

RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

(now incorporating *Journal of Studies in Mysticism*)

A Journal in the Study of Religion

Executive Editors:

ARVIND SHARMA,
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

Volume 5 is unique for a number of reasons. It is published as a single issue, incorporating No/s 1 & 2; and contains a group of articles explicitly addressing a main thrust behind the notion of the Journal itself - that religions *are* traditions, if not, in each case, some unique embodiment of "tradition" (singular).

Presenting something so central to our *raison d'être* at this stage could well prove prophetic, as a winding-down knell, for the future of our Journal is uncertain. Indeed, we have in part decided to publish Vol. 5 as a single issue, because we already are, for economic reasons, behind schedule.

But more to the point is the difficult problem besetting all journal editors - the more than normally large articles of quality. And since we have a number of such pieces, all in related areas, we have decided to present them together as a single volume, twice the size of the normal issue. We trust our readers will appreciate the convenience of this.

We believe it of interest to note that two of our contributors are Professors of disciplines other than religion (R. L. Franklin, Philosophy, New England; J. D. Frodsham, Comparative Literature, Murdoch), and all but one of the other, likewise in disciplines other than religion. D. M. Levin is Philosophy, North Western, Evanston; and the Rev. Bruce Kimball, Education, Harvard. Only Jim Wilson from New Zealand actually is in a Department of Religion. Something about the antiquity of religion as a study could be witnessed here.