

The Moon – Myth and Image by Jules Cashford.
Cassell Illustrated 2004.

The prominence of the moon in Jewish tradition, and particularly its dominance over the religious calendar by which our spiritual lives are conducted makes The Moon essential reading.

Jules Cashford, co-author of the excellent The Myth of the Goddess, makes no pretence to total mastery of every aspect of her subject and honourably and honestly cites the sources for much of her information. Nevertheless she has sensitively and sensibly collected and collated a veritable mass of information about the moon in all its aspects, and its role and mythology in cultures and religions across the world.

This is the sort of book that one could read from cover to cover, use for resource material or just dip in and out of with equal satisfaction. A strong thread running through the book is the feminisation of the moon – a predominant though not universal phenomenon – and much of this material, and more besides, will be of interest to the Rosh Chodesh groups which have become quintessential women's gatherings to mark the new moon and the new Hebrew month.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh