

The Case For God Karen Armstrong

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from the bestselling author of a history of god and the great transformation comes a balanced nuanced understanding of the role religion plays in human life and the trajectory of faith in modern times why has god become incredible why is it that atheists and theists alike now think and speak about god in a way that veers so profoundly from the thinking of our ancestors moving from the paleolithic age to the present karen armstrong details the lengths to which humankind has gone to experience a sacred reality that it called god brahman nirvana allah or dao she examines the diminished impulse toward religion in our own time when a significant number of people either want nothing to do with god or question the efficacy of faith with her trademark depth of knowledge and profound insight armstrong elucidates how the changing world has necessarily altered the importance of religion at both societal and individual levels and she makes a powerful convincing argument for structuring a faith that speaks to the needs of our dangerously polarized age

in the late twentieth century fundamentalism has emerged as one of the most powerful forces at work in the world contesting the dominance of modern secular values and threatening peace and harmony around the globe yet it remains incomprehensible to a large number of people in the battle for god karen armstrong brilliantly and sympathetically shows us how and why fundamentalist groups came into existence and what they yearn to accomplish we see the west in the sixteenth century beginning to create an entirely new kind of civilization which brought in its wake change in every aspect of life often painful and violent even if liberating armstrong argues that one of the things that changed most was religion people could no longer think about or experience the divine in the same way they had to develop new forms of faith to fit their new circumstances armstrong characterizes fundamentalism as one of these new ways of being religious that have emerged in every major faith tradition focusing on protestant fundamentalism in the united states jewish fundamentalism in israel and muslim fundamentalism in egypt and iran she examines the ways in which these movements while not monolithic have each sprung from a dread of modernity often in response to assault sometimes unwitting sometimes intentional by the mainstream society armstrong sees fundamentalist groups as complex innovative and modern rather than as throwbacks to the past but contends that they have failed in religious terms maintaining that fundamentalism often exists in symbiotic relationship with an aggressive modernity each impelling the other on to greater excess she suggests compassion as a way to defuse what is now an intensifying conflict bonus this edition contains an excerpt from karen armstrong's twelve steps to a compassionate life

why does god exist how have the three dominant monotheistic religions judaism christianity and islam shaped and altered the conception of god how have these religions influenced each other in this stunningly intelligent book karen armstrong one of britain s foremost commentators on religious affairs traces the history of how men and women have perceived and experienced god from the time of abraham to the present the epic story begins with the jews gradual transformation of pagan idol worship in babylon into true monotheism a concept previously unknown in the world christianity and islam both rose on the foundation of this revolutionary idea but these religions refashioned the one god to suit the social and political needs of their followers from classical philosophy and medieval mysticism to the reformation karen armstrong performs the near miracle of distilling the intellectual history of monotheism into one superbly readable volume destined to take its place as a classic praise for history of god an admirable and impressive work of synthesis that will give insight and satisfaction to thousands of lay readers the washington post book world a brilliantly lucid spendidly readable book karen armstrong has a dazzling ability she can take a long and complex subject and reduce it to the fundamentals without oversimplifying the sunday times london absorbing a lode of learning time the most fascinating and learned study of the biggest wild goose chase in history the quest for god karen armstrong is a genius a n wilson author of jesus a life

in this extensive and original account of the evolution of belief karen armstrong examines western society s unerring fidelity to the idea of one god and the many conflicting convictions it engenders

from one of the world s leading writers on religion and the highly acclaimed author of the bestselling a history of god the battle for god and the spiral staircase comes a major new work a chronicle of one of the most important intellectual revolutions in world history and its relevance to our own time in one astonishing short period the ninth century bce the peoples of four distinct regions of the civilized world created the religious and philosophical traditions that have continued to nourish humanity into the present day confucianism and daoism in china hinduism and buddhism in india monotheism in israel and philosophical rationalism in greece historians call this the axial age because of its central importance to humanity s spiritual development now karen armstrong traces the rise and development of this transformative moment in history examining the brilliant contributions to these traditions made by such figures as the buddha socrates confucius and ezekiel armstrong makes clear that despite some differences of emphasis there was remarkable consensus among these religions and philosophies each insisted on the primacy of compassion over hatred and violence she illuminates what this family resemblance reveals about the religious impulse and quest of humankind and she goes beyond spiritual archaeology delving into the ways in which these axial age beliefs can present an instructive and thought provoking challenge to the ways we think about and practice religion today a revelation of humankind s early shared imperatives yearnings and inspired solutions as salutary as it is fascinating excerpt from the great transformation in our global world we can no longer afford a parochial or exclusive vision we must learn to live and behave as though people in remote parts of the globe were as important as ourselves the sages of the axial age did not create their compassionate ethic in idyllic circumstances each tradition developed in societies like our own that were torn apart by violence and warfare as never before indeed the first catalyst of religious change was usually a visceral rejection of the aggression that the sages witnessed all around them all the great traditions that were created at this time are in agreement about the supreme importance of charity and benevolence and this tells us something important about our humanity

