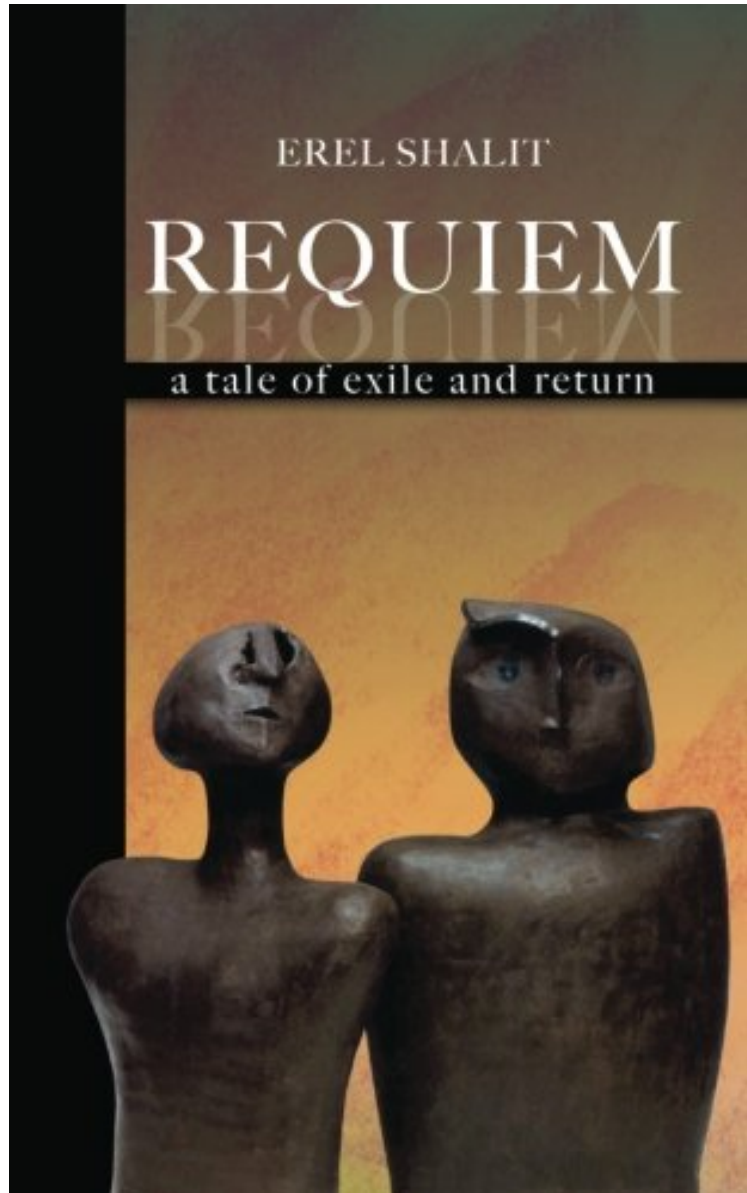


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## Requiem: A Tale of Exile and Return

*Erel Shalit*

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**Erel Shalit : Requiem: A Tale of Exile and Return** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Requiem: A Tale of Exile and Return:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. REQUIEM - The Tone of a MasterpieceBy CustomerFrom the first pages of this book, the tone of a masterpiece emerges powerfully.This book makes us realize that the "Israel problem"

