

RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

(now incorporating *Journal of Studies in Mysticism*)

A Journal in the Study of Religion

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Religious Studies,
University of Sydney,
Sydney, Australia, 2006

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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 indicative of the approach of the Journal, included papers by:—

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EDITORIAL

Our journal, young though it is, already has developed a reputation. In part, for quality pieces on Eastern traditions. And this issue brings together pieces exclusively in this area. Hinduism and Buddhism obviously are not merely single phenomena, but many. Nor is there merely a handful of ways of dealing with these phenomena. But apart from being about Hinduism and Buddhism, this issue pretends to no effort at specialization otherwise.

May it not also be indicative of the true struggle of our times that more than one of our contributors to this issue once were, but are no longer, priests or monks of their respective traditions. Perhaps there is a further message in the fact that all four of our authors, working in essentially similar areas, belong themselves to quite disparate religious traditions.