



נר לאלף Ner LeElef

Beit HadeFus 11 Givat Shaul
Tel: 02-654-0822 Fax: 02-653-6229 Email: Nerlelef@netvision.net.il

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Mrs. Miriam Kosman's book, *Circle, Arrow, Spiral: Exploring Gender in Judaism* sets a new standard for Torah-writing in English. Almost every paragraph seems to astonish with new insights, all crafted into a whole tapestry which emerges at the end. Mrs. Kosman provides a most delicious feast of sources to back up all that she says, and presents her work at a level of writing rarely achieved in Torah books.

Circle, Arrow, Spiral: Exploring Gender in Judaism is not a quick and easy read only because it is profound; but anyone who sets to read and re-reread this work will walk away truly enriched. The book checks out at every level. It is true to life in that its carefully selected contemporary examples flow out of the paradigm Mrs. Kosman provides for us throughout the book. They often startle with a new level of insight into contemporary values contrasted with Torah values. The book builds up to a crescendo that provides a framework to interpret the changes in status to women in the contemporary world. Far from being a clash with our God-given values, Mrs. Kosman shows how this very phenomena is part of the Divine plan, a pre-Messianic surge of female values and sensitivities which is just what we need at this unusual stage of our history. Mrs. Kosman excoriates the Western application of this opportunity, while showing how the phenomenon itself provides us with previously hidden sources of spiritual power, so necessary at the end of days.

Some books are read like magazines - they entertain us on a Shabbos afternoon as we lie with one eye open on the sofa. Here is a book which is a serious read. It will provide a cascade of insights, woven into a whole gestalt, true to Torah and true to life. Read, and be educated.

Rabbi Avraham Edelstein
Director, Ner LeElef