

## The Perennial Wisdom

Donated by Sydney Harris.

The search for knowledge and wisdom has always been a many-sided pursuit. Throughout human history, mystics and seekers have shared powerful and intuitive views about the Divine, while skeptics and nonbelievers have been quick to explain these beliefs away as self-deception. But the Truth is more complex and evolving than either of these approaches—hence the need for philosophers who work to separate and connect the divine and the natural, the subjective and the objective, and the relative and the absolute. Through an experimental and open-minded approach to the world of spirituality, the philosophy of perennialism recognizes the foundation that all of the world's religious traditions have always had in common, regardless of culture, location, or generation. It also inspires meaningful reflections and revelations regarding the nature of the divine, the meaning of eternity, and the purpose of life itself. This academic look at perennialism provides a thorough evaluation of the spiritual philosophy from three directions: mystical, skeptical, and pragmatic. Through these varied points of view, *The Perennial Wisdom* provokes meditation and thought regarding some of life's most challenging mysteries, as seen through the eyes of students of the perennial philosophy.

This book presents the worldview and the metaphysics of the *Sophia Perennis*, the Perennial Wisdom at the heart of all faiths; it brings out the depth and the relevance of the great religions of the world, their ethics, anthropology and cosmology, as a traditional alternative and in contrast to the new atheist views.

Like their predecessors throughout the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries, popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI

have emphasized the importance of philosophy in the Catholic intellectual tradition. In his encyclical *Fides et ratio* (1998), John Paul II called on philosophers “to have the courage to recover, in the flow of an enduringly valid philosophical tradition, the range of authentic wisdom and truth.” Where the late pope spoke of an “enduringly valid tradition,” Jacques Maritain and other Thomists often have referred to the “perennial tradition” or to “perennial philosophy.” *Words of Wisdom* responds to John Paul's call for the development of this tradition with a much-needed dictionary of terms. As a resource for students in colleges, universities, and seminaries, as well as for teachers of the perennial tradition and interested general readers, *Words of Wisdom* occupies a unique place. It offers precise, yet clear and understandable accounts of well over a thousand key philosophical terms, richly cross-referenced. It also explains significant terms from other philosophical movements with which Thomism (and the Catholic intellectual tradition more generally) has engaged—either through debate or through judicious and creative incorporation. Moreover, it identifies a number of theological and doctrinal expressions to which perennial philosophy has contributed. Finally, it provides a comprehensive bibliography of works by Aquinas in English, expositions and discussions of perennial themes, and representative examples from the writings of all philosophers and theologians mentioned in dictionary entries.

The text of six lectures in which Karl Jaspers redefines the position of philosophy in the world today, particularly in relation to science and theology, and defines and outlines his own philosophy.

A prolific writer and author of over 24 books, Rene Guenon was the founder of the Perennialist/Traditionalist school of comparative religious thought. Known for his discourses on the intellectual and spiritual bankruptcy of the modern world,

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symbolism, tradition, and the inner or spiritual dimension of religion, this book is a compilation of his most important writings. A key component of his thought was the assertion that universal truths manifest themselves in various forms in the world's religions and his writings on Hinduism, Taoism, and Sufism are particularly illuminating in this regard. Offering the most comprehensive biography of Frithjof Schuon (1907-1998) yet published, Fitzgerald's work features quotations from Schuon's articles, books, memoirs, and correspondence, combined with a wealth of reliable information from people who knew Schuon well. With over 75 color and black-and-white photos and illustrations, readers will gain valuable insights into the life and work of the foremost representative of the Perennialist or Traditionalist school of comparative religious thought.

Against the backdrop of the pervasive scientism of our time, this book is a daring attempt to offer an intellectual critique of the foundations of modern science by rigorously examining the limitations of rational thought and empirical investigation. Unique of its kind, it situates science in the context of the perennial wisdom of the world's religions, which for millennia have provided keys to true knowledge.

*Enlightenment In Our Time* explores modern spirituality with insight, humor, and potent quotes from many wisdom traditions and notable teachers. Eclectic and nonsectarian, it inspires and instructs the reader with suggestions for meditation, loving, living, and dying.

