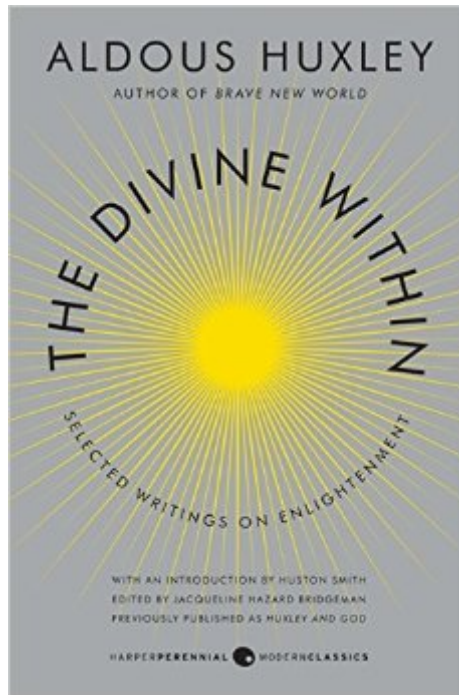


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The Divine Within: Selected Writings On Enlightenment



Synopsis

Brave New World author Aldous Huxley on enlightenment and the "ultimate reality" In this anthology of twenty-six essays and other writings, Huxley discusses the nature of God, enlightenment, being, good and evil, religion, eternity, and the divine. Huxley consistently examined the spiritual basis of both the individual and human society, always seeking to reach an authentic and clearly defined experience of the divine. Featuring an introduction by renowned religious scholar Huston Smith, this celebration of "ultimate reality" proves relevant and prophetic in addressing the spiritual hunger so many feel today.

Book Information

Paperback: 336 pages

Publisher: Harper Perennial Modern Classics (July 2, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0062236814

ISBN-13: 978-0062236814

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.8 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (15 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #85,569 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #136 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Religious](#) #18492 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality](#)

Customer Reviews

This book was originally published as "Huxley and God" in 1992. I had only read three of Huxley's books before turning to "The Divine Within." In this anthology of 26 essays and two poems published between 1941 and 1960, Huxley looks at the nature of God, enlightenment, being, good and evil, religion, eternity, and the divine. In 1926, Huxley declared himself an agnostic and was "scathingly skeptical of religion" who believed in "life, love and sex." However, since he wrote frequently about metaphysical themes he did find himself drawn towards the divine and eventually had a change of heart. He shares his methods for seeking God and believes all who seek will eventually find God. I was impressed at the clarity of his thought and insights. Though some of his ideas have been absorbed into the public consciousness almost all of them remain relevant today. Huxley wasn't content to repeat time-worn clichés about enlightenment. While some of Huxley's other books are a bit too detailed for my taste I found this book to be quite accessible in comparison. Huxley remains critical of religious tradition, dogma and nationalism as he weaves a

common thread to spiritual thought. Huxley's main theme appears to be that self gets in the way of Self. My only complaint is that most of the message is on what *not* to do and some of the essays repeat his core ideas; fortunately Huxley also provides some practical suggestions for the individual seeker who wants to find the divine within for himself. Most of the chapters are about 10 pages long with the exception of Knowledge and Understanding which is almost 40 pages in length.

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