



The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Zoroastrianism (Wiley Blackwell Companions to Religion)

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This is the first ever comprehensive English-language survey of Zoroastrianism, one of the oldest living religions

- Evenly divided into five thematic sections beginning with an introduction to Zoroaster/Zarathustra and concluding with the intersections of Zoroastrianism and other religions
- Reflects the global nature of Zoroastrian studies with contributions from 34 international authorities from 10 countries
- Presents Zoroastrianism as a cluster of dynamic historical and contextualized phenomena, reflecting the current trend to move away from textual essentialism in the study of religion

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Editorial Review

Review

Review copy sent on 03.6.15 to Religionsvidenskabeligt Tidsskrift
Review copy sent on 20.5.15 to Reference Reviews
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Review

The editors of the Wiley *Blackwell Companion to Zoroastrianism* ought to be lauded for presenting a superb compendium on the state of scholarship in Zoroastrian Studies. Not only does its treatment of more traditional questions pertaining to Zarathustra's time, homeland, and *G?th?*s evince new and refreshing insights, but an array of novel inquiries into Zoroastrian hermeneutics and cosmogonies, or the issue of gender, provides for an exciting and stimulating read. Altogether, the Wiley *Blackwell Companion to Zoroastrianism* is a *must* for the informed and specialized reader alike, and a major contribution to the field for many years to come.

M. Rahim Shayegan, UCLA

From the Back Cover

Zoroastrianism is one of the oldest living religions. It is widely considered by scholars to have had a profound impact on the religious history of the Middle East, Central and South Asia, and the development of the field of comparative religions.

This book represents the first comprehensive English-language survey of Zoroastrianism ever published. With contributions from 33 international scholars from 10 countries, *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Zoroastrianism* is evenly divided into six thematic sections, containing discussion of Zoroaster/Zarathustra, historical and regional surveys, topical and thematic discussions, analyses of the intersection of Zoroastrianism and nine other religions and cultures, and concluding with a survey of primary sources.

Reflecting the current trend in the study of religion to move away from purely textualist and essentialist views of religious traditions, the Companion presents Zoroastrianism as a cluster of dynamic historical and contextualized phenomena. This accessible and interdisciplinary handbook of Zoroastrian studies will be essential reading for anyone interested in better understