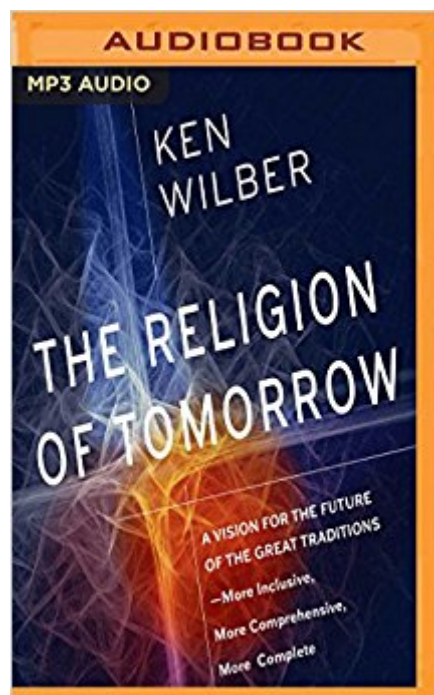




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The Religion Of Tomorrow: A Vision For The Future Of The Great Traditions—More Inclusive, More Comprehensive, More Complete



Synopsis

A provocative examination of how the great religious traditions can remain relevant in modern times by incorporating scientific truths learned about human nature over the last century. A single purpose lies at the heart of all the great religious traditions: awakening to the astonishing reality of the true nature of ourselves and the universe. At the same time, through centuries of cultural accretion and focus on myth and ritual as ends in themselves, this core insight has become obscured. Here Ken Wilber provides a path for reenvisioning a religion of the future that acknowledges the evolution of humanity in every realm while remaining faithful to that original spiritual vision. For the traditions to attract modern men and women, Wilber asserts, they must incorporate the extraordinary number of scientific truths learned about human nature in just the past 100 years - for example, about the mind and brain, emotions, and the growth of consciousness - that the ancients were simply unaware of and thus were unable to include in their meditative systems. Taking Buddhism as an example, Wilber demonstrates how his comprehensive Integral Approach - which is already being applied to several world religions by some of their adherents - can avert a "cultural disaster of unparalleled proportions": the utter neglect of the glorious upper reaches of human potential by the materialistic postmodern worldview. Moreover, he shows how we can apply this approach to our own spiritual practice. This, his most sweeping work since *Sex, Ecology, Spirituality*, is a thrilling call for wholeness, inclusiveness, and unity in the religions of tomorrow.

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Customer Reviews

"Ken Wilber is a national treasure. No one is working at the integration of Eastern and Western

wisdom literature with such depth or breadth of mind and heart as he." —Robert Kegan, Professor of Education, Harvard University Graduate School of Education, and author of *Over Our Heads* "When Ken Wilber's thought walks through your mind, the door to the next higher level becomes visible. Anyone seeking to update the wisdom traditions of their lineage needs his reality and consciousness maps. The kabbalah of the future will lean on Ken's work." —Reb Zalman Schachter-Shalomi "Ken Wilber is today's greatest philosopher and both critic and friend to authentic religion, a true postmodern Thomas Aquinas." —Father Richard Rohr, Center for Action and Contemplation "The religion of tomorrow, according to Ken Wilber, will not be one religion, but all religions guiding their respective constituents toward oneness with Ultimate Reality. This book is Ken Wilber's comprehensive synthesis of all the elements that make for human development from the Big Bang through the course of material and biological evolution. The recent discoveries of science, especially in the areas of developmental psychology and historical criticism, as well as mystical experience, have enabled him to bring together contemporary science, the wisdom of the world religions, and an integral presentation of the human condition with all its potential. The endless complexities of the evolutionary process gives way to a sublime simplicity, culminating in the spiritual and integral evolution of the human person toward unity with That Which Is." —Thomas Keating, author of *Open Mind, Open Heart* --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Malcolm Graeme has appeared on and off Broadway in "Aida, The King and I, " Lincoln Center's "Hapgood, " and "M. Butterfly" (National Tour). His television appearances include "Law & Order, Follow the River, " and "Mr. Halpern and Mr. Johnson" (with Laurence Olivier). Film credits include "A Further Gesture, The Adventures of Sebastian Cole, " and "Reunion." KEN WILBER is the founder of Integral Institute and the cofounder of Integral Life. He is an internationally acknowledged leader and the preeminent scholar of the Integral stage of human development. He is the author of more than twenty books, including *A Brief History of Everything*, *A Theory of Everything*, *Integral Spirituality*, *No Boundary*, *Grace and Grit*, and *Sex, Ecology, Spirituality*.

