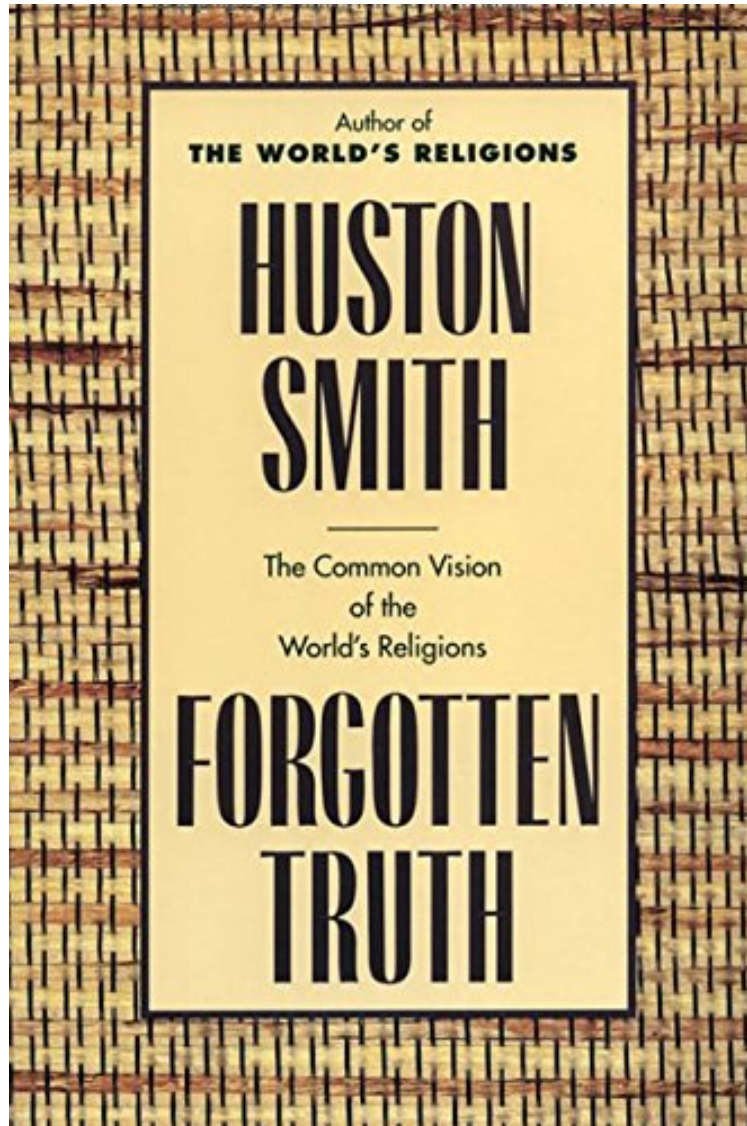


[Download free pdf] Forgotten Truth: The Common Vision of the World's Religions

Forgotten Truth: The Common Vision of the World's Religions

Huston Smith

**Download PDF / ePub / DOC / audiobook / ebooks*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#272942 in Books Huston Smith 1992-10-09 1992-10-09Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x .43 x 5.311, .33 #File Name: 0062507877192 pagesUniversal BeliefWorld ReligionJusticeTruthProsperity | File size: 24.Mb

Huston Smith : Forgotten Truth: The Common Vision of the World's Religions before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Forgotten Truth: The Common Vision of the World's Religions:

1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. What You See Is Not ALL There isBy John A. Van DevenderSmith's book is a refreshing non-Christian assessment of the irrational consensus stretching across the

various segments of American culture, at least as far as I can see it. Over the past 50 years, with greater or lesser intensity, Americans have grown cynical and suspicious of any claims to truth other than that which their senses can validate and their perceptions confirm. This is not an entirely new phenomenon in absolute essence. From the arrival of the Puritans right up through the classical enlightenment of Colonial times and extending even, though significantly lessened, through the Romantic 19th century, and certainly in the early Modernist 20th century, Americans have always prided themselves on being "practical." Our approach to religion, politics, art and literature has been influenced, if not conditioned, by the screening grid of "what works?" But within that prevailing practicality Americans had certain values, misplaced perhaps but real, that limited that practicality. Though not a philosophical community, Americans were yet disposed toward the idea of "the beautiful", the pursuit of "quality", the social imperative of the American "Dream", the unquestioned assumption that we had "hit" upon that blend of freedom/responsibility/encouragement which was the key to human development and future prosperity. We were unabashedly evangelistic. Promoting our ways and our ideas, with some success and with too much arrogance, and exporting our institutions throughout the world. In other words, we had a "world view" that formed a central unifying idea. Immigrants were "assimilated" into this view. Cultural distinctives were precious but subordinate. To be "Southern" was to embrace secondary ideas about life in these United States that were never-the-less absolutely subordinate to the higher claim of being an "American." I submit that even the shameful issue of race relations was characterized by this approach and I would submit the evidence of the proud performance of non-white Americans in ALL the wars of the period. But that changed. The common embrace of intangibles dissolved under the influence of vicious political power plays, the dedicated strategy of radical elitist academics and intellectuals, and the rise of "selfish me-ism" sensuality that characterized the masses of the post-1960's populace. Something had to fill the void created by the dismissal of abstract "values." That which was confidently advanced was "scientism" - the belief that the only true "truth" is that which can be established by the principles of formulaic validation and predictive behavior. It showed up across the board. Education theory became the subject of endless, repetitive, and often contradictory "studies." "Studies prove..." became the unquestioned warrant for whatever hare-brained agenda some demagogue wanted to advance. "Prove it" was the underlying demand that opened the door for the idea that everyone's opinion is of equal value no matter what their qualifications on the subject being discussed. Consensus dissolved, intellectual and moral anarchy has prevailed and now, simply, there is no dream. All we have left is the sterile imbecility of moral license and the reductionist straight-jacket of impressionist thinking. In a social structure where in "quality" is not recognized, where "advancement" in personal virtue is not celebrated, and where transcendent goals are not pursued, there is and must be a corresponding despair - the sense that "something is missing" - and the resultant flattening of human existence. Smith is on to something. He is too much a product of those same trends to be able to critique his own observations. He cannot find a measure (scientism) to be able to distinguish, among the commonly held values of the world's various religions, any which are to be elevated as the repository of "truth." He still treats the facts of human religions as the data from which conclusions are to be drawn. But he says and sees many good things. All that is lacking is the insight, that what you "see" is not ALL there is. Among the world religions, only Christianity can claim the priority of "truth." That statement is not proved by the data of the Christian religion itself... it is furnished by the inward testimony of the Holy Spirit... a Person who is not contained in human equations nor constrained by human conceptions. He is the validation of all that is transcendent for in Him is beauty, peace, joy, life and truth. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Universal spiritual wisdom... By Art Severance Universal spiritual wisdom... 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. For "seekers" this is a good read. Huston Smith has an open mind when ... By nanci corzine For "seekers" this is a good read. Huston Smith has an open mind when it comes to the world's religions. He'll make you think if you're ready to take religious blinders down.

This classic companion to *The World's Religions* articulates the remarkable unity that underlies the world's religious traditions

About the Author Huston Smith is internationally known and revered as the premier teacher of world religions. He is the focus of a five-part PBS television series with Bill Moyers and has taught at Washington University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Syracuse University, and the University of California at Berkeley. The recipient of twelve honorary degrees, Smith's fifteen books include his bestselling *The World's Religions*, *Why Religion Matters*, and his autobiography, *Tales of Wonder*.