## Contents

About The Way Into	ı
Timeline	vi
Acknowledgments	xiii
Torat Chayim: Books and Our Lives	1
A Bridge in Two Directions	1
On Relevance and Authenticity	4
Midrash and Halacha, Sources as Resources	5
Reading This Book	7
Concluding Reflection	8
A Note on the Translation	9
1. Emet Ve'emunot: Environmentalism, Religion,	
and the Environmental Crisis in Context	11
Nature, the Environment, and Sustainability	11
Crises and Opportunities, Nightmares and Dreams	13
Religion as Problem: Lynn White Throws Down the Gauntlet	14
Re-evaluating Religion in Light of Environmental	
Concerns	17
The Humble Ruler and the Stuff of Nature	20
Religion and Environmentalism: Common Ground and	
Unique Messages	23
Unnatural Judaism: From Alienation to Reconnection	25
2. Bereishit Bara': Creator, Creating, Creation,	
Creatures, and Us	33
Biblical Beginnings: Readers, Reading, Readings,	
How to Read—and Us	33
Stories of Creations: Biblical Cubism	35

Genesis 1 and 2: Comparative Readings	36
Genesis 1: Master and Rule—The Demands	
of Dominion	42
Genesis 2: Serve and Preserve—The Stipulations	
of Stewardship	47
Between Apes and Angels: On Being a Part of,	
and Apart From	53
The Rest of the Story: Where Does Creation	
Stop and History Begin	58
Concluding Thoughts: On Goodness, Settlement,	
and Chaos	66
3. Lishmor La'asot U'lekayem: Traditional	
Sources and Resources	71
Nature: Is It and Does It Matter (I)—Heaven v. Ear	
Nature: Is It and Does It Matter (II)—Torah v. Teva	ı
(Nature)	74
More on the Nature of Nature	79
Wind, Rain, Mountains, and Fields	84
Bein Adam Le'olam? Jewish Legal and Moral	
Categories Regarding Nature	88
Bal Tashchit I: From Battlefield Forestry to	
Environmental Values	93
Bal Taschchit II: Negotiating Needs and Wants	98
Empathy and Ethics: The Pain of Living Things	101
Tikkun and Partnership, Flax and Foreskins	107
4. Olam Umelo'o: Contemporary Topics and Issu	ues 113
Multiply and Fill Up the Earth: Are We There Yet?	114
Eat and Be Satisfied: How Much Is Enough?	118
Of Pits and Piety, or Torah and Toxics	127

Tzedek and the City: Justice, Land Use, and Urban Life	131
Wilderness and Worship	139
Melo' Kol Ha'aretz Kevodo—The Fullness of the	
Earth Is God's Glory	143
Mazon Ve'chazon-Food and Vision, or the Duties	
of the Diet	149
Sustainability and Sustenance: How to Keep on	
Keepin' On	159
Chagim Uzmanim: Cycles in Time,	,
Sacraments in Life	165
Lu'ach ve'Ru'ach—Of Calendars and Culture,	
Nature and History	166
Yamim Tovim—Good Days: The High	
Holidays and Pilgrimage Festivals	170
The Nature of Hanukkah	176
The Four Faces of Tu B'Shvat—A New Year	
of the Trees	179
Shabbat—A Day of Worldly Rest	182
Shmitah—The Radical Social-Environmental Vision	
of a Yearlong Sabbath	188
Blessings and Worship: From Appraising to Praising	192
Ha'am Ve'Ha'aretz:The Land of Israel and a	
Jewish Sense of Place	201
Bein Adam "LaMakom"—On the Importance of Place	204
On Wandering and Return: The Jew as Native	207
The Cultural Contradictions of Israeli	
Environmentalism	215
Back to Bridge-Building: The Environment as Deep	
Common Concern	225

5.

Talmud VeMa'aseh: Where to Go from Here—	
Suggestions for Further Study	23
Notes	23
Glossary	24
Index	25