

One River, Many Wells: Wisdom Springing from Global Faiths

By Matthew Fox

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Maverick theologian Matthew Fox brings readers into the common heart of the world's great religions, illuminating a "deep ecumenism" for seekers everywhere.

We get to the core of religion by going to the heart experience, Matthew Fox says, not by dwelling on doctrines that so easily divide even within religious traditions. In *One River, Many Wells*, Fox exhorts readers to embrace the common faith of deep ecumenism.

Fox masterfully distills the common principles of the world's religions, and shows exactly how the different fingers of world faiths connect to a single hand. Drawing on seminal quotes, lessons, and ideas from the great faiths, he demonstrates how each expresses a common goal and approach to life, and concludes the book with "18 New Myths and Visions" that will inspire readers to embrace deep ecumenism.

One River, Many Wells is an indispensable resource, envisioning a new and exciting way of faith that erases the lines of false distinction between religions and calls upon each of us to worship from our common heart.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review
Who but Matthew Fox--former Dominican priest, author of countless influential books such as *Original Blessing* and *The Reinvention of Work*, silenced by the Vatican for his controversial statements about creation spirituality, and now an Episcopal priest--would combine rave dances with a religious mass? And who else would now attempt such a distillation of the world's religions as this book brings us? Combining writings from a multitude of spiritual traditions, Fox here puts into practice the idea of deep ecumenism that he has been exploring in a series of books going back to *The Coming of the Cosmic Christ* in 1989. To accomplish this task, Fox focuses on four categories of spiritual inquiry that he sees running like a river through all spiritual traditions: how we relate to creation, to divinity, to ourselves (this includes topics such as meditation, art, ritual, sexuality), and, finally, how we relate to the future, a section that explores issues of service and compassion, justice and spiritual warriorhood. He then concludes with "18 New Myths and Visions" that summarize his central message.

Simplicity and clarity are the goals of this book. To achieve this Fox weaves his own brief commentary through a series of quotations drawn from a myriad of traditions. While it may be faulted by some for this method of making easy connections between traditions, the book serves its purpose as a kind of primer for deep ecumenism. It will be especially useful for those new to such ideas, and to those who might otherwise never meet Hildegard of Bingen and Julian of Norwich, Hafiz, and the Sufi Ibn Arabi--not to mention Thomas Aquinas, physicist Werner Heisenberg, and geologian Thomas Berry--all sharing each other's company. *--Doug Thorpe*

From Publishers Weekly
Fox, who broke from his Roman Catholic roots with his earlier books The Coming of the Cosmic Christ and Creation Spirituality, presents quotations from various faith traditions to introduce what he believes are the universals of every faith. The title comes from Fox's metaphor that every religious tradition is a different well that descends to a single subterranean river of spirituality. This is scarcely an original idea, but Fox has been one of its greatest popularizers, in the company of such illuminati as John Dominic Crossan and the scholars of the Jesus Seminar. Using the approach he has named "Deep Ecumenism," Fox writes about four universal areas of spirituality (relating to creation, relating to the divine, relating to ourselves and relating to the future), integrating quotations from the sacred writings and stories of Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, folk religions and other traditions. Many of the selected quotations are set off by special margins, while others occur in boldface type in Fox's own running text. Concluding with "Eighteen Myths for Remythologizing our Species"Aranging from the unsurprising insight that all traditions can learn from each other to the intriguing idea that sexuality is sacredAFox continues to be an articulate presenter of the trends that he helped put in motion. If his ideas no longer seem innovative, that only credit his success as an apostle of self-made spirituality. (Oct.)
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From Booklist
Fox is at it again. The celebrated teacher, thinker, writer, spiritual guru, and Episcopal priest is well known for his outspokenness when it comes to a need for ecumenism and learning from other traditions. In his latest work, Fox explores the realm of world religion, or a system for drawing truths from the common principles of all the religions of the world. He focuses on the commonalities of all religions, instead of the doctrinal differences. Religion should foster love and understanding, Fox says, not wars and mistrust. The idea of a

world religion is nothing new--scholars of religion have been promoting the idea since the 1970s. However, Fox promotes the idea by simply providing quotations, with a small introduction to each section, from various works of religion, scientists, moral thinkers, and philosophers from around the world. He separates the writings into four sections, containing such topics as creation, divinity, our inner selves, and the future, with a final section of "New Myths and Visions." Nothing astounding here, but followers and adherents of Fox will be pleased by his new look at world religions. *Michael Spinella*
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Linda Enders:

As people who live in the particular modest era should be up-date about what going on or facts even knowledge to make them keep up with the era that is always change and make progress. Some of you maybe will probably update themselves by studying books. It is a good choice for yourself but the problems coming to anyone is you don't know what kind you should start with. This One River, Many Wells: Wisdom Springing from Global Faiths is our recommendation to help you keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and want in this era.

Mary Clark:

Now a day people who Living in the era where everything reachable by connect with the internet and the resources inside it can be true or not demand people to be aware of each data they get. How people have to be smart in obtaining any information nowadays? Of course the answer is reading a book. Reading a book can help men and women out of this uncertainty Information specially this One River, Many Wells: Wisdom Springing from Global Faiths book as this book offers you rich details and knowledge. Of course the knowledge in this book hundred % guarantees there is no doubt in it you know.

Barbara Duty:

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