

The Western Construction of Religion

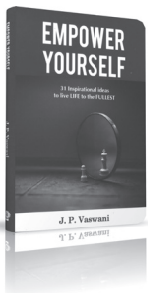
Daniel Dubuisson.
Trans. William Sayers.

The John Hopkins University Press.
2003. xii + 244 pp. \$ 29. PB. ISBN
9780801887567.

For a Westerner usually religion is a choice, for most from the East, it is life itself. The objectification of religion led the West to venture into its scientific study, like the study of any other discipline like engineering. The subjectivity of religion led the East to focus more on the precepts being lived, rather than being restricted to intellectual analysis. With the coming together of nations and blurring of boundaries, the followers of different religions started interacting. To the Westerner, most of the religious wisdom of the East was cryptic and inaccessible, in a language and context far removed. This led to the imposing of Western notions of religion on the East. This book, a translation of the French original, attempts to remove wrong understandings of non-Western concepts of religion and also tries to provide a reassessment of the history of religion as understood in the West. The author charts out a path to a better understanding of world religions by pointing out that every religion has its own sociological and anthropological basis and that all 'cultures are thereby similar, and likewise, all are different' (201). He stresses that all human cultural and religious worlds are nothing but different worlds made indispensable and in the human imagination, each such world has its rightful place.

PB

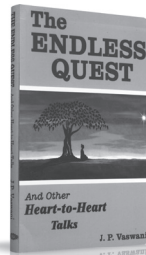
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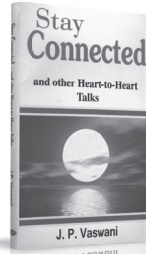
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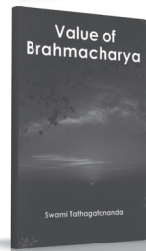
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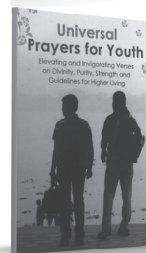
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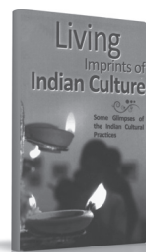


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