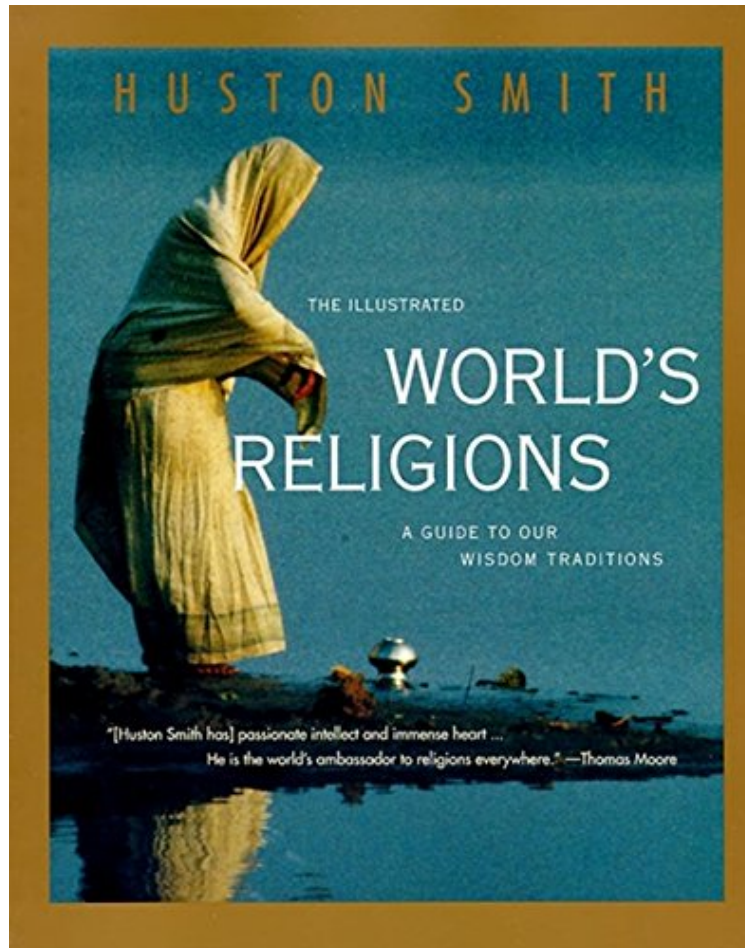


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# The Illustrated World's Religions: A Guide to Our Wisdom Traditions

*Huston Smith*

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**Huston Smith : The Illustrated World's Religions: A Guide to Our Wisdom Traditions** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Illustrated World's Religions: A Guide to Our Wisdom Traditions:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I easily read at a post-graduate level By ASUproud This book is well researched but hard to read. I easily read at a post-graduate level, and I struggled with the prose. It's not that the words are incomprehensible, it's that the author's writing style is... tortured. It almost seems intentional. That is, the author could have used more plain language but chose to make the language as thick and heavy as possible. There is a wealth of information my professor insisted that it is the authoritative text for comparative religions but you'll want to be well rested before beginning each chapter. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Difficult, but fulfilling read By T-Bone I purchased this book by Huston Smith for my world religions class. It does not read like a classic "text" book.

This may please you, or it may drive you crazy. Mr. Smith has a very compact way of writing. He fits his descriptions into as little space as possible and uses a lot of little-known words. However, he has a very magical sense about him that just begs to be quoted. If you prefer a traditional text book, this book is not for you. I enjoyed reading it but couldn't help more than a few times to feel like I was missing out on a lot of information in the name of brevity and eloquence. I'd like to give this book a 3.5-star rating, but that's not a choice. 3 is unfair, so I chose 4 mainly because it's very inexpensive and that's good for us college students. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. 1 stars  
By Ryan Bates  
I needed to read this for a theology class at my university, and I'm fully confident that my fellow students could agree on one thing, if nothing else: *World's Religions* was an awful, awful text. It's composed of flowery purple prose and twisted continuity. When the author states that there are X number of items in a list, be prepared for him to mention only half before moving onto an entirely different subject-- only to return to the list when you're already beginning to wade your way through his next inane set of information.

Retaining all the beloved qualities of Huston Smith's classic *The Religions of Man* and the current fully revised and updated *The World's Religions*, this stunning pictorial presentation refines the text to its wonderful essentials. In detailed, absorbing, richly illustrated, and highly readable chapters on Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Islam, Judaism, Christianity and primal religions, we find refreshing and fascinating presentations of both the differences and the similarities among the worldwide religious traditions. The approach is at once classic and contemporary, retaining all the empathy, eloquence and erudition that millions of readers love about the earlier editions, while being edited and designed for a contemporary general readership. This delightful marriage of winsome text and remarkable pictures vividly brings to life the scope and vision of Huston Smith's expertise and insight.

From *Publishers Weekly*  
In lucid and captivating prose, Smith, the dean of world religionists, conducts readers on a whirlwind tour of the beliefs, practices and experiences of the world's religious traditions. Smith explores the major features of these religions by combining his own worlds with passages from the sacred texts of each. In addition, beautifully arresting images of icons, religious practitioners, sacred texts and sacred art accompany Smith's lyrical writing. The words and images of this book continually remind us that the world's faiths are not stagnant pools of decaying values but dynamic and vibrant waters from which their practitioners daily drink. The book also brings within range of our American hearing the voices of a wide variety of people for whom religion is the central fact of social and cultural life. If one buys only one of the number of recent introductions to world religions, this should be it. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.  
From *Library Journal*  
Much is gained and lost in this third incarnation of a highly readable work first published in 1958 as *The Religions of Man*, which spoke without arcane religious jargon about seven major world religions. The title has been changed to eliminate gender bias, and the book itself is lavishly illustrated, with photographs that add a powerful visual dimension to the text and make the reader more aware of the importance of art in presenting religious ideas. What is lost is a great deal of text. Now whittled down by a third, this fine introductory-level college text has been reduced to a lightweight primer. Luckily for deeper readers, the second incarnation, *The World's Religions* (HarperSanFrancisco, 1991), is still available. Appropriate for public libraries.  
Glenn Masuchika, Chaminade Univ. Lib., Honolulu  
Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. "If one buys only one of the number of recent introductions to world religions, this should be it."-- "Publishers Weekly"  
"[Huston Smith has] passionate intellect and immense heart.... He is the world's ambassador to religions everywhere."-- Thomas Moore, author of "Care of the Soul"