



# **Spiritual Paths to An Ethical & Ecological Global Civilization: Reading the Signs of the Times with Buddhists, Christians, & Muslims**

*John Raymaker, Gerald Grudzen, Joe Holland*

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# Spiritual Paths to An Ethical & Ecological Global Civilization: Reading the Signs of the Times with Buddhists, Christians, & Muslims

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## **Spiritual Paths to An Ethical & Ecological Global Civilization: Reading the Signs of the Times with Buddhists, Christians, & Muslims** John Raymaker, Gerald Grudzen, Joe Holland

In this visionary book, John Raymaker and Gerald Grudzen with Joe Holland – three pioneering scholars of religion, philosophy, and culture – first try to read those contemporary signs of the times which indicate that late modern civilization and our entire planet Earth are "on the brink." They do this primarily in relation to the interrelated global financial-ecological crisis. They frame their reading of the signs of the times within the emerging and authentically postmodern "New Cosmology," which sees evolution as a co-creative artistic-mystical process, in contrast to the modern secularist-determinist cosmology which sees the Universe as atomistic and mechanical, and as devoid of spiritual meaning or purpose. Seeking a healing response to the late modern global financial-ecological crisis of modernity, their book next probes classical expressions of the "wisdom of the ages," as found in the spiritual and ethical writings of select mystical thinkers from Buddhism, Christianity, and Islam. This probing searches for an inclusive global spirituality that will resonate with creative ecological-mystical cosmology presently arising within the frontiers of philosophy and science. Their book then tries to link that global spirituality to the search for a healing global ethics. In that application, they criticize certain late modern and hypermodern forms of thought (often falsely claiming to be "postmodern"), which fail to provide true solutions for the late modern social-ecological breakdown. A true global ethics, their book argues, needs to be rooted in the deep wisdom of all the great spiritual traditions of the human family, including the rich spiritualities of the natural world found in humanity's ancient "indigenous" traditions. Lastly, their book explores how global spirituality and global ethics need to take expression in a regenerative global civilization. This civilization, the book argues, would reject the late modern "free-market" model of globalization, which is uprooting humans from their natural communities and from the entire natural world. Instead, it would network and defend the global spiritual solidarity of rooted communities, and protect workers, families, and bioregions on which they depend.

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