A "bible" for the religiously unaffiliated, weaving sacred texts from the world's major religions into a coherent exploration of the core questions at the heart of every religion's search, with insightful

commentary on using these texts in our daily lives. More than ever, there is an urgent need to rediscover timeless and objective principles in order to confront the issues of our times. In this collection of thirty remarkable essays, Lakhani summons us to rediscover the sacred worldview of Tradition, governed by truth, virtue, and beauty, as he addresses some of the most pressing issues today, including fundamentalism, gender and sexuality, religious diversity and pluralism, faith and science, and the problem of evil.

In this newly revised English translation from the French, including a comprehensive glossary, this volume surveys the enormous range of Schuon's writings on prayer and spiritual life.

In one of his most significant pieces of non-fiction, the mind behind *Brave New World* presents a thorough and articulate comparison of different forms of mysticism. Written for an audience presumed to be primarily familiar with Christianity, *The Perennial Philosophy* aims to extract greater theological truths from the common threads found across religions, and to explore how they can be used to judge mankind (and how it often fails to meet the standards set). It primarily consists of quotations taken from famous figures within each tradition, with short connecting passages written by Huxley. Random House of Canada is proud to bring you classic works of literature in ebook form, with the highest quality

production values. Find more today and rediscover books you never knew you loved.

The Perennial Philosophy is defined by its author as "The metaphysic that recognizes a divine Reality substantial to the world of things and lives and minds." With great wit and stunning intellect, Aldous Huxley examines the spiritual beliefs of various religious traditions and explains them in terms that are personally meaningful.

Holistic education is concerned with connections in human experience - connections between mind and body, between linear thinking and intuitive ways of knowing, between individual and community, and between the personal self and the transpersonal self. First published in 1988, *The Holistic Curriculum* examines the philosophical, psychological, and social foundations of holistic education, outlining its history and discussing practical applications in the classroom. This revised and expanded second edition concisely describes how holistic thinking integrates spiritual and scientific perspectives, drawing on romantic, humanistic, and other radical alternatives to the atomistic worldview of the modern age. The role of the teacher, the issue of accountability, and strategies for implementing the *Holistic Curriculum* are also discussed.

*Eternal Wisdom* explains the connection between art, mythology, spirituality, and religion through the language of symbols. These concepts are taken

outside of the context of religious philosophy to explain how these ideas should be revised to achieve a positive cultural outlook for the increasingly bleak modern era. Archetypes and mystical experiences possess an inherent immortal existence in the collective human subconscious. They are eternally existent in artistic symbolism and spiritual traditions. Part earthly and part-other worldly, these hidden forces interact with humanity by providing a primordial source for the creative facets of human existence that are channeled into the diverse range of spiritual, mystical, and cultural experiences. This book examines the strands of esoteric thought and gnosis provided in the teachings of perennial philosophy - a topic that has been predominantly associated with prestigious authors such as Carl Jung, René Guénon, Frithjof Schuon, Ananda Coomaraswamy, Huston Smith, and Aldous Huxley. *Eternal Wisdom* aspires to expand on the existing corpus of teachings by advocating for the inclusion of polytheist cultural sources. Additionally, esoteric practices - including divination and the alchemy - are discussed within the context of perennial philosophy and the primordial tradition.

This mini-book is a chapter from my forthcoming book *Enlightenment 101: A Guide to God-Realization and Higher Human Culture*. The book looks at the experience of enlightenment for the

individual and the race. This chapter begins: Perennial means always reappearing, like flowers which are planted once and then come up every spring. Philosophy, of course, means love of wisdom or, more generally, wisdom itself. So "the perennial philosophy" means wisdom which appears again and again. It has also been called the perennial wisdom and the ageless wisdom. It appears throughout history in all cultures, in all parts of the world. It is timeless and universal. It answers the most fundamental questions people have asked about existence. It speaks to their highest concerns, and has done so since humanity first developed a hunger for understanding ourselves and the meaning of existence. It has aspects of religion, metaphysics, philosophy, esoteric doctrines, occult teachings and hermetic mysteries, yet it transcends all of these specific traditions. It is, in the words of Ken Wilber, "the worldview that has been embraced by the vast majority of the world's greatest spiritual teachers, philosophers, thinkers, and even scientists....it's a testament to the universal nature of these truths, to the universal experience of a collective humanity that has everywhere agreed to certain profound truths about the human condition and about its access to the Divine." The perennial philosophy is, in short, the collective highest wisdom of humanity. It is the spiritual data base of human insight and understanding about ultimate matters. It has been

accumulated from cultures around the world, from East and West, from seers and sages, from sacred paths and religious traditions, and from every endeavor by questing human beings to answer questions which are fundamental to human happiness.

