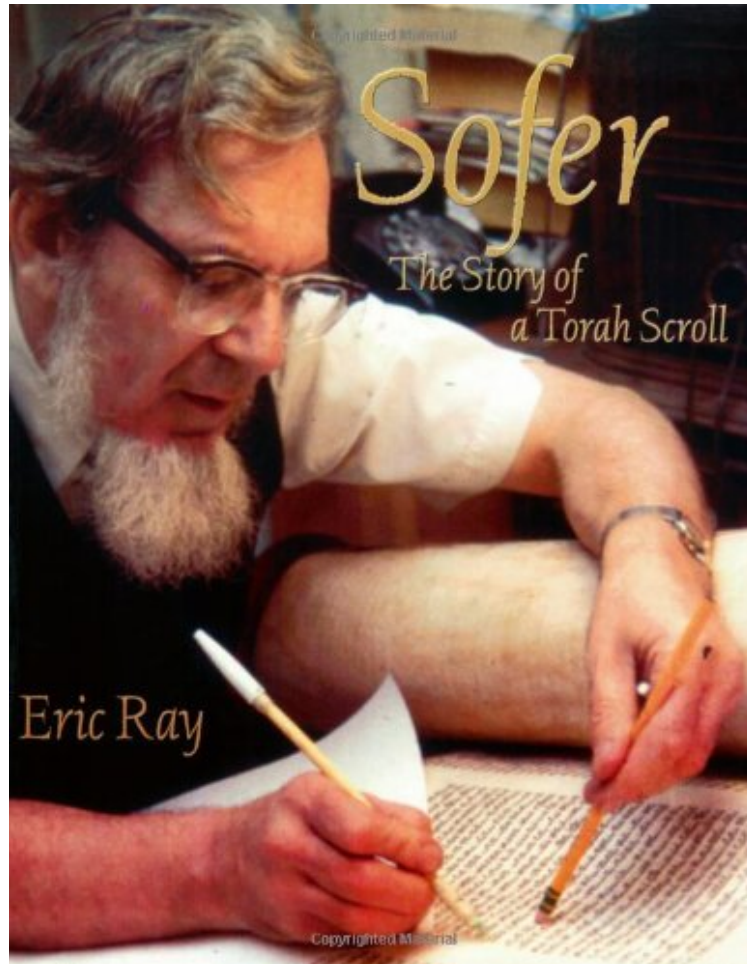


(Ebook free) Sofer: The Story of a Torah Scroll

Sofer: The Story of a Torah Scroll

Eric Ray

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Eric Ray : Sofer: The Story of a Torah Scroll before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sofer: The Story of a Torah Scroll:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Children's InspirationBy NapoleonOfTheNowSofer - The Story of a Torah Scroll is a nice children's book. When children are young you want to read them stories about public heros like firefighters or doctors so their lives emulate noble people. This book is for the Jewish child, to inspire him to learn Hebrew and fulfill the mitzvot of writing a Torah scroll. It is full of pictures and describes the daily ritual of the sofer, Eric Ray. Sadly some of the pictures in my copy are discolored, I hope yours will be better.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. awesome bookBy ysyn bat yosefthank you to Sofer Eric Ray! is a precious book it explains many things easily and clear and with color pictures of it.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy nyc43Great!

Writing a Torah takes love and patience, knowledge and skill. Eric Ray is a gentle, wise man, a skilled artist, and a learned Jew. In this read-aloud text and photo essay, both his craft and his passion are shared. Sitting by Eric's side, we learn how a sofer makes mezuzot, tefillin, and the sefer Torah; and we learn to love the Torah a little bit more. Also available: Easy Guide to Shofar Sounding - ISBN 1891662228 Hebrew Reading Adventure - ISBN 1891662740 Torah Aura Productions publishes books for Jewish schools and families that help celebrate our heritage and our faith. We have over 25 years of experience as the leading creator of high quality educational materials that enable Jewish children to become empowered Jewish adults. Our books guide and enhance the Jewish knowledge, spirituality and identity of children and their families, and our innovative tools bring Judaism alive in synagogues, Hebrew schools, and day schools. Torah Aura Productions was founded in 1981 by a group of innovative Jewish educators who looked out at the field of Jewish education and found materials that were shallow and dull. They started a company to create new tools for families and teachers that would be exciting and meaningful. For more than two decades, Torah Aura has revolutionized the way Jewish schools enable their students to become empowered Jewish adults, and has helped families make Judaism a meaningful presence in their homes. Some of the areas we publish in:- Torah and Bible- Talmud- Jewish teaching- Jewish parenting- Jewish ethics and values- Jewish holidays- the Jewish lifecycle- Israel- Hebrew- Jewish prayer Torah Aura Productions: Making success in Jewish education an achievable reality.

