

Buddha Karen Armstrong

Through the Narrow GateThe Lost Art of ScriptureThe case for God.The Great TransformationThe BibleThe BibleThe Spiral StaircaseBuddhaTwelve Steps to a
Compassionate LifeA History of GodThe Battle for GodMuhammadComing Back to LifeIn the BeginningSt. PaulThrough the Narrow GateThe Gospel According
to WomanSacred NatureMuhammad Prophet for our timeJerusalem Karen Armstrong Karen Armstrong Karen Armstrong Karen Armstrong Karen Armstrong
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a book that shines fresh light on the world's major religions to help us build bridges between faiths and rediscover a creative and spiritual engagement with holy texts from the New York Times bestselling author of *A History of God* an unusual often dazzling blend of theology history and neuroscience the New Yorker the significance of scripture may not be immediately obvious in our secular world but its misunderstanding is perhaps the root cause of many of today's controversies the sacred texts have been co-opted by fundamentalists who insist that they must be taken literally and by others who interpret scripture to bolster their own prejudices these texts are seen to prescribe ethical norms and codes of behavior that are divinely ordained they are believed to contain eternal truths but as Karen Armstrong shows in this chronicle of the development and significance of major religions such a narrow peculiar reading of scripture is a relatively recent modern phenomenon for most of their history the world's religious traditions have regarded these texts as tools that enable the individual to connect with the divine to experience a different level of consciousness and to help them engage with the world in more meaningful and compassionate ways

moving from the paleolithic age to the present karen armstrong details the great lengths to which humankind has gone in order to experience a sacred reality

that it called by many names such as god brahman nirvana allah or dao focusing especially on christianity but including judaism islam buddhism hinduism and chinese spiritualities armstrong examines the diminished impulse toward religion in 21st century when a significant number of people either want nothing to do with god or question the efficacy of faith why has god become unbelievable why is it that atheists and theists alike think and speak about god in a way that veers so profoundly from the thinking of our ancestors answering these questions armstrong makes clear how the changing face of the world has necessarily changed the importance of religion at both the societal and the individual level and she makes an argument for drawing on the insights of the past in order to build a faith that speaks to the needs of our dangerously polarized age yet she cautions readers that religion was never supposed to provide answers that lie within the competence of human reason that she says is the role of logos

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.

The Bible is the most read book in history; it has been translated into more than two thousand languages and sold at least six billion copies. In the last two hundred years alone, more than sixty-six books, divided into two testaments, this complex and communal work has been transformed by its various translations into a single work at the heart of the world's largest and most powerful religion, Christianity. In this landmark account, Karen Armstrong discusses

the complex origins gestation life and afterlife of this collection of books in her trademark lively and authoritative style she asks how the various scriptures were collected into one work how it became accepted as christianity s sacred text and how it continues to exercise profound political and philosophical influenceas well as religious control over the world around us

the renowned religious historian preaches the gospel truth explaining how the spiritual guide came into being and evolved over the centuries vanity fair as the single work at the heart of christianity the world s largest organized religion the bible is the spiritual guide for one out of every three people in the world it is also the world s most widely distributed book and its bestselling with an estimated six billion copies sold in the last two hundred years but the bible is a complex work with a complicated and obscure history its contents have changed over the centuries it has been transformed by translation and through interpretation has developed manifold meanings to various religions denominations and sects in this seminal account acclaimed historian karen armstrong discusses the conception gestation life and afterlife of history s most powerful book armstrong analyzes the social and political situation in which oral history turned into written scripture how this all pervasive scripture was collected into one work how it became accepted as christianity s sacred text and how its interpretation changed over time armstrong s history of the bible is a brilliant captivating book crucial in an age of declining faith and rising fundamentalism vintage armstrong sweeping bold incisive and insightful in eight chapters it covers the history of the writing canonizing and reading of the bible her choice of topics is impeccable and her brief 23 page discussion on the rise of the talmud is masterful choice an excellent précis of the writing and compiling of the bible and the ensuing centuries of biblical interpretation one terrific little book booklist

national bestseller the new york times bestselling author of a history of god delivers the gripping inspirational story about her own search for god a story about becoming human being recognized finally recognizing oneself it fills the reader with hope the washington post book world in 1962 at age seventeen karen armstrong entered a convent eager to meet god after seven brutally unhappy years as a nun she left her order to pursue english literature at oxford but convent life had profoundly altered her and coping with the outside world and her expiring faith proved to be excruciating her deep solitude and a terrifying illness diagnosed only years later as epilepsy marked her forever as an outsider in her own mind she was a complete failure as a nun as an academic and as a normal woman capable of intimacy her future seemed very much in question until she stumbled into comparative theology what she found in learning thinking and writing about other religions was the ecstasy and transcendence she had never felt as a nun

with such bestsellers as a history of god and islam karen armstrong has consistently delivered penetrating readable and prescient the new york times works that have lucidly engaged a wide range of religions and religious issues in buddha she turns to a figure whose thought is still reverberating throughout the world 2 500 years after his death many know the buddha only from seeing countless serene iconic images but what of the man himself and the world he lived in what did he actually do in his roughly eighty years on earth that spawned one of the greatest religions in world history armstrong tackles these

questions and more by examining the life and times of the buddha in this engrossing philosophical biography against the tumultuous cultural background of his world she blends history philosophy mythology and biography to create a compelling and illuminating portrait of a man whose awakening continues to inspire millions

karen armstrong explains how to practise the religion of compassion that her last books have preached in november 2009 armstrong and ted launched the charter of compassion which states that we call upon all men and women to restore compassion to the centre of morality and religion to cultivate an informed empathy with the suffering of all human beings even those regarded as enemies to date it s been signed by over 48 000 people on the including such figures as the dalai lama and queen noor dave eggers and meg ryan charterforcompassion org out of the ideals of that charter has come this humane accessible indispensable short book for our times

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 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

a life of the prophet muhammad by bestselling author karen armstrong armstrong has a dazzling ability she can take a long and complex subject and reduce it to its fundamentals without over simplifying sunday times one of our best living writers on religion financial times not just a sympathetic book that would dispel the misconceptions and misgivings of its western readers but also a book that is of considerable importance to muslims muslim news most people in the west know very little about the prophet muhammad the acclaimed religious writer karen armstrong has written a biography which will give us a more accurate and profound understanding of islam and the people who adhere to it so strongly muhammad also offers challenging comparisons with the two religions most closely related to it judaism and christianity

his journey is rather remarkable and ongoing the story contains details that will be recognized by all of those who have had long term therapy for any brain injury but as in any human achievement familiar ingredients emerge as part of the formula chris had the support of family and a relentless desire to improve chris does not pretend to be a man of letters and openly shares his pre accident shortcomings but to all who read his tale told also from his mother s perspective you will see how it is not the ability to quote philosophy that gives us the capability to overcome we need faith family and forgiveness timed to support us when we are low we need the desire to be independent when we feel more powerful we then freely choose with full acknowledgement of our faults to accept our fate and move on this is the triumph of the human spirit i thank chris and his mother for telling their story a stronger faith in god and man awaits all readers dr james p farrell

karen armstrong is a genius a n wilson as the foundation stone of the jewish and christian scriptures the book of genesis unfolds some of the most arresting stories of world literature the creation adam and eve cain and abel the sacrifice of isaac yet the meaning of genesis remains enigmatic in this fascinating volume karen armstrong author of the highly acclaimed bestseller a history of god brilliantly illuminates the mysteries and profundities of this mystifying work a lyrical chronicle of one woman s wrestling with genesis that can serve as a guide to others as notable for its scholarship as it is for its honesty and vulnerability publishers weekly armstrong can simplify complex ideas but she is never simplistic the new york times book review

a stirring account of the life of paul who brought christianity to the jews by the most popular writer on religion in the english speaking world karen armstrong author of the history of god which has been translated into thirty languages