cannot be understood in a journalistic frame of mind. Politics, war, land, culture, and contemporary experience are expressions of the deep core of human life, the core of the human soul. This is an important book for anyone who thinks about "cultural identity" and the love of one's own country and culture. Junko Chodos 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine: Grant them eternal rest, O Lord By Grady Harp The title of this meditative book, *REQUIEM: A Tale of Exile and Return*, seems inappropriate when the reader begins Erel Shalit's story: if these are the thought patterns that are seething through the mind of our narrator Professor Eliezer Shimeoni as he prepares a lecture on the fate of Israel and the fate of the Jews, why then open with a 'Christian' mass for the dead? But then we are reminded that this is yet another work by the author of 'Enemy, Cripple, Beggar: Shadows in the Hero's Path', and his life's work is not only a Jungian Psychoanalyst in Ra'anana, Israel but he is also a man consumed with the great literature and the important writers of the world. He begins this story simply enough as Professor Shimeoni reflects on the history of the Jews post WW II, the formation of the independent home state of Israel and then the gradual failure of that land to maintain. 'That very moment he understood why the passionate longing for home had anchored in the Jewish soul, and why the sense of the soul's exile wandered like a shadow behind every Jew.' He quotes the words of Chaim Potok 'To be a Jew in this century is to understand fully the possibility of the end of mankind, while at the same time believing with certain faith that we will survive.' Shimeoni has faith that the Jews will survive, given the history of the suffering of the Pogrom. 'His belief was that the Jews thrived at the edge of pathology - their individual pathology, but also their collective pathology as a people.' Given his theme for investigation Shimeoni examines an imagined end of Israel and then pastes together his responses to that concept with post-modern thinking. 'He recalled the words of Ben-Gurion, that in Israel, in order to be a realist you must believe in miracles. "Was Israel not the miraculous realization and the triumph of the spirit of life, forever hovering over the primordial abyss?" he said in a loud and clear voice, adjusting the microphone. As the lights were turned on, he emerged from the shadow of catatonia, and began his lecture'. This is from the last paragraph of this novel. But what Erel Shalit has accomplished in this very brief but intoxicating book is to provide a path for each of us to follow, wisely using the plight of the Jews during the last century as a matrix from which to judge our own individual exile and return. He is an accomplished thinker and he is also a very brilliant writer. Grady Harp, May 113 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Slender, Succinct, Superb By Edith Sobel This slim but incisive novella is a philosophical but completely comprehensible take on contemporary Israel. From a "litany of lamentations" drawn from the current generation which appears to be the antithesis of their idealistic founding fathers, the thoughtful narrator Eli Shimeoni (about to give a lecture in New York) recounts his overriding despair - but eventually concludes with hope. Elegantly and thoughtfully mourning today's saga of Israeli disillusion without hope, bitter alienation, and collapse of Zionist ideals, Shimeoni indicts the present movement out of the country for profit and the concomitant surrender of "soul." But relying on the consistency of past Jewish history and the "triumphalism of hope" the reader reluctantly puts the book down - and smiles!

Requiem returns us to an eternal theme, a dialogue with Soul, and we know quite well what happens when one dialogues with Soul - we change, consciousness is enlarged, the impossible becomes possible and we no longer are compelled to blindly follow in the deathly path of our forefathers. Requiem is a fictitious account of a scenario played out in the mind of many Israelis, pertaining to existential reflections and apocalyptic fears, but then, as well, the hope and commitment that arise from the abyss of trepidation. While set in Israel sometime in the present, it is a story that reaches into the timelessness of history, weaving discussions with Heine and Kafka into a tale of universal implications.

Erel Shalit's narrative has a unique, fascinating and powerful style, which touches you strongly. He has a way of leading the reader to grasp complicated historical processes with unusual ease. The story of the second-hand bookshop reminded me of Borges's famous library... In Requiem we are presented with two distinct styles of writing. We find not only the narrator of a story, but also the spiritual and lyrical face of the author. I highly recommend this fascinating and important book. Marcela London, poet, author About the Author Erel Shalit is a Jungian psychoanalyst in Ra'anana, Israel. He is a training and supervising analyst, and past president of the Israel Society of Analytical Psychology. He is the author of several publications, including *Enemy, Cripple, Beggar: Shadows in the Hero's Path*, *The Hero and His Shadow: Psychopolitical Aspects of Myth and Reality in Israel* and *The Complex: Path of Transformation from Archetype to Ego*. Dr. Shalit lectures at professional institutes, universities, and cultural forums in Israel, Europe, and the United States. One of his popular lectures includes Requiem and is the basis for *Requiem: A Tale of Exile and Return*.