Encountering God: A Spiritual Journey From Bozeman To Banaras

DIANA L. ECK

Encountering God

"An inspired exploration of interfaith approaches to God... It encourages us to recognize the dignity, worth and sacred nature of humanity in an interfaith context." — Endre Jaki, PhD

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Religion scholar Diana Eck is director of the Pluralism Project, which seeks to map the new religious diversity of the United States, particularly the increasing presence of Hindu, Buddhist, and Muslim communities. In this tenth-anniversary edition of Encountering God, Eck shows why dialogue with people of other faiths remains crucial in today’s interdependent world—globally, nationally, and even locally. She reveals how her own encounters with other religions have shaped and enlarged her Christian faith toward a bold new Christian pluralism.

**Synopsis**

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**Customer Reviews**

This book is likely to become a cult classic. It is a series of meditations at the same time it is a journal from the author’s erstwhile journey of faith. Never abandoning her roots in Montana Methodism, Diana Eck follows the many paths of faith she finds at her feet. She steps forward always without fear and with a profound curiosity which she shares with her reader and with which she calls her reader to reexamine where they have been, and where they are and where they are going with the life that has been given to them. The book is not preachy, but it is reverent. While the touchstone is Christianity, the author's own centering point, the scope is as all encompassing as the author's travels, geographically (Benarais, Japan, Europe, Australia, Boston, you name it) and spiritually (Buddhism, Hindi, Islam, shakti, you name it). The Ms. Eck explores her personal journey in a completely inviting way to help the reader understand the profound threshold at which the world's religions now find themselves. They can no longer be said to have an opportunity for
dialogue, but an imperative to dialogue. We know each other too well and have too much to learn from each other to not share with each other. She shows us that while we need to speak in our own language of faith, we need to exert all the effort we can to hear people of other faiths in their language, and maybe we will then find them moving toward us or us moving toward them or us all moving to a new place. The book is superbly organized, showing that Eck has used her years as a professor (and scholar) of comparative religion at Harvard to the best advantage.

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