

When Rabbi Milton Steinberg died suddenly and tragically in 1950 at the age of forty-six, there was a keen awareness that the Jewish community had lost one of its great literary, intellectual, and spiritual voices. Steinberg was a preacher of uncommon eloquence and depth, a literary craftsman of prodigious output, and a scholar at home with both rabbinic and classic literature.

Even today, more than a century after his birth, Steinberg is known for his historical novel *As a Driven Leaf*, a book that grapples—in a way few had before or since in fiction—with Judaism’s core values and beliefs. First published in 1939, *As a Driven Leaf* remains in print and is praised as a literary masterpiece in nearly every major survey of Jewish books.

What is not widely known about Steinberg, however, is that he was feverishly at work on another historical novel at the time of his death. In his study, on his desk, he left a 401-page typewritten manuscript titled *The Prophet’s Wife*.

**– From the Foreword to *The Prophet’s Wife* by Ari L. Goldman**