

Wisdom from the World's Religions

A Guide to Basic Human Questions

Peter Feldmeier

ORBIS  BOOKS
Maryknoll, New York 10545

Founded in 1970, Orbis Books endeavors to publish works that enlighten the mind, nourish the spirit, and challenge the conscience. The publishing arm of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Orbis seeks to explore the global dimensions of the Christian faith and mission, to invite dialogue with diverse cultures and religious traditions, and to serve the cause of reconciliation and peace. The books published reflect the views of their authors and do not represent the official position of the Maryknoll Society. To learn more about Orbis Books, please visit our website at www.orbisbooks.com.

Copyright © 2022 by Peter Feldmeier.

Published by Orbis Books, Box 302, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0302.

All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage or retrieval system, without prior permission in writing from the publisher.

Queries regarding rights and permissions should be addressed to: Orbis Books, P.O. Box 302, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0302.

Manufactured in the United States of America

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Feldmeier, Peter, author.

Title: Wisdom from the world's religions : a guide to basic human questions / Peter Feldmeier.

Description: Maryknoll, NY : Orbis Books, [2022] | Includes bibliographical references and index. | Summary: "Offers a unique and inspiring way to think about religions—even one's own—in light of the religious plurality that exists today"— Provided by publisher.

Identifiers: LCCN 2022015947 (print) | LCCN 2022015948 (ebook) | ISBN 9781626984851 (trade paperback) | ISBN 9781608339471 (epub)

Subjects: LCSH: Religion—Comparative studies.

Classification: LCC BL41 .F455 2022 (print) | LCC BL41 (ebook) |

DDC 200.71—dc23/eng20220718

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2022015947>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2022015948>

Contents

<i>Introduction</i>	<i>ix</i>
1. Who Is God?	1
<i>Hindu Wisdom: Brahman</i>	2
<i>Christian Wisdom: Trinity</i>	13
2. Who Am I?	23
<i>Islamic Wisdom: Dyed in the Dye of God</i>	24
<i>Buddhist Wisdom: I Am No Self</i>	32
3. How Might I Find and Serve God?	42
<i>Hindu Wisdom: God and the Bhagavad-Gita</i>	44
<i>Islamic Wisdom: The Five Pillars</i>	53
4. How Might I Live?	62
<i>Jewish Wisdom: Torah and Mitzvot</i>	63
<i>Jewish Wisdom: The Ecstasy of the Hasidim</i>	72
5. How Might I Reimagine the Universe?	82
<i>Daoist Wisdom: Life Is Art—The Wu-Forms</i>	84
<i>Buddhist Wisdom: The Way of the Bodhisattva</i>	93
6. How Might I Find Balance?	104
<i>Jewish Wisdom: Balance and the Two Impulses</i>	106
<i>Buddhist Wisdom: Divine Abidings</i>	114

7.	How Might I Live in the Natural World?	125
	<i>Christian Wisdom: St. Francis, Pope Francis,</i> <i>and Laudato Si'</i>	127
	<i>Native American Wisdom: God Indwells in Everything</i>	134
8.	How Might I See God?	146
	<i>Christian Wisdom: Seeing Humanity,</i> <i>Mediating God</i>	148
9.	How Might I Consider Death and Beyond?	168
	<i>Buddhist Wisdom: The Tibetan Book of the Dead</i>	170
	<i>The End Game: A Pan-religious Consideration</i>	181
10.	Considering Everything.	189
	<i>Considering Religions</i>	189
	<i>Considering Spiritual Maturity</i>	195
	<i>Generosity</i>	196
	<i>Kindness</i>	196
	<i>Patience</i>	197
	<i>Compassion</i>	197
	<i>Humility</i>	198
	<i>Selflessness and Self-possession</i>	198
	<i>Questioning</i>	199
	<i>Realistic</i>	199
	<i>Holistic</i>	200
	<i>Comfortable with Ambiguity</i>	200
	<i>Personal and Unique</i>	201
	<i>Equanimous</i>	201
	<i>Deeply Embedded in a Tradition</i>	202
	<i>Bibliography</i>	205
	<i>Index</i>	215