

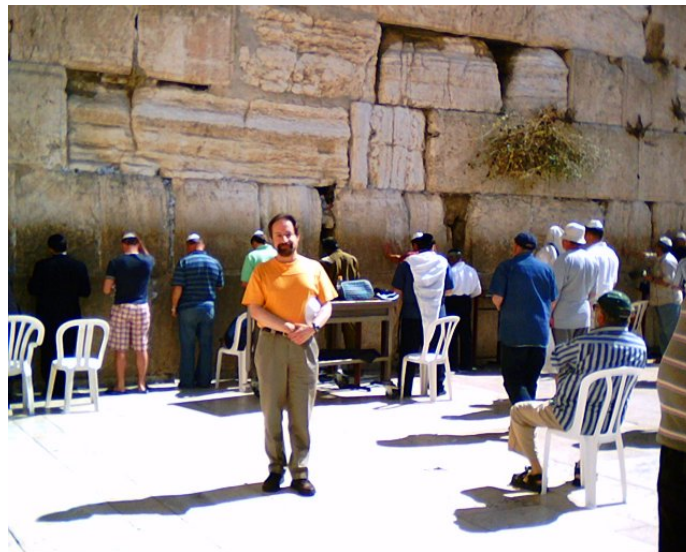
The following text is an excerpt from the book *Jews in Hyperspace* by Clifford A. Pickover. For more information on the complete text, please see www.pickover.com.

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How this Book Came to Be Written

Several years ago, I wrote a book about a mysterious egg falling from the sky, but was never satisfied that I had hit upon the proper setting and motivation. However, after my recent trip to Israel in which I explored the Old City of Jerusalem, the Dead Sea, and the ancient mountain fortress of Masada, I became especially curious about humanity's age-old quest for transcendence through religion, architecture, art, and literature. A passion seized me, and I resolved to understand the ramifications of building the Third Temple in Jerusalem. Some of the major themes in this book gelled while I stood at the Western Wall, portions of which Herod the Great constructed around 19 BCE and that date from the end of the Second Temple period.



I have published nonfiction books in the past on the topic of the fourth dimension. In fact, as I discuss in my Oxford University Press book *Surfing Through Hyperspace*, I know of no subject in mathematics that has intrigued both children and adults as much as the idea of a fourth dimension—a spatial direction different from all the directions of our normal three-dimensional space. Philosophers and parapsychologists have meditated upon this dimension that no one can point to but may be all around us. Theologians have speculated that the afterlife, heaven, hell, angels, and our souls could reside in a fourth dimension—that God and Satan could literally be lumps of hyper-matter in a four-

dimensional space inches away from our ordinary three-dimensional world. Throughout time, various mystics and prophets have likened our world to a three-dimensional cage and have speculated on how great our perceptions would be if we could break from the confines of our world into higher dimensions.

Thus, the combination of my trip to Jerusalem, my interest in higher dimensions, my fascination with the ancient Jewish Temple, and a curiosity about finding a creative way to avoid religious strife, came together to form this book.

A note on terminology: The word Nephilim is a plural, and the singular form does not occur in the Bible. I have encountered various spellings of the singular form—Nephil, Naphil, Naphal, Nefal, and Nephel—and I do not believe an agreement has been reached as to the “correct” form to use in English.

The name Yitzhak means “he will laugh” (Genesis 21:6). In kabala, the name Yitzhak suggests the ability to transcend and perhaps even control the physical world.

Yitzhak’s martial art *Pencak Silat Satria Muda* has its origins in West Sumatra, Indonesia, and it contains aspects of the dances and of West Java. Silat can be traced back to the ancient Minangkabau civilizations of West Sumatra, where Pencak Silat started around the seventh century.