The Perennial Philosophy An Interpretation of the Great Mystics, East and West Harper Collins  
The study features the five most important and most efficacious themes of Western spirituality in their ancient historical origins and in their unfolding up to early modernity: Divine names, Microkosmos-Makrokosmos, theories of creation, the idea of spiritual spaces, and the concepts of eschatological history.

In the spirit of the great German mystics, Hans Kury seeks to discover whence we have come and whither we are going. In these conversations of a solitary man with the mountains, the stars, the animals, the plants—in a word, with his brothers and sisters on this earth—we learn about the meaning of death. The mighty book of Nature begins to speak and to answer our anxious questions in great images and analogies.

Aldous Huxley and Alternative Spirituality offers an analysis of Huxley's spiritual interests, spanning both mysticism and Western esotericism. With this methodology, Jake Poller generates new insights into Huxley's work and draws revealing parallels



between Huxley's ideas and the New Age. In this, the first wide-ranging study of the 'traditionalist' or 'perennialist' school of twentieth-century thinkers, the author discusses the vital significance of their writings for the contemporary world, particularly in relation to the convergence of religious traditions and the destructive impact of modernity. This book opens with a presentation of the three pre-eminent figures in this movement—Ren Gu non, Ananda Coomaraswamy, and Frithjof Schuon—now widely regarded as the foremost exponents in the modern era of The Perennial Philosophy, that timeless wisdom which lies at the heart of all religious traditions. Their writings, as well as those of Titus Burckhardt, Marco Pallis, Martin Lings, Seyyed Hossein Nasr, and others, are dedicated to the elucidation of the metaphysical and cosmological principles that inform the perennial wisdom, and to the explication of the manifold ways in which these principles found concrete expression in traditional societies. While affirming the essential unity of all religions, traditionalism is concerned with preserving the particular forms that give each religious heritage its *raison d' tre* while at the same time ensuring its spiritual efficacy. This book explains why no one engaged in religious and cultural studies can afford to disregard the urgent message of the traditionalists, who have reminded a forgetful world—in a manner that can be ignored but

not refuted-of those principles which everywhere and always remain true. It also demonstrates why any reassessment of contemporary values-now increasingly called into question-must take into account the profound traditionalist critique of the modern Western worldview.

This introduction to the writings of Frithjof Schuon (1907-1998), the pre-eminent spokesman of the Perennialist or Traditionalist school of comparative religious thought, is the first book to present a comprehensive study of his intellectual and spiritual message. In addition to a clear explanation of Schuon's message of metaphysics and the great religions, Oldmeadow includes an overview of Schuon's paintings and poetry, and insights on prayer and virtue in the spiritual life.

Insights in to the teachings of G.I. Gurdjieff known as the Fourth Way, including their application for personal change and their roots in early Christianity. From the Preface: The discovery of esoteric truth is our birthright as children of the universe. No teacher, no book, no system has the final word. Spirituality is meant to awaken the Higher Self who guides us onto a road of purpose, fulfillment and service. However it is packaged and marketed, the only true value of the product is the extent to which it leads us into the intimate depths of our own being where we can each verify, assimilate, and become the truths underlying all authentic wisdom teachings. A special Appendix

features exceptional insight from author Reijo Oksanen and his studies connecting the Gurdjieff Work to the spirituality of Eastern Orthodox Christianity. Also included is a rare translation of the observations of Boris Mouravieff and his relationship to Gurdjieff and Ouspensky.

