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# WORLD RELIGIONS

VOLUME 3

FAITHS OF THE FAR EAST

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YOUNG OON KIM

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WHATEVER THE title men use for God, whatever aspect of His nature is emphasized by different groups of people, God is the Father of all mankind and all are His children. However varied the doctrine and forms of worship, I see two universal features in all faiths: God is seeking His children everywhere and they are anxious to return to Him. Neither God nor man has ever stopped such longing; the efforts of each have continued and even intensified through the centuries. In olden times people may have expressed their faith in a simple way; whereas in modern times they have developed more logically and rationally to suit sophisticated minds and also the deepened spiritual experiences of individuals within each community of faith.

Rather than merely repeating a history of other men's religions or trying to refute their faith in order to promote Christianity, it is my aim in this book to show how profoundly people in each great religion have experienced the holy, encountering God, and testifying to His work throughout history—in other words, how clearly God has been revealing His will and heart to them. We

might find something common, universal, consistent among all religions. If there is something different, unique in their ideology, this could be an emphasis on different aspects of the one God and His work.

Religious differences and prejudices based upon misunderstanding have caused too much hostility and bloodshed in the past. Hence it is important for us to look at each great religion with an open mind. It was so hard to explain in a few pages the theology and history of religions which have developed over a long period. Humbly admitting the inevitable superficiality I only wish that the reader may be stimulated to begin friendly dialogue with people of other faiths. Thus men of all creeds should unite in their efforts to bring about His Kingdom on earth for His sake and our own.

I want to express my gratitude for the diligent research work of Reverend Royal Davis and associate editing of Mr. John Dolen.

Washington, D.C.  
September 1, 1976

Young Oon Kim

# about the author

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