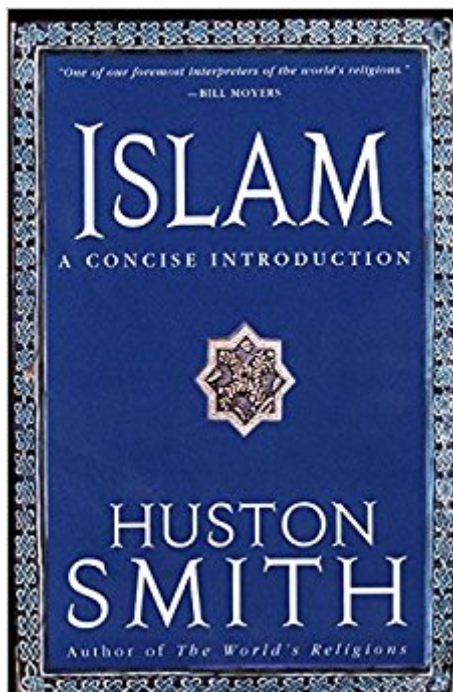


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# Islam: A Concise Introduction



## Synopsis

The world's premier authority on religious traditions presents a concise and timely guide to the history, teachings, and practice of Islam. Drawn from his masterful presentation of Islam in the bestselling book *The World's Religions* (over two million copies sold), Huston Smith offers a revealing look into the heart of a tradition with more than one billion adherents worldwide. Dispelling narrow and distorted notions about the nature of Islam and featuring a new introduction by the author, this book compellingly conveys the profound appeal of Islam, while addressing such timely issues as the true meaning of jihad, the role of women in Islamic societies, and the remarkable growth of Islam in America.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 18 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

Huston Smith is internationally known and revered as the premier teacher of world religions. He is the focus of a five-part PBS television series with Bill Moyers and has taught at Washington University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Syracuse University, and the University of California at Berkeley. The recipient of twelve honorary degrees, Smith's fifteen books include his bestselling *The World's Religions*, *Why Religion Matters*, and his autobiography, *Tales of Wonder*.

this is a section of one of his books pulled out and slapped a cover around to make it a mini novel. I am always a little annoyed when this happens and feel a bit ripped off. It is barely a chapter and not a particularly long and detailed chapter at that. He spends a good bit of time telling the Western reader has their perspective of Islam all wrong and while I appreciate him hearing that, I would

rather make up my own mind based on the material he presents. I am reading it for a book club and class as part of an array of books so perhaps I will moderate my view after I converse with others.

I purchased this as a sympathetic treatment. I like to look at various sides of an issue, ideally without passing judgment.

Informative, and very concise. Gives a great overview, and you can finish it in a few hours!

A fantastic summary, superbly written.

HUSTON SMITH IS ARGUABLY THE GREATEST SCHOLAR ALIVE THAT MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WHO ARE DOUBTERS OF RELIGION OR WHO ARE ATHEISTS SHOULD READ. HIS MIND WILL PERSUADE SECULARISTS AS TO THE TRUTH AND VIRTUES OF RELIGION IN AN AGE OF "SCIENTISTIC" BELIEF.

Very informative and well written.

gives the needed basic information

This is an excellent primer for anyone who wants to learn about Islam, a religion that is so feared by many in the West. Huston Smith, a great teacher of world religions, paints a picture of the beauty of Islam and what it has offered the world, shedding light on how this religion was a beacon of light in the world while Europeans were wallowing in the mud of the Dark Ages. He points out as well how Islam (meaning Peace) is no different than any other religion, in that it too has been hijacked by nationalism, fundamentalism and schisms. What I particularly found enlightening were the chapters on Sufism, the esoteric aspect of Islam. In reading the tenets of this mystical practice, I said to my wife, "Hey, I'm a Sufi!" The Sufi, like the mystics of all the religions, bypass the formal rituals of their religion and go directly to the Source--the Divine Love that unifies all Creation, and comes to the mind-blowing Space of the Infinite. I wish every Westerner, especially those who are so fearful of Islam, would read this to broaden his/her perspective. Janaka Stagnaro Author of "The Teachings of Yama: A Conversation with Death"

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