the precursor to the bestselling the spiral staircase comes karen armstrong s classic memoir of her life as a young woman in a convent through the narrow gate is karen armstrong s intimate memoir of life inside a catholic convent with honesty and clarity she explains what drove her at age seventeen to devote herself to god over the next seven years she endures the difficulties of convent life the enforced silence the lack of friendship and family her own guilt at not being able to stifle her voracious intelligence and unveils the secrets of religious life during the post vatican ii years through the narrow gate is a moving account of a young woman s search for god and the experiences that put karen armstrong on her way to becoming one of the most admired and most respected interpreters of religious faith

from one of the most original thinkers on the role of religion in the modern world a profound exploration of the spiritual power of nature and an urgent call to reclaim that power in everyday life much has been written on the scientific and technological aspects of climate change but armstrong s book is both more personal and more profound its urgent message is that hearts and minds need to change if we are to once more learn to revere our beautiful and fragile planet the guardian since the beginning of time humankind has looked upon nature and seen the divine in the writings of the great thinkers across religions the natural world inspires everything from fear to awe to tranquil contemplation god or however one defined the sublime was present in everything yet today even as we admire a tree or take in a striking landscape we rarely see nature as sacred in this short but deeply powerful book the best selling historian of religion karen armstrong re sacralizes nature for modern times drawing on her vast knowledge of the world s religious traditions she vividly describes nature s central place in spirituality across the centuries in bringing this age old wisdom to life armstrong shows modern readers how to rediscover nature s potency and form a connection to something greater than ourselves

karen armstrong adalah penulis yang telah menghasilkan karya karya gemilang tentang berbagai tradisi agama dalam setiap tulisannya dia menampilkan kepiawaiannya menampilkan kajian yang rumit menjadi bahasan yang memikat dan mudah dimengerti penulis yang bermukim di inggris itu kini menampilkan biografi nabi muhammad yang tentunya membawakan tafsiran yang baru dan mengejutkan yang selalu menjadi kekhasannya biografi nabi muhammad ini ditulis karen pertama kali sebagai respons terhadap fatwa ayatullah khomeini terhadap salman rushdie hingga saat itu kebanyakan literatur barat menggambarkan muhammad entah sebagai orang suci yang sempurna atau sebagai penipu ulung armstrong berdiri di tengahnya muhammad ditampilkannya sebagai seorang luar biasa berbakat pemberani dan kompleks diperlihatkannya pula betapa karakter dan ide ide nabi demikian kuat untuk mengubah sejarah secara drastis dan menarik jutaan pengikut dengan mahir karen menjalinkan di dalam narasinya jejak jejak awal sejarah panjang permusuhan barat terhadap islam ditulis dengan riset yang kuat dan berdasarkan sumber sumber yang berimbang penggambaran karen tentang nabi dengan latar kehadirannya tentu

dapat pula mencerahkan pembaca dengan pemahaman baru tentang kejadian kejadian modern di kancah politik internasional mizan agama nabi islam karen amstrong indonesia

splendid eminently sane and patient essential reading for jews christians and muslims alike the washington post venerated for millennia by three faiths torn by irreconcilable conflict conquered rebuilt and mourned for again and again jerusalem is a sacred city whose very sacredness has engendered terrible tragedy in this fascinating volume karen armstrong author of the highly praised a history of god traces the history of how jews christians and muslims have all laid claim to jerusalem as their holy place and how three radically different concepts of holiness have shaped and scarred the city for thousands of years armstrong unfolds a complex story of spiritual upheaval and political transformation from king david s capital to an administrative outpost of the roman empire from the cosmopolitan city sanctified by christ to the spiritual center conquered and glorified by muslims from the gleaming prize of european crusaders to the bullet ridden symbol of the present day arab israeli conflict written with grace and clarity the product of years of meticulous research jerusalem combines the pageant of history with the profundity of searching spiritual analysis like karen armstrong s a history of god jerusalem is a book for the ages the best serious accessible history of the most spiritually important city in the world the baltimore sun a work of impressive sweep and grandeur los angeles times book review

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