Spirituality & the World Religions

1. World Religions: Surveys & Reference Works
2. Jewish Spirituality: Studies
3. Jewish Spirituality: Classic Texts
4. Islamic Spirituality: Studies
5. Islamic Spirituality: Classic Texts
6. Buddhist Spirituality: Studies
7. Buddhist Spirituality: Classic Texts
8. Ch'an & Zen: Studies
9. Ch'an & Zen: Classic Texts
10. Hindu Spirituality: Studies
11. Hindu Spirituality: Classic Texts
12. Taoist & Confucian Spirituality: Texts & Studies
13. Other Traditions

1. WORLD RELIGIONS: SURVEYS & REFERENCE WORKS

Obviously the literature on the spirituality of the world religions is vast. What follows is a small selection of the better and the more recent works. Many are surveys and provide an introduction to more in-depth studies.

Ewert Cousins, ed., *World Spirituality: An Encyclopedic History of the Religious Quest* (New York: Crossroad, 1980s-1990s) 20 volumes to date. An excellent series examining the spirituality of each of the world religions; each volume has essays by leading scholars. See volumes on individual religious traditions below.


### 2. JEWISH SPIRITUALITY: STUDIES

Nicholas de Lange, *An Introduction to Judaism* (Cambridge University Press, 2000). This is part of a superb on world religions published by Cambridge. Like others in the series, this provides an in-depth introduction, offering a solid and sophisticated overview of the history, theology, liturgical practices, and ethical dimensions of Judaism.


Shai Held, *Abraham Joshua Heschel: The Call to Transcendence* (Indiana University Press, 2013) hardcover, $45. NEW.


3. JEWISH SPIRITUALITY: CLASSIC TEXTS


4. ISLAMIC SPIRITUALITY: STUDIES

the traditions, and does a fine job of rooting Rumi in the tradition he comes from. Lewis also analyzes the contemporary Rumi craze and alerts one to biases and deficiencies of different scholarly assessments.


### 5. ISLAMIC SPIRITUALITY: CLASSIC TEXTS


6. BUDDHIST SPIRITUALITY: STUDIES


7. BUDDHIST SPIRITUALITY: CLASSIC TEXTS

*The Connected Discourses of the Buddha: A New Translation of Samyutta Nikaya*, trans. Bhikkhu Nikaya, Teachings of the Buddha, 2 vol. (Boston: Wisdom Publications, 2000). This is a translation, nearly 2000 pages in length, of the 3rd set of the *Tripitaka*, the massive Pali canon of Buddhist Scriptures. This marks an important milestone in Buddhist studies, the completion of a new translation of the complete Buddhist scriptures, now available to Westerners in a contemporary translation. The other two volumes in the series are:


8. **CH’AN & ZEN: STUDIES**

Steven Heine, *Did Dōgen Go to China? What He Wrote and When He Wrote It* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2006). Zen master Eihei Dogen (1200-1254) was the founder of the Soto Zen sect and has been described as Japan's finest religious writer. This is a major biographical study, cutting through the hagiography that has clouded standard accounts of Dogen's life. Heine does much to illuminate the complexities of Dogen's intellectual and social context and the evolution of his mind. He also brings English-speaking readers up to date on the complexities of recent Japanese historical-critical scholarship on this pivotal figure in the Zen tradition.

Steven Heine, *Opening a Mountain: Kōans of the Zen Masters* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2002). Kōans are terse, seemingly nonsensical dialogues between Zen (or Ch’an) masters and their disciples. (The best known is: “What is the sound of one hand clapping?”). Certain schools of Zen assign them to disciples as the focus of their long hours of meditation; koans are seen as pedagogical tools to awaken disciples, to provoke the experience of sudden enlightenment. The great kōan collections, such as the *Blue Cliff Records* (Pi-yen lu) and the *Gateless Barrier* (Mumonkan), are difficult for Westerners. Heine masterfully opens them up, using a historical-critical approach, and introduces readers to the intricate and often entertaining social world of medieval China and Japan.


Steven Heine, *Like Cats and Dogs: Contesting the Mu Koan in Zen Buddhism* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2013) paperback, $30. NEW.


Shohaku Okumura, *Realizing Genjokoan: The Key to Dogen’s Shobogenzo* (Wisdom Publications, 2010).


9. CH’AN & ZEN: CLASSIC TEXTS


- Vol. 3: *The Sutra of Hui-Neng, Dream Conversations, Kensho, Rational Zen, Zen and the Art of Insight*.
- Vol. 4: *Transmission of Light, Unlocking the Zen Koan, Original Face, Timeless Spring, Zen Antics, Record of Things Heard, Sleepless Nights*.


Bibliographies for Theology, compiled by William Harmless, S.J.


10. HINDU SPIRITUALITY: STUDIES


**11. HINDU SPIRITUALITY: CLASSIC TEXTS**


**12. TAOIST & CONFUCIAN SPIRITUALITY: TEXT & STUDIES**


**13. OTHER TRADITIONS**


**14. INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE**


