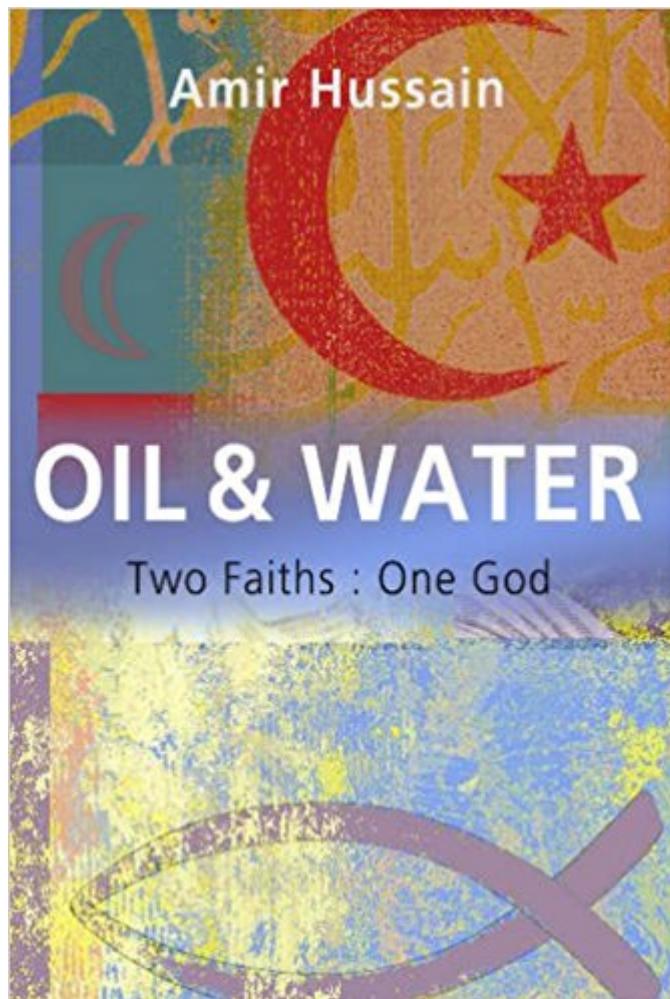


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Oil & Water: Two Faiths: One God