From the Publisher Ritual objects provide windows into the soul of a people. Jewish tradition views the making of such items—specifically those that contain the words of God—as a holy act. Unfortunately, the tradition of the Hebrew scribe, or sofer, has historically been accessible to only a few, highly trained people. *Sofer: The Story of a Torah Scroll* (Torah Aura Productions, 0-933873-98-0, 32 pages, December 1998) reveals the mystery and beauty of this 3,000-year-old art to all readers, young and old alike—even those who have never before seen a Hebrew letter. Author and master scribe Eric Ray begins with an introduction to the 22 Hebrew letterforms, exploring some of their mystical associations and connections. He then delves into the meaningful intricacies of creating Judaism's holiest objects—mezuzot (from the Hebrew meaning "doorposts"), tefillin (phylacteries) and the sefer Torah, or Torah scroll, which contains the Five Books of Moses. Readers learn about the historical development and symbolism of Jewish ritual objects; the materials and techniques used by sofrim (plural of sofer); a recipe for kosher ink; and much more. *Sofer: The Story of a Torah Scroll* brims with the author's own spiritual insights into the sofer's ancient and revered art—a true "labor of love." Ray's own life experiences demonstrate the power of letters and words in modern as well as ancient times. During the Holocaust Ray forged papers to help Jews escape from concentration camps. He later used his talents to create some of the first maps for the State of Israel. Through both outwardly heroic acts—such as saving Jews from death under the Nazis—and everyday accomplishments such as recording the laws and history of the Jewish people, the sofer truly takes part in working to create a better world. Originally published in 1985 with black and white photographs, *SOFER: THE STORY OF A TORAH SCROLL* now features rich, full-color photos. Through this virtual journey into an art form that has helped sustain the Jewish people for hundreds of generations, curious minds learn to love the Torah and other holy objects a little bit more.

From the Back Cover Being a sofer is very special. For more than 3,000 years Jewish artists have struggled with quills, inks and parchments. They have used their skills to keep the chain of Torah alive. The Torah is the book that holds the wisdom of the Jewish people. It is our history. It is the story of the journey toward a better world. It is the record of the laws and values by which we live. The writing of the Sefer Torah must be done by a dedicated Jew who loves the Torah. No machine can do the work I do, because a Sefer Torah can be made only by human hands. I really love being a sofer s'tam.

About the Author Dr. Eric F. L. Ray, Rabbi and Master Scribe, was born in London, England in 1926. He is internationally known as an authority on Jewish art, illuminated Hebrew manuscripts, synagogal architecture and ancient Hebrew scripts. He earned his bachelor's degree in England from the St. Martin's School of Art, as well as a master's degree in Art History and a doctorate in Symbolism in the Arts of Ancient Religion, both from the London College of Applied Science at London University. Dr. Ray's life has been heavily influenced by his military service in the Household Cavalry, which guarded the Palace in World War II. He was then transferred to the Admiralty's Maps and Charts Department of the Royal Navy. After the war, he became involved in the Aliyah Bet program of the European Jewish Underground and was smuggled into Dachau to use his calligraphic and artistic skills to get sick survivors into France and displaced persons out of the camps. During Israel's War of Independence, Dr. Ray served in the Haganah and, later, started a map department for all of Israel's military services under the auspices of the Chel HaYam, the Israeli Navy. Dr. Ray served as the Director of Visual Arts at the University of Judaism in Los Angeles for 25 years before moving to New York, where he has lived and worked since 1978. He has been featured in many publications, and his work is displayed in the White House, the Israeli Knesset and in many private collections and museums.