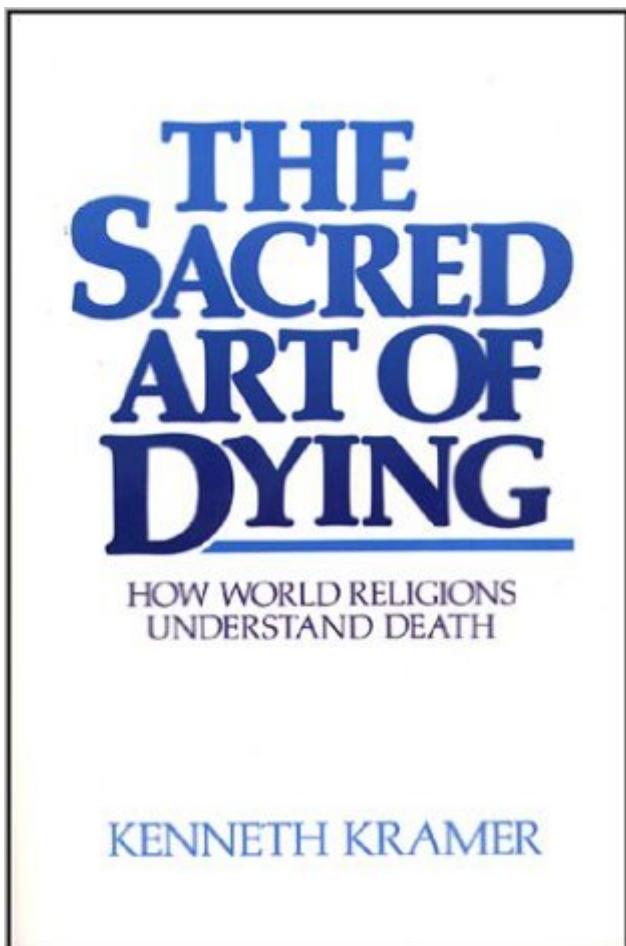


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The Sacred Art Of Dying: How The World Religions Understand Death



Synopsis

Examines how each of the major religions looks at death by including stories, teachings and rituals that present a comparative religious meaning of death and afterlife. Written in textbook style with journal exercises at the end of each chapter.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'm really quite torn when it comes to making a judgment about this book because I feel that anything critical I have to say about it needs to be highly qualified in reference to this book's strengths. I had better start with the strengths then. This is the premier, affordable, death and dying textbook. To the best of my knowledge you will not be able to find a survey of world religion's views of death and dying for under \$15. This is really an accomplishment that deserves no small amount of credit and one that you have to acknowledge. If you are looking for a good place to start on this topic, here it is. However, I have some concerns with this book that need to be mentioned. The first issue is that at times it is exceedingly evident that the author is no, by far, an expert in every religious sub-discipline. Honestly, it would be a monumental accomplishment to pull off that degree of authenticity in a single-author survey of any sort, especially when covering a field as diverse as "religion." Nonetheless, the author doesn't deliver in a few chapters, such as the Judaism and Greek chapters. To further explain, such chapters do not appear to be very well organized. This is both in the sense of organization and assembling material. For example, the organization leaves much to be desired in the Hinduism chapter. In my opinion, some core philosophy, which is brought up later on, needs to be moved to the front to better frame the elucidation of death. I feel that more

immediate personal and social issues are addressed with the philosophy pushed to the periphery, but due to Hinduism's nature, I do not think this is a very good approach. Concerning the assembly of material, some chapters seem loosely tacked together, such as the Judaism chapter.

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