

I Will Wake the Dawn – Illuminated Psalms.
Illuminations and Commentary by Debra Band, literary commentary
by Arnold J. Band, foreword by Rabbi Harold S. Kushner.
The Jewish Publication Society 2007.

Although this book has been in print for several years it has not, in my experience, received anything like the publicity and profile it deserves.

Debra Band, an experienced calligrapher and manuscript artist has taken thirty-six of her favourite Psalms and illuminated them around a calligraphed Hebrew and English text. Each Psalm is followed by a printed version of the text in both languages, a brief literary commentary and a commentary on the illuminations.

The quality of Debra Band's work is very high, and the juxtaposition of ancient texts with some quite arresting imagery is immensely powerful.

I Will Wake the Dawn is a beautiful volume that would make a wonderful present for a life cycle celebration, but which is also a bibliophile's delight. It is as satisfying a book to read and study as are the volumes of the St John's Bible, and I can give it no higher praise than that.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh