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Articles of Interest

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56 Book Reviews

Responses to 101 Questions on Hinduism. John Renard. New York: Paulist Press, 1999, x + 179 pp.

This is the second of three volumes by John Renard, St Louis University, on Eastern religions. The other two are on Islam and Buddhism. Together they offer handy and easy comparisons of similar issues across the three traditions.

Renard's *Responses to 101 Questions on Hinduism* is a learned but down-to-earth volume that makes it easier to begin to learn about Hinduism by clearing away many of the inevitable confusions and doubts. Its excellent questions and answers introduce a wide set of issues and topics essential to understanding Hinduism, including ancient origins, classic traditions, different gods and goddesses, key texts, ritual practices, popular myths, historical developments, and

features of contemporary Hindu belief and practice. Christians involved in Hindu-Christian dialogue will surely want to keep this book near at hand.

Francis X. Clooney, SJ

Vedanta: A Simple Introduction. Pravrajika Vrajaprana. Hollywood, CA: Vedanta Press, 1999, 90 pp.

This little book offers a clear, concise introduction to *Vedanta* for the lay reader who is unfamiliar with the topic. A concluding section covers the revitalization movement of the last century which led to the establishment of the Ramakrishna Order and Vedanta Societies in the West. A short reading list provides primary source materials.

Shirley Embra

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William Cenkner, "Christians and the Hindu Experience of Prayer", *Prayer: The Global Experience*, ed. Francis A. Eigo, Philadelphia: Villanova University, 1997.

Tessa Bartholomeus, "Spiritual Wealth and Neo-Orientalism", *Journal of Ecumenical Studies*, 19-32.

Anantanand Rambachan, "The Nature and Authority of Scripture: Implications for Hindu-Christian Dialogue", *Current Dialogue*, December 1998, 3-11.

Judson B. Trapnell, "Indian Sources on the Possibility of a Pluralist View of Religions", *Journal of Ecumenical Studies*, Vol. 35, No 2, Spring 1998, 210-234.