

GOD WITHOUT GOD

Western Spirituality without the wrathful king

By Michael Hampson

Published and available from O Books 2008 (www.o-books.net)

ISBN 978-1-84694-102-3

What you might ask am I doing reviewing a book by an author who was a Church of England priest for thirteen years and now a Roman Catholic retreat leader and writer. Not knowing this when I decided to review the book I was struck by the title and that alone. However, it has been an enlightening read and good to feel I understand a little better what those on the liberal wings of other religious traditions are thinking and feeling and where we can learn from each other and how we might communicate something of our faiths with those in the spiritual market place who profess atheism. More than that I found it helpful in pointing a way towards which I might be better able to communicate with those who profess atheism, but nevertheless experience the underlying spirituality of life experiences. We are not in opposing camps inhabiting opposite extremes of the religious spectrum but rather spiritual bedfellows.

In stressing the importance of not mistaking the metaphor with reality, the author is able to bring alive a God liberated from a punitive model and also from the gaps. Yes, it is a Trinitarian model but in showing it as a model of compassion based on the principles of human life with love being the key to living well we no longer have a religious life based on guilt and a wrathful God but God as the other, being the ground of all being, the sum of all divinity, God beyond the metaphors. We are side by side with the atheist in rejecting the old ideas of God, we too cannot believe that our human created picture is reality but we can believe in God as compassion and love. The Trinity is a working model of mystery and the author is well aware of his own construction to sum up his ideals. It is not made explicit but that the author considers the Protestant tradition as being locked into the punitive model might well explain his move to being a liberal Catholic.

He takes us through the Biblical material showing the diversity which reflects every human emotion. He argues that we choose what to believe and which model we feel can support the spiritual life. The Bible invites us to value as fully human those on the margins of society. The creeds affirm faith in the human community, linked through the centuries. But we do begin with an intuitive faith in the potential of humankind and it is this we share with those in the spiritual marketplace which he feels is not represented by the traditions and insights of the churches, particularly the liberal understanding.

Prayer is about relationship, a surge from the heart. It is a call to community with people of goodwill freely associating. For Catholics the mass, heavy with imagery, is a way of coming into right relationship with their model of God and universal truths

about our humanity underpinned by ethics for life which isn't based on prohibition or a list of requirements.

The writer acknowledges his homosexuality and his understanding of biology, the bible and his lived faith taught me more than I have learned from within Unitarianism. In fact the book of 174 pages excluding appendix explaining the Nicene Creed and notes, gives just over 50 pages to addressing 'Eros and the Seventh Sacrament. He sees Eros as origin and ideal of all loves and as a universal power beyond the boundaries of any church or tradition. I think he is right to demonstrate the difficulties Protestant traditions have had following the Reformation where the heterosexual union is privileged and justified through Biblical interpretation. Using biology, Bible and tradition he supports the sexual mosaicism, which is the reality of human life and which should be accepted in our churches as a celebration of the wonderful diversity of humankind. In addressing issues beyond my present understanding from within his model of God and knowledge of the Christian tradition and scriptures he has dispelled much of my ignorance allowing light into the dark corners of my understanding.

It is impossible to know what one is ignorant of until being enlightened and no one is outside the bounds of their own puritanical opinions. As Unitarians we often like to think of what we can teach the other traditions from our liberal outlook. In this case I am pleased to have been attracted to the book by its title as I feel just a little bit closer to other liberals, from the Catholic tradition in this instance, and am pleased to know that if we really read and listen to what other liberals have to say we put ourselves in a better position to understand with compassion what it is to be human and to be religious, spiritual beings.

Joan Wilkinson - January 2010

Good Without Gods. Collection by Amy Guerrero. 729. Personally speaking, I don't believe in God, because all of the things I've read in the bible (and other religions) have led me to believe that God in any religion is nothing more than man's own ego and image. Don't believe me? Look up any religion and read their scriptures on women and their rights, i.e. having a say in the home, working, being silent when men are talking, are expected to provide children for their husbands, and etc. Go on. I'll wait. But...But Zeus IS real and rules as king of the gods on Mount Olympus. Nothing you say can convince me otherwise. Atheist Quotes Atheist Humor Secular Humanism Losing My Religion Athiest Believe Question Everything In This World Christianity. God Without God by Michael Hampson, June 25, 2008, O Books edition, Paperback in English. God Without God. Western Spirituality Without the Wrathful King. by Michael Hampson. Published June 25, 2008 by O Books . To many spiritual seekers in the post-Christian West this spirituality without God has strong appeal. Whilst Buddhism has been a formative influence in the cultures of South and East Asia it is a relatively new arrival in the West and is little understood by Christians. This book has the twofold aim of introducing the diverse Buddhist traditions to Western readers and of offering a Christian engagement with the central truth claims of Buddhism. This book is one of few attempts by Christians to offer a respectful and informed, but honest and robust critique of this important religion. Takes the atheist case against God as a premise. This book examines what remains of the western spiritual tradition when the God of presumptive monotheism is removed. It finds right at the heart of the tradition a concept of God, a concept of the divine, far more complex and mysterious than that which the atheist rightly rejects. (more). all members. 3/4Members.

By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother. 1 John 4:3. Verse Concepts. Enemies Of God Divinity atheism Signs Of The Times Denying God And His Power Spirit Of Antichrist Acknowledged. Antichrist Denial In End Times Antichrist, Described As Last Hour World Opposed To God Spirit Beings. and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world. 2 John ...Â NASB New American Standard Bible. KJV King James Version. HCSB Holman Bible. ISV International Standard Version. Fuhrer King Bradley Is A Wrathful Warrior. NicholasMichael75985165. 8:10. 30/8 The King [Wrathful kingz(Galaxy&Buddy)] vs RA. Stephon Lorne. 10:42. A Message of Peace and Spirituality for Muslims of Western World By Dr. Tahir Ul Qadri (English). Dr Tahir-ul-Qadri. 0:26. [Free Read] Ibn Abbad of Ronda: Letters on the Sufi Path (Classics of Western Spirituality. Hmjggwpbt. 2:39.Â Why Good Without God Isn't Enough online. dm_58177e82d56530cad87c505030cddc7. 17:05.Â Download Inventing God Psychology of Belief and the Rise of Secular Spirituality Philosophy and Full EBook Free. Jonas. 19:50. Thanks God for Blessed Rain: The Spirituality of the Sepedi. smtvuploads. 3:39. Spirituality without God. Something Understood. Mark Tully asks if we need God when seeking a spiritual approach to life, or whether the concept of a deity can sometimes get in the way. Show more. Mark Tully asks if we need God when seeking a spiritual approach to life, or whether the concept of a deity can sometimes get in the way. Drawing from music with religious themes, including Mahler's Resurrection Symphony and John Rutter's Cantate Domino, he examines the power that the notion of God can imbue in work created by agnostics, atheists, and religious doubters.Â John Rutter. Cantate Domino. Performer: Choir of Kingâ€™s College, Cambridge. Rutter: Requiem. EMI. God Without God book. Read reviews from worldâ€™s largest community for readers. Takes the atheist case against God as a premise. This book examines what r...Â Start by marking "God Without God: Western Spirituality Without the Wrathful King" as Want to Read: Want to Read savingâ€¦; Want to Read.