Aryel Sanat's meticulously researched and cogently argued exploration of Krishnamurti's inner life and experiences explodes a number of popular myths about Krishnamurti, particularly that he denied the existence of the Theosophical Masters and disdained the esoteric side of the spiritual path. Rather, Sanat persuasively demonstrates, Krishnamurti had a rich and intense esoteric life. Moreover, the truths of the Ancient Wisdom, as revealed through the Masters, were a reality to Krishnamurti every day of his life, from his boyhood until his death. The real story of Krishnamurti's inner life is shown to have critical implications for our understanding of Krishnamurti's life and ideas and for our views of Theosophy, Buddhism, the teachings of Gurdjieff---indeed, the entirety of contemporary spiritual thought.

This is a collection of writings about the spiritual meeting of East and West in the modern world including articles by the Dalai Lama, Huston Smith, Frithjof Schuon, Thomas Merton, Titus Burckhardt, Ananda Coomaraswamy, Diana Eck, Gary Snyder and Aldous Huxley. Highlighting aspects of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Taoism that have proved most attractive to Western seekers, it explores the similarities and differences

between Eastern and Western traditions while emphasizing respect amongst the adherents of different faiths.

Modern psychology is at an impasse as it searches anxiously for new therapies to address the increasing occurrence of mental illness in contemporary society. In this groundbreaking anthology, leading authors from the perennialist school, including Huston Smith, Seyyed Hossein Nasr, and Frithjof Schuon, draw on the age-old insights of the world's wisdom traditions to argue that modern psychology—behaviorism, psychoanalysis, humanistic and transpersonal psychology—overlooks the specifically spiritual factors contributing to mental health and illness.

Contains essays on mysticism, prayer, sacred art, the relationship between Christianity and other religious." An inspired gathering of religious writings that reveals the "divine reality" common to all faiths, collected by Aldous Huxley "The Perennial Philosophy," Aldous Huxley writes, "may be found among the traditional lore of peoples in every region of the world, and in its fully developed forms it has a place in every one of the higher religions." With great wit and stunning intellect—drawing on a diverse array of faiths, including Zen Buddhism, Hinduism, Taoism, Christian mysticism, and Islam—Huxley examines the spiritual beliefs of various religious traditions and explains how they are united by a common human yearning to experience the divine. The Perennial Philosophy includes selections from Meister Eckhart, Rumi, and Lao Tzu, as well as the Bhagavad Gita, Tibetan Book of the Dead, Diamond Sutra, and

Upanishads, among many others.

This anthology of Seyyed Hossein Nasr's most representative essays, edited by William C. Chittick, distills the essence of this leading scholar's thoughts on the subjects of Islam, Sufism, Tradition, and the Environmental Crisis.

"This book explains why no one engaged in religious and cultural studies can afford to disregard the urgent message of the traditionalists who have reminded a forgetful world - in a manner which can be ignored but not refuted - of those principles which everywhere and always remain true. It also demonstrates why any reassessment of contemporary values - now increasingly called into question - must take into account the profound traditionalist critique of the modern Western worldview."--BOOK JACKET.

This book contains a wide-ranging selection of writings by perennialist author William Stoddart that expose the many false ideologies of postmodernism (forgetting) and call for a return to traditional religion, especially in its mystical dimensions (remembering).

Frithjof Schuon's works provide invaluable keys to understanding the formal contradictions between the world's religions as well as their transcendent unity. This revised edition of his writings on esoterism--the inward and universal dimension of religion, also called the sophia perennis ("perennial wisdom")--features a new translation from the original French as well as more than 60 pages of new material, including previously unpublished selections from his letters and other private writings. --Seyyed Hossein Nasr, George Washington University, editor of The Essential Frithjof Schuon

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This is an anthology of 25 essays by the leading exponents of the perennialist school of comparative religious thought. It aims to be the most accessible introduction yet to the perspective of the Perennial Philosophy.

This is a collection of brief passages which focus on the spiritual life, including such simple and concrete aspects as the nature of faith and our relationship with God, the importance of prayer, the meaning of virtue, and the significance of beauty in our lives.

Ananda K. Coomaraswamy was engaged in the world not only as a scholarly expositor of traditional culture and philosophy, but also as a radical critic of contemporary life. 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.

A collection of short, jewel-like excerpts from Schuon's major works that evokes the essence of spiritual truths."

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