POETICA:REFLECTIONS OF JEWISH THOUGHT,
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Given the current political context, when I started reading
Poetica I expected something furious, agitated, militaryish,
rebellious, but the main tone here is a kind of Jewish almost-
Buddhism. Sometimes even Jewish-Buddhistic
impressionism: "Morning fog unfurls, brushing Pacific
cliffs.... Houses and cars must exist somewhere, but not in
this world filled with soft silence. Dim shapes might be
cypress or cedars, birds, butterflies or nothing.
Hummingbirds may be hovering, lilies may be blooming, but
I stand alone, wrapped in a tallit woven of lavendar,
rosemary, sea mist and far away light." (Davi Walders,
Mendocino Sabbath, p. 52)

Most of the time here Judaism here seems remote, nostalgic,
something beautiful, held in high esteem...but very much in
the past: "The old days were better; there is no doubt that we
learned a lot from our Jewish parents who taught us the
Jewish way of life..... ah, yes, those old days were so much
better.... and no one can ever take them away from us. " (pp.
55-56) " The pressures of the contemporary world seem to
have taken over.Childhood was belief-time, the present is the
absence of and the longing for a return of belief: Source of All
Life, how long will I feel isolated and alone -- removed from
all that is godly? How long will I be troubled and full of
sadness? How long will everything seem to go against me? I
want to believe in you, to know you are out there. Give me
the courage to see clearly. Keep me from sinking into
despair..... " (Psalm #13, Eva Miodownik Oppenheim, p.37)

All in all a very touching, meaningful, contemplative-
philosophical review, nothing wasted or minor here, but all
major confrontations with thePhilosophical-Mystical Reality
of a Judaism out there that surrounds us, has us and we hope
continues to surround us.

Hugh Fox/Ibbetson Update