

Journal of DHARMA

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on a single general topic

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RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

A Journal in the Study of Religion

Co-Editors:

ARVIND SHARMA,
Department of Studies in Religion,
University of Queensland, St. Lucia,
Brisbane, Australia, 4067

IAN KESARCODI-WATSON,
Department of Philosophy,
La Trobe University,
Bundoora, Victoria, Australia, 3083.

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There are not so many journals promoting a study of religion that one more is too many. The discipline is too recent of arrival in our academies for that. This is especially so in Australia where the discipline is just beginning. Hence, an initial need for a forum for scholars in Religion, as distinct, say, from Theology or Philosophy, here in Australia, is plain to see — the need any academic community with definable boundaries of interest, even perhaps, of geography, has for a venue through which creative exchange may happen in print. No such forum or venue exists in Australia, and this Journal hopes in some measure to provide one.

Naturally, contributions from places other than this one will be encouraged, indeed, sought. There could be no other way to promote a more wide understanding of Religion in Australia, than this. The Journal, in other words, though meant in part to be the product of a need felt among Australian "religionists", must, by dint of that very fact, take its place beside other International Journals in the field.

The title is indicative of a certain stress — the desire of the editors to provide a venue for a wider understanding of Religious *knowledge*, of, that is, the "truth" or "wisdom" Religions seek to convey. Many Journals pride themselves on their standard of scholarly excellence, and often, it would appear, on that alone. Our hope is, whilst sacrificing nothing of substance in scholarship, nonetheless to produce, indeed, promote something more — writings which, in being read, effectively stimulate insight. We express this hope to indicate our earnest policy of producing something that matters, and not yet another place for scholarly self-indulgence. We are concerned, in other words, not merely with knowledge of religion, but as much with religious knowledge.

The first few issues will be indicative of the approach of the Journal and will include papers by: —

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EDITORIAL

The papers in this number of *Religious Traditions* compel us to look at issues towards which we do not glance in the normal pursuit of religious studies, either because, depending on our vantage-point, the prospect appears unpromising to the point of being bleak or challenging to the point of being dazzling. The points of intersection between Science and Theology (Mol), the areas of juxtaposition between Taoism and Tillich (Ross) and the beams of convergence (or divergence) between anthropology and religious studies (Stange) are not themes we students of religion usually think about. If anything binds the various papers of this issue it is that they are all 'in' for being 'far-out', far out towards the very frontier of the territory which we have claimed as belonging to religious studies on the academic map. The entree for this issue follows in the wake of the previous one — an impassioned plea, from an exponent of the perennial philosophy, to assert the spiritual dimension of man's existence.