



OLYMPUS STORY HOUSE | US REVIEW OF BOOKS

Encounters with God

William K. Dorrance

"Be the witness to your thoughts and emotions, instead of being swept away by them, is the initiation to realizing consciousness has levels of awareness."

In this work, Dorrance works tirelessly through research and personal experiences to demystify Eastern spiritual phenomena, demonstrating a pathway to heightened human consciousness and detachment from maya, a liberation from the materialistic world of engagement, and a full immersion in God's light. The author's knowledge, combined with meticulous case studies and literature reviews on this topic, provides a fluid and insightful experience for those wishing to delve deeper into the intersection of science and spirituality.

Dorrance's ability to navigate between science, spirituality, and philosophy is impeccable and timely, allowing audiences to see how deeply rooted spirituality is—whether one acknowledges it or not—within modern society. For instance, few in Western science ponder questions such as "who am I?" or "what is my purpose on this planet?" While the author highlights the intricate nature of Eastern religions, such as Hinduism, and their focus on the soul, the cycle of life, and rebirth/reincarnation, he juxtaposes this understanding with the seemingly rudimentary and mechanical nature of Western science. What is most interesting about the author's reflections is the notion that, despite Western society being far more developed and technologically advanced, it is slipping further and further away from the nonmaterial, thereby placing the future of the planet under close scrutiny.

The author recounts his own childhood with an atheist father and the progression that led to his search for a Christ-like figure in today's world. Dorrance expertly weaves in the contributions and connections of both Newton and Einstein in conjunction with both science and religion to demonstrate how early scientists were attuned to religion. Where science has now drawn the line in its belief system, however, spirituality has opened a realm of utter bliss, or samadhi, where a complete surrender to God's love becomes the catalyst to moksha, or complete liberation from the life and death cycle.

Within this context, Dorrance undertakes a deep dive into the understanding of astrology, past-life regression, psychic experiences, and more. His research shows cases where young kids could distinctly remember their past lives, while also studying near-death experiences as well as deathbed visions, where individuals often are purported to see their

loved ones who have already crossed over. At its core, the work aims to cultivate an open mind and remove the veil of limiting beliefs that restrict Western societies to stringent beliefs and ultimatums, ultimately causing more harm than good.

From prolific and influential figures like Paramhansa Yogananda, whose Self-Realization Fellowship is thriving in Los Angeles, California, Dorrance demonstrates the "supernormal" power of intuition, akin to that of Jesus Christ. Nevertheless, it is his experience with Sathya Sai Baba and his unparalleled life story that leaves the author in awe, as a Jesus-like figure once again graces the earth. Within this portion, Dorrance's experiences that lead him to meet Sathya Sai Baba are eye-opening and a testament that the answer to prayers is often sent in human form. At every turn, the author tackles incredibly complex topics with a pure, simplified lens, whether it be the Hindu epics Mahabharata and Ramayana to express the role of dharma or the Four-Way Test. This is the X-factor that makes Dorrance's efforts stand out. The uncanny clarity that infuses his work takes the mystery out of words like "avatar" and creates an opportunity for all audiences to understand spiritual phenomena in a more comprehensible and digestible manner.

- Mihir Shah, US Review of Books