



Our Religions: The Seven World Religions Introduced by Preeminent Scholars from Each Tradition

Arvind Sharma , Various

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An essential introduction to the world's living religions by experts from each tradition -- published in conjunction with the 1993 Parliament of the World's Religions.

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From Reader Review Our Religions: The Seven World Religions Introduced by Preeminent Scholars from Each Tradition for online ebook

Janet says

I have an MA in Comparative Religion, and I still found this a challenging book to get through. It was very dense, and sometimes the authors focused on issues more of interest to religious scholars than to general readers.

I suspect that individual reactions to this book will vary widely based on the degree of the reader's experience in religious studies and interest in the individual religions profiled. My personal reactions the various chapters:

Hinduism: Interesting and educational

Buddhism: Hard to get through (but I've always been challenged by Buddhist thinking)

Confucianism: Fascinating and inspiring

Taosim: Apologies to the author, but I skipped it

Judaism: Frustrating. The author framed the discussion in terms of oppression and resentment and promise -- which may be accurate (I don't know) but never really explained to me what it was like to practice Judaism. Of course, part of the point of the chapter was that, unlike other faiths, Judaism has an ethnic as well as a spiritual component, and he needed to address that.

Christianity: Enjoyed it a lot. I thought it was an excellent expression of both the diversity and unity of Christianity.

Islam: Very interesting and eye-opening.

If I could give this half-stars, this would be 3-1/2, but I rounded up because of the overall quality and ambition of the collection.

The book was published in 1994, and I would love to see another edition, hopefully one which also includes indigenous and neo-pagan faiths, which have become the focus of scholarly work.

Jason says

Excellent introduction to the world's major religions.

Anna Kander says

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Donna Andersen says

Difficult but interesting.

Ron Banister says

Great introduction to the World's great religions. Highly recommended to all interested parties.

Henrik says

Hinduism: Ok, pretty interesting. Would have liked a bit more about the Upanishads.

Nathaniel says

The book accomplished its mission. Living in a religiously pluralistic world can be quite interesting. But man, some of those chapters were a trial to understand. Apparently that's why one lifetime isn't enough to understand one's own religion, let alone others.