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a beautiful island in the south pacific and a christian home should be an ideal place for anyone to begin their life s journey but instead pinati s childhood memories are filled with physical abuse especially between the ages of five and ten he still has a scar from a knife that stuck in his arm he could not eat regular food for two weeks from a hit on his mouth and he was beaten with a board in front of the whole school assembly as a second grader as an adult he experienced a painful divorce death of his only son at age 20 death of his wife of 18 years a drive by shooting in san francisco and a street mob in the philippines with a pacemaker a kidney transplant eight stents in his heart and a daily dose of 23 pills he believes he s still going because of god s love and grace his story is for god s glory

change your priorities change your life a woman after god s own heart has guided millions of women toward god s will for their lives helping them experience peace order and joy in pursuit of him in this enduring work beloved author elizabeth george shares god s word along with woman to woman practical wisdom on how you can pursue god s priorities in all areas of your life whether it s putting god first strengthening relationships building a stronger bond with your husband raising godly children or growing in service to others each day offers opportunities to pursue the lord as you embrace god s plans for you you will find real purpose in a life of prayer and practicing god s priorities as you become a woman after his heart the harvest legacy collection for more than 50 years harvest house publishers has provided high quality books that affirm biblical values helping countless readers grow spiritually strong the harvest legacy collection celebrates the lasting influence of select harvest house titles with deluxe special edition releases these enduring works have collectively impacted millions and they are sure to inspire readers for years to come

fundamentalisme er et ord man dagligt støder på i medierne i bogen beskriver forfatteren hvordan fundamentalisme har udviklet sig inden for tre vidt forskellige men dog beslægtede monoteistiske religioner den jødiske fundamentalisme i israel den protestantiske fundamentalisme i usa og den islamiske fundamentalisme i egypten og iran

here armstrong argues that atheism has rarely been a denial of the sacred itself but has nearly always rejected a particular conception of god she suggests that if we draw on the insights of the past we can build a faith that speaks to our needs

please note this is a companion version not the original book sample book insights 1 the guide turns his flashlight on the ceiling of the underground caverns of lascaux and the painted animals seem to emerge from the depths of the rock the artwork is far more clear than it was to the palaeolithic artists since they had to work by the light of small flickering lamps 2 the caves were probably sanctuaries and their iconography reflected a radically different worldview than the outside world the cave paintings depict men confronting animals in a state of trance with upraised arms 3 the palaeolithic caves may have been the scene of similar rites the paintings include dancing men dressed as animals the bushmen say that their own rock paintings depict the world behind this one that we see with our eyes which the shamans visit during their mystical flights 4 the caves were used for the initiation ceremonies that marked the adolescent boy s rite of passage from childhood to maturity the purpose of the ritual was to train the boy to kill in the sacred manner he was introduced to the more esoteric mythology of his tribe during the initiation

commanded by the king karen s placed in the midst of an angelic battle what will become of karen

what will she see find out as you embark on the journey

nobody likes scutwork the unwanted dregs of the working day pastors are no exception to this often dreading the endless e mails and phone calls having no heart for putting together one more bulletin or attending one more meeting all of which feels like so much distraction from the true pastoral work to which they have been called louis weeks challenges that paradigm and lifts up scutwork as an integral part of pastoral care and leadership how can we administer congregations in ways most likely to increase the measure of pastoral care how can our service in menial and glorious work alike build up the body of christ how can all the work and worship in this congregation help god s work in the world preparation organization and other administrative duties are crucial for effective programs and mission in a congregation as elsewhere in society preaching teaching and pastoral care three indispensable parts of congregational life all depend upon competent congregational administration it is through focused attention to the details of scutwork that pastors are able to build solid relationships within the congregation and without the trust that comes from these relationships no true pastoral care and leadership is possible all for god s glory explores ways in which churches are engaged and can engage in practices of administration that deepen care and build a healthy congregational community

