



## Huxley and God: Essays on Religious Experience

*Aldous Huxley , Huston Smith (Introduction) , Jacqueline Hazard Bridgeman (Editor)*

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With three new biographies published in the last year and the continued success of his 1932 novel, *Brave New World*, Aldous Huxley is experiencing a remarkable resurgence. In this mind-bending collection of essays, Huxley explores the notion of divinity from a variety of perspectives, including his deep knowledge of Eastern philosophy. Will be of great interest to fans of the East and Huxley's own growing group of followers and devotees.

### Huxley and God: Essays on Religious Experience Details

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Author : Aldous Huxley , Huston Smith (Introduction) , Jacqueline Hazard Bridgeman (Editor)

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## From Reader Review Huxley and God: Essays on Religious Experience for online ebook

### Sara Gray says

Two and a half stars. While I appreciated his wit and his Vedantic stance on religious philosophy, Huxley was very much a product of his Victorian upbringing. His pronouncements on mysticism and living life correctly were rather dry and judgmental. For anyone who has already read more original sources on mysticism, both Eastern and Western, this wouldn't present anything new or noteworthy.

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### Susan says

Before reading this book, my relationship with Huxley was confined to a bit of fiction and his historical account of political religiosity in, "The Devils of Loudon". "Devils" made a great impression on me in my youth, and helped me to work out issues of forgiveness and compassion by exploring politicized selfishness and cruelty. But I didn't know what to expect from this collection of essays on the nature of the divine.

On this, my first pass-through of the text, I don't yet have the "umph" to adequately record my feelings, because I'm just not ready. I'll have to go back to the book later to strip away its layers. I'm sympathetic to Huxley's views on the personal search for meaning, with the accompanying personal responsibility to think and act for oneself. His clean language camouflages the profundity of his arguments – arguments that I have read before in eastern (translated) texts. Huxley weds eastern and western mysticism to form a surprisingly modern perspective on comparative religion. He offers many opportunities for understanding: Taking a mindful approach to the divine has often been criticized as being pragmatic and therefore, coldly cerebral. But Huxley understands the mystical, loving side of mindfulness that is, I strongly believe, misunderstood in the west. He also grasps the complexity of ritualism. It's true that rituals help the human mind to focus. But the actual equipment and protocol of a ritual, though dear or sacred to the supplicant, is unimportant. A ritual is a vehicle towards satisfying personal or society needs. Huxley "gets" that we forget to reevaluate our needs and motivations with an almost stunning consistency, and instead place primacy on the ritual itself -- which is missing the point.

Bottom line: I give this book a 5 star rating because it makes me think and feel in a tolerant, compassionate way. Sophisticated cynics beware: Huxley advocates for love, but he does it without being trite.

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### Kenny says

This book overall just barely got three stars, but not because it is consistently mediocre. The book is a collection of essays. Some individual essays are wonderful, some individual sections/passages are great, but much of the book I find poorly reasoned and not very interesting. So it's all over the place, and on balance averages to something under 3 stars. Definitely not for everyone, and even if this is your cup of tea read discriminatingly...

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## **Alison says**

He is such a smart man ,that Huxley. My favorite essay so far has been the reflections on progress. His vast vocabulary is very impressive as well but makes me feel like a moron sometimes except I get what he's saying.If anyone has the time they should probably read anything he has written.

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