The Enochian language encountered by Yitzhak in the library has unusual historical underpinnings. Dee’s fascinating Enochian records are sufficiently detailed that some people are convinced they represent a genuine pre-Hebraic language. However, other researchers suggest that Enochian was a code Dee used to transmit messages from overseas to Queen Elizabeth. Many “believers” have asserted that the Enochian language predates all human languages and could be used to contact intelligences from other dimensions. Dee said he thought the language was once used to converse with the Nephilim, the giants of the Old Testament. The Enochian font in this book is freeware from the Digital Type Foundry.

The segment of ancient Hebrew letters displayed in this book is from the Aleppo Codex, a medieval manuscript of the Hebrew Bible (Tanakh), associated with Rabbi Aaron Ben Asher. The Masoretic scholars wrote these characters in the early 10th century, most likely in Tiberias, Israel. The text is from Joshua 1:1.

A note on cover images: The main image on the cover shows a portion of the Old City of Jerusalem as viewed from the Mount of Olives. The photographer is Wayne McLean, and the image comes from the Wikimedia Commons. For more information, see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Jerusalem_from_mt_olives.jpg. The image of the four-dimensional Klein Bottle is also from the Wikimedia Commons and found at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Klein_bottle.svg. The lower image shows an Ashkenazi Jew of late 19th-century Eastern Europe by Maurycy Gottlieb.

☆☆☆

I welcome feedback and suggestions for improvement from readers, as I consider this an ongoing project and a labor of love. *Jews in Hyperspace* reflects my own intellectual shortcomings, and while I try to study as many areas of science and fiction as I can, it is difficult to become fluent in all aspects, and I’m sure that this book will reflect my own personal interests, strengths, and weaknesses. I am responsible for the topics included in this book and, of course, for any errors and infelicities. Please contact me to provide criticism of this novel—or words of support—by using the email address at my Internet web page, www.pickover.com.

About the Author

Clifford A. Pickover is a prolific author and futurist, having published more than 40 books in 15 different languages. Exploring topics ranging from computers and creativity to art, mathematics, parallel universes, Einstein, time travel, alien life, religion, dimethyltryptamine elves, and the nature of human genius, his most recent titles include *The Math Book*; *Archimedes to Hawking*; *A Beginner's Guide to Immortality*; *The Möbius Strip*; *Sex, Drugs, Einstein, and Elves*; *A Passion for Mathematics*; *Calculus and Pizza*; *The Paradox of God and the Science of Omniscience*; *Surfing Through Hyperspace*; *The Science of Aliens*; and *Time: A Traveler's Guide*. In addition, he has authored more than 200 articles on topics in science, art, and mathematics.

Dr. Pickover received his Ph.D. from Yale University's Department of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry, having graduated first in his class from Franklin and Marshall College. Today, he holds over 50 U.S. patents for inventions dealing with computing technologies and interfaces.

Pickover is currently an associate editor for the scientific journal *Computers and Graphics* and is an editorial board member for *Odyssey*, *Leonardo*, and *YLEM*. He also writes the "Brain-Strain" column for *Odyssey*, and his website, www.pickover.com, has received more than a million visits. Dr. Pickover's primary interest is finding new ways to continually expand creativity by melding art, science, mathematics, and other seemingly disparate areas of human endeavor. Other hobbies include Ch'ang-Shih Tai-Chi Ch'uan, Shaolin Kung Fu, and piano. He owns a 110-gallon aquarium filled with Lima shovelnose catfishes and Florida gar, and advises readers to maintain a shovelnose tank in order to foster a sense of mystery in their lives. Look into the fish's eudaemonic eyes, dream of Elysian Fields, and soar.

To reach Dr. Pickover, visit pickover.com.

“Pickover contemplates realms beyond our known reality.”

—*The New York Times*

“Pickover has published nearly a book a year in which he stretches the limits of computers, art, and thought.”

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Chaos and Fractals
Chaos in Wonderland
Computers, Pattern, Chaos, and Beauty
Computers and the Imagination
Cryptorunes: Codes and Secret Writing
Dreaming the Future
Egg Drop Soup
Future Health
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