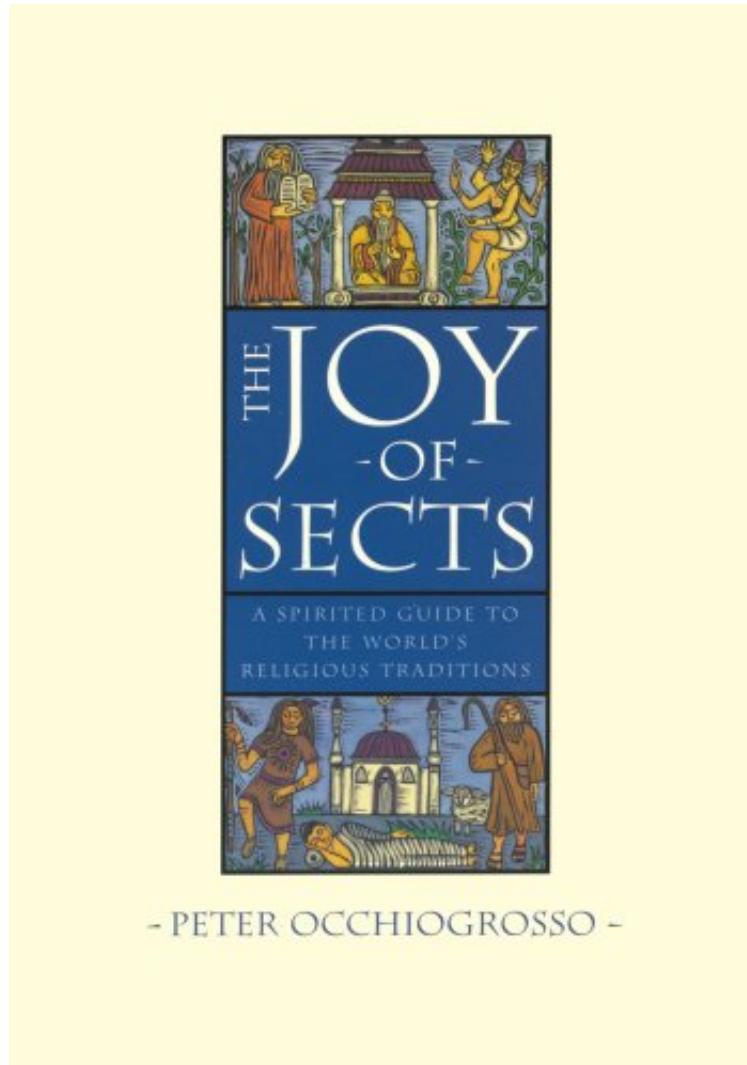


## The Joy of Sects

*Peter Occhiogrosso*

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#784163 in Books Peter Occhiogrosso 1997-09-04 1997-09-04 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.25 x 1.45 x 6.15l, 1.74 #File Name: 0385425651656 pages The Joy of Sects | File size: 17.Mb

**Peter Occhiogrosso : The Joy of Sects** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Joy of Sects:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. The Joy of Reading This BookBy ArtemisThis is an excellent book on comparative religions and I enthusiastically recommend it. It is highly informative and also fun to read. One reviewer here quoted his favorite subtitle appearing in the chapter on Hinduism: "It's my karma and I'll cry if I want to." One of my favorites appears under Buddhism--"Stop the wheel, I want to get off." These subtitles give you a flavor of Occhiogrosso's style of writing, which makes this book so enjoyable. The book contains numerous sidebars (boxed text) and subheads, which make it very easy to read and comprehend. For example, one such boxed text is

titled "You Say Potato: Where Islam Parts Company With Christianity." This is followed by two columns--one labeled "A Christian" and one labeled "A Muslim"--where points of comparison are given. I also found useful the glossary (called "Coming to Terms") that appears at the end of each chapter. Key words of that particular religion under discussion are defined and a pronunciation guide is given when necessary. If you are an average reader like me who is curious about world religions, this book will not disappoint you. 10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Broad yet humorous  
By Customer  
For year I had wanted to study comparative theology, but had been daunted by the breadth of the task. When I found *Joy of Sects*, I was hoping for a broad review of the major world religions. I got this and much more. Not only are the six major eastern and western religions covered, but so too are many of their sects and sub-sects. In what could otherwise be dry reading, the author has managed to find an appropriate balance between reporting the facts behind each faith, and finding the humor in each and religion in general. Playful, and non-offensive. Yet the work goes deeply enough into each topic as to give the reader the history and spiritual nature of each belief system. I would recommend this work to anyone even remotely interested in comparative theology or even those mildly interested in what their friends and neighbors believe. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars  
By Vyviana Sawley  
Great product!

Religion is one of the oldest human activities and even in the present day pervades almost every aspect of life, but with so many seemingly incomprehensible beliefs, laws, rituals, and terminologies, you can't tell the players without a program. *The Joy of Sects* overcomes this confusion by presenting a rich trove of information in a concise, browsable format. It is a guidebook to the world's religious traditions not only for the devout follower but also for the interested outsider, for the curious unbeliever, and for anyone who ever wondered about the difference between karma and dharma, yin and yang, Talmud and Torah, the astral plane and the akashic record, Pharisees and Sadducees, Sunnis and Shiites. Here you will find detailed narrative histories of the six great religious traditions of East and West -- Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam -- along with information about related traditions, including Sikhism, Confucianism, Gnosticism, Zoroastrianism, and the various elements that compose the New Age. Each chapter contains brief sections on the scriptures, places of worship, and terminologies, as well as the numerous denominations, orders, and schools that make up the great millefleur tapestry of world religion.

From *Library Journal*  
The author states that this book is a reference work for the television and computer age, designed for easy access to names, terms, and other information about world religions. If this is the book's only purpose, it succeeds. It is a miniature encyclopedia with bite-sized definitions and explanations to aid anyone needing immediate help when confronted with a new or strange religious term or seeking more information on a religious topic that is unfamiliar. The book successfully covers Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Of special interest is a chapter on New Age religions, presently a burgeoning field. An objection to the book is its frivolous title, which may condemn this good, quick reference source to be dismissed as just another popular book on religion. Recommended for public libraries.  
Glenn Masuchika, Chaminade Univ. Lib., Honolulu  
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From *Booklist*  
Comparative religion can be dry, but not the way Occhiogrosso writes it. Not only is this fat book comprehensive, it's lively and, perhaps best of all, easy to understand. Occhiogrosso, the author of *Once a Catholic* (1988), explains the world's religions so clearly and with such easy wit that even those befuddled by religious terminology--from kosher to karma--will find themselves seeing the light for the first time. The book is divided into seven chapters, one each on Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and New Age. Each chapter is then divided by such topics as history, contemporary practices, and terms, with clever subject headings like "The Mark of Zoroaster" or "Confucius Say What?" Libraries may want one copy for circulation and another for reference. An excellent resource.  
Ilene Cooper  
From the Publisher  
All the fundamental themes of the world's major religions--from Amish to Zen--are presented in this thorough, yet accessible study of religious tradition. More than 30 B W illustrations