Synopsis

Listen to any news broadcast today and the message comes through loud and clear: Islam is a religion of violence and behind every Muslim there lurks a potential terrorist. Islam is a threat to values of the Christian West. They are like oil and water. Clearly, they don't mix. *Oil & Water: Two Faiths One God* confronts these popular perceptions head-on. With keen insight and gentle understanding, it explores the differences between Christianity and Islam, as well as the many things these two enduring faith traditions hold in common – including, first and foremost, their belief in and desire to be faithful to the one, true God; their shared roots and scripture (from the Jewish faith); and the spiritual values of peace and social justice. Written for Christians by Muslim world-religions scholar Amir Hussain, the book is divided into two parts. Part 1, provides an overview of the Islamic faith and of the lives of Muslims in North America today. Chapters focus on the place and identity of Muslims in society, as well as on the importance and role of Muhammad, the Qur'an, and basic beliefs and practices (The Five Pillars of Islam). Having provided a foundation for understanding, the book moves on, in Part 2, to explore key points for dialogue today, including issues of violence and jihad, the roles of women and men, and the mystical tradition within Islam. The final two chapters look at interfaith dialogue and the practical aspects of being good neighbours. In all of this, the book invites the reader to a place of reconciliation, to a place where the truth and value of each of these great faith traditions can be recognized and honoured by the other. In the end, the metaphor of oil and water is an interesting one for the reality of conflict and the hope for reconciliation between Islam and Christianity today.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Dr. Amir Hussain is Professor of Theological Studies at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, where he teaches courses on world religions. His own particular speciality is the study of contemporary Muslim societies in North America. Although born in Pakistan, Amir immigrated to Canada with his family when he was four. His academic degrees (BSc, MA, PhD) are all from the University of Toronto where he received a number of awards, including the university's highest award for alumni service. Amir's PhD dissertation was on Muslim communities in Toronto. He has a deep commitment to students, and holds the distinction of being the only male to serve as Dean of Women at University College, University of Toronto. Before coming to California in 1997, Amir taught courses in religious studies at several universities in Canada. He is active in academic groups such as the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion and the American Academy of Religion (where he is co-chair of the Contemporary Islam consultation, and serves on the steering committee of the Religion in South Asia section). He is on the editorial boards of two scholarly journals, *Contemporary Islam: Dynamics of Muslim Life* and *Comparative Islamic Studies*. Amir is also interested in areas such as religion and music, religion and literature, religion and film and religion and popular culture. In 2008, he was appointed as a fellow of the Los Angeles Institute for the Humanities. Prior to his appointment at Loyola Marymount University, Amir taught at California State University, Northridge (CSUN) from 1997 to 2005. Amir won a number of awards at CSUN, both for his teaching and research. In 2001 he was selected for the outstanding faculty award by the National Center on Deafness. For the academic year 2003-04, he was selected as the Jerome Richfield Memorial Scholar. In 2008, Amir was chosen by vote of LMU students as the Professor of the Year. Amir's new book is an introduction to Islam for North Americans entitled *Oil and Water: Two Faiths, One God* (Kelowna: CopperHouse, an imprint of Wood Lake Publishing, 2006). He is currently working on a scholarly book on Islam in Canada entitled *Canadian Faces of Islam*; and a textbook entitled *Muslims: Islam in the West in the 21st Century.*"

This is a wonderful book about the theological relationships between Christianity and Islam, and explains with great care the way in which the Quran explicitly and often implicitly evokes the theology, stories, and traditions of Judaism and Christianity in its theological development. The author also goes through crucial passages that Christians and atheists tend to cite to argue that Islam is an inherently misogynistic or violent religion, and compares them with other passages in the

Quran that hold women in high esteem, and denounces violence explicitly against Jews and Christians. The upshot is that Islam, like all of the other Abrahamic religions, use complicated texts, and that there are as many ways to be a Muslim as there are to be a Christian.

Very good comparisons between, esp., Islam and Christianity. Very well balanced and not an apologetic for anyone. I feel that is rare for books from either side. I am an Evangelical Christian with a decent, though small, understanding of Islam and some of the common misconceptions of those who have NO Muslim friends not any knowledge of Islam. I have worked with about 50 men from Damascus for 10 years and have shared their Eid Al-Fitr celebrations and others as well as just hanging out. Very good men who I am proud to call my friends. Muslims are Not terrorists. Bad people are. Same with all kinds of Christian denominations. Often I feel like an apologist for Islam. And that is good. If you want a fair, and Very Balanced, book you NEED to read this one.

I have wanted to read this book for years. It lays out a very intimate view of Islam for Christians and non-Christians/non-Muslims, alike. The Muslim author is active in many Christian organizations and churches and, thus, has a very good understanding of what people from a Judeo-Christian background need to understand about Islam. The point is that we have more in common than we have at odds. This book is very thoughtfully written, causing me to read it very fast. I highly recommend it to anyone who has an interest in understanding the power of Islam. The author was so convincing that I almost wanted to become a Muslim, myself!

Well written, interesting reflection of the solidarity of the Abrahamic traditions.

Excellent book for Christians to read who are interested in better understanding and developing positive relationships with our Muslim brothers and sisters. There is so much misinformation coming from both sides. I have recommended to friends and family.

Thanks item as described.

Good book for understanding in a broad manner the Muslim ideology. Easy to read, good chapter organization, takes the reader through the Muslim culture, coincidences and differences with Judaism and Christianity. A very tolerant author.

Makes a good way to learn about both the Christian and the Moslim faith

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