First of all, I'd like to thank all of those who have given *The Religion of Tomorrow* such a terrific response. I'm truly grateful. Reading these reviews has caused much warm appreciation and deep gratitude! But I'd like to respond directly to the rather nasty review of a Mr. Long. Not only it is fairly malicious, factually it's just

plain false. As far as I can tell, his two major criticisms are that the book is repetitive, and there's really nothing new contained in it. The first of those is by choice, and the second is simply wrong. As for the repetition. To begin with, after I wrote my first few books, and it became apparent that there was something of a coherent "system" of thinking emerging in my work, I made a direct and deliberate decision never to assume that any reader knew anything about what I had previously written. Rather, I wrote every book since (which is mostly all of them) with the assumption that the present book was whatever it was was the first book about my work that the reader had seen. This means that each book I have done starts totally from scratch and explains the whole system from the ground up. This usually means about 1/3 of every book is a repetition of material you can find in my previous books. I have found, over the years, that the majority of readers appreciate this very much and around 10 percent of them really resent it and get totally irritated by it. I understand their irritation, but not enough to stop doing this. I just really believe that it's deeply arrogant to think that I can jump into explaining something and assume everybody will have read enough of my previous books to know exactly what I mean. But this is not a new criticism again, around 10 percent of the reactions to my books over the years have made this complaint, and some of them very viciously. The other type of repetition that I usually include and which is definitely more irritating in general is to repeat material in the same book. This action comes from the same assumption that my readers are new to Integral ideas and really know nothing about them, and so I need to start from scratch with any ideas. Some studies have found that, for people who are totally new to a topic, repeating the material 2-3 times gives the best results in terms of actually comprehending the new material. In keeping with the assumption that all readers are new readers, I often (not always, but often) intentionally find ways to repeat the basic ideas 2-3 times. Again, throughout the years, I have found that a majority of readers appreciate this, and a small number get extremely irritated. So welcome to that club, Mr. Long. I particularly and deliberately used repetition in this book because it is attempting to be an overall summary of what a truly legitimate religion will look like in the future an incredibly sophisticated and complex topic, and I wanted the material to be as easily understood as possible, so both repetitions are included no doubt, doubly irritating Mr. Long. But where Long is just dead wrong in his criticism is the claim that there is little new in this book. This is so loopy I don't know where to begin. Start, I suppose, with the fact that, out of 4 parts overall, all of Part 3 is a detailed account of what shadow material is like at each of 12 major levels of consciousness (in Growing Up), and also at each of 5

major states of consciousness (in Waking Up). Nowhere previously has this specific type of detailed information been given anywhere by anybody, including me. It's all radically new. As are the areas throughout the book that deal with actual therapeutic techniques for any of them. Much of this material is truly pioneering (particularly that dealing with all of 3rd tier and all of the stages of meditation). This overall material in itself is close to 300 pages. (And by the way, most people I've talked with really appreciate these sections, because it helps them track their own shadows.) Which is just the start. Part 2 deals with a detailed description of the major structures of consciousness (in Growing Up) — not their shadow material, but their healthy versions. Nowhere — including in any of my earlier work — have such detailed descriptions been given of the actual levels of consciousness as identified by Integral Metatheory — and nowhere at all have the 4 major levels of 3rd-tier consciousness been so thoroughly described, or even described at all. This (especially 3rd tier) is all radically new — and close to another 200 pages. There are completely new sections on pioneering aspects of Integral Metatheory, dealt with absolutely nowhere previously. This includes topics such as Integral Semiotics (which is one of my own favorite sections of the book, covering all of chapter 17, and detailing a new and effective way to talk about God entirely, or a radically new God-language — actually, this section was previously posted in one place, so it is available elsewhere, but it was this chapter that was posted, so it was still new with this book). Each of the items covered in the Miscellaneous chapter (chapter 16) are all totally new (including Polarity Therapy, Network Sciences, The Technological Tie-In, A Higher “We,” Subtle Energy Dimensions, Accelerated Development, among others). Much of chapter 14, some of chapter 15, and the first two chapters are material taken from Integral Metatheory itself, and therefore that material can indeed be found in different versions elsewhere in my work. But overall, this is a staggering amount of new material, and much of it is truly pioneering and revolutionary — it's a genuinely extraordinary look at what truly legitimate religions will have to look like in the future — if they are to have any impact on the world at all — and at how you can incorporate these novel insights into your own daily practice if you wish. What often tends to happen with people who have followed my work for decades, as Mr. Long has, is that they learn to think Integrally. Integral Metatheory is a radically new and comprehensive way to think about our world — and so far over 60 different disciplines have been fully re-interpreted using an Integral Framework (to give Integral Business, Integral Art, Integral Leadership, Integral Psychotherapy, Integral Philosophy, Integral Architecture, Integral Relationships, Integral Family, Integral Sports, and so on).

But people who learn to think Integrally begin to think, well, think Integrally. And so as they read my material, and because they are thinking Integrally, they can often begin to see what's coming and then when it shows up, they feel they've heard this before and I'm repeating myself. But sometimes I'm not repeating, they're just thinking with me. And in a case such as Mr. Long, it appears that that item coupled with some of the real repetitions for which I freely confess has sent him over the edge. As for the comment about how I have begun appearing on things like YouTube videos, Mr. Long here seems to get even a bit more nasty. Most of my readers know that, in 1985, I contracted a fairly severe chronic illness along with over 300 other people in a very small village in north Lake Tahoe that was totally unknown at the time, but is now recognized by the CDC as being a "debilitating adult illness." It basically causes an exhaustion so severe that people literally cannot get out of bed. There is no known cure. I've had this idiotic thing for over 30 years, and it hasn't exactly killed me. I've managed to write over 2 dozen books but it has been a total pain. One very regrettable aspect of this illness is that it has several opportunistic illnesses, one of which is grand mal seizures. About a decade ago, I had two rounds of a dozen grand mal seizures (one grand mal can kill you, and I was hit both times by 12 in a row; I nearly died both times, and both times I was comatose for four days following). One of the regrettable effects of these seizures is that they caused visible behavior changes, particularly when I talk, and these also affected my feet in a way that makes walking quite difficult. And yes, if you look at the videos of me speaking prior to those seizures, and then you look at any of the videos taken after those seizures, you can easily see these visible differences when I talk. It's unpleasant. But it's really mean-spirited to make light of this, Mr. Long. Fortunately, these seizures had no effect on my intellectual capacity, my writing ability, my capacity to enter higher states, and so on for which, believe me, I'm thankful. And I actually think that I've been able to handle this wretched illness with a great deal of strength precisely because of my integral life practice. So, my friends, I want to thank everybody again (minus a few) for the incredibly kind reviews. I really do think that an Integral approach to the world's problems and certainly to specific areas like religion itself can have a revolutionary impact, and we're definitely seeing this virtually everywhere that an Integral approach has been taken. Thanks again enormously, and my very best wishes to you all.

This new book by Wilber is a refined restatement of the world's greatest living philosopher's integral framework. In addition, he has communicated in his most readable way yet, adding new insights and going deeper than ever before into brilliant descriptions of higher states of consciousness. At over 800 pages, 25% which are extensive footnotes, you may want to pick those sections that interest you most to begin with. But do begin. While Wilber is a brilliant pattern recognizer, big picture analyst, and actual practitioner of the most rarefied stages of Growing Up and states of Waking Up, he is not the world's most accurate scholar. He sometimes misquotes passages from the Bible and others and sometimes gets his details wrong. His critics and academics can nail him for these details, but he has no peer in presenting the brilliance of the integral framework to the world. Using Buddhism as his main example but also referring to Christianity, he indeed paints a picture of the world's great religious traditions evolving by becoming more "inclusive, comprehensive, and complete." He does not ask our great religions to give up their distinctiveness, but rather to build on their uniqueness while transcending their culture bound elements to embrace an ever-evolving path that can bring all religions into a rich tapestry of deep and profound life-giving spirituality. As a Christian, a Baptist minister who embraces the integral approach, I have more in common with my integral Buddhist friends than I do with most of my Baptist and other Christian-branded friends. In other words, I don't need to give up Jesus to evolve as an integralist, I just need a more evolved understanding of Jesus and a larger, deeper experience of a God who is bigger, closer, and more me than I ever dreamed of. For those who can travel with Wilber to plumb the depths of this book, you will find just this kind of spirituality without having to give up your religious tradition. Paul Smith author of *Integral Christianity: The Spirit's Call to Evolve and Is Your God Big Enough? Close Enough? You Enough? Jesus and the Three Faces of God*.

Ken Wilber managed with *The Religion of Tomorrow* to explain Integral Theory and the Fourth Turning for all spiritualities in accessible language. He notes that Eastern spirituality is focused on WAKING UP while Western thought is about GROWING UP - and only for the past 100 years or so. Integral Theory combines the two and adds two more: CLEANING UP and SHOWING UP. The Buddha, for instance, was enlightened but only at the mythic level - thus ethnocentric. While Being has "no moving parts", Becoming has and that is where the GROWING UP is taking place. One cannot be aware of one's structural stage. It is only when "the subject of the lower stage becomes

the object of the subject of the next stage" that one can look back and by being made aware of the content (aqs object) of the level one is at, that you can understand why you act in a certain way and believe certain things. I know about the criticism of Wilber's take on evolution and the 2nd and 3rd tier developments, but it will not take away the importance of the content of this book. I am also listening to the book on Audible (all 30 hours), reading it on Kindle and and on hardcover - great investments.

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