it is the most persistent myth of our time religion is the cause of all violence but history suggests otherwise karen armstrong former roman catholic nun and one of our foremost scholars of religion speaks out to disprove the link between religion and bloodshed religion is as old as humanity fields of blood goes back to the stone age hunter gatherers and traces religion through the centuries from medieval crusaders to modern day jihadists the west today has a warped concept of religion we regard faith as a personal and private matter but for most of history faith has informed people s entire outlook on life and often been inseparable from politics humans undoubtedly have a natural propensity for aggression the founders of the largest religions jesus buddha the rabbis of early judaism the prophet muhammad aimed to curb violence and build a more peaceful and just society but with our growing greed for money and wealth came collective violence and warfare with the arrival of the modern all powerful secular state humanity s destructive potential has begun to spiral out of control is humanity on the brink of destroying itself fields of blood is a celebration of the ancient religious ideas and movements that have promoted peace and reconciliation across millennia of civilization

over the past century christianity s place and role in the world have changed dramatically in 1900 80 percent of the world s christians lived in europe and north america today more than 60 percent of the world s christians live outside of that region this change calls for a reexamination of the way the story of christianity is told the methodological tools for its analysis and its modes of expression perhaps most significant is the role of africa as the new christian heartland the questions and answers about christianity and its contemporary mission now being developed in the african churches will have enormous influence in the years to come this volume offers nine new essays addressing this sea change and its importance for the future of christianity some contributions consider the development of non western forms of christianity others look at the impact of these new christianities in the west the authors cover a wide range of topics from the integration of witchcraft and christianity in nigeria and the peacemaking role of churches in mozambique to the american baptist reception of asian christianity the changing face of christianity shows the striking cultural differences between the new world christianity and its western counterpart but with so many new immigrants in europe and north america the faith s fault lines are not purely geographical the new christianity now thrives in american and european settings and northerners need to know this faith better at stake is their ability to be good neighbors and perhaps to be good christian citizens of the world

the mystics of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries were writes karen armstrong like the astronauts of our own day they broke into a new religion blazed a new trail to god and to the depths of the self a trail far from the beaten pilgrimage paths of chaucer and langland mysticism is a spiritual mystery shared in some form by all faiths it has a supernatural quality that extends beyond the given boundaries of religious creed and may be experienced by any lay person the thrilling intensity of a mystical experience as represented in this volume by the writings of four mystics of the middle ages can inspire

other spiritual seekers with its insight into the limitless wonder of both human and divine experience dissatisfied by the strictures of dogma and a religion that failed to quench the human thirst for knowledge of a mystical order these four mystics richard rolle of hampole walter hilton dame julian of norwich and the unknown author of the cloud of unknowing communicate an intense and passionate experience of faith rare in any time because of their unique beliefs and spiritual strength their knowledge and writings have proved timeless and in this beautiful volume show contemporary seekers important new insights into the nature of divine love

winner of the 2008 pulitzer prize for drama and the 2008 tony award for best new play a tremendous achievement in american playwriting a tragicomic populist portrait of a tough land and a tougher people timeout new york tracy letts august osage county is what o neill would be writing in 2007 letts has recaptured the nobility of american drama s mid century heyday while still creating something entirely original new york magazine i don t care if august osage county is three and a half hours long i wanted more howard shapiro philadelphia inquirer this original and corrosive black comedy deserves a seat at the table with the great american family plays time one of the most bracing and critically acclaimed plays in recent history august osage county is a portrait of the dysfunctional american family at its finest and absolute worst when the patriarch of the weston clan disappears one hot summer night the family reunites at the oklahoma homestead where long held secrets are unflinchingly and uproariously revealed the three act three and a half hour mammoth of a play combines epic tragedy with black comedy dramatizing three generations of unfulfilled dreams and leaving not one of its thirteen characters unscathed august osage county has been produced in more than twenty countries worldwide and is now a major motion picture starring meryl streep julia roberts chris cooper dermot mulroney sam Shepard juliette lewis and ewan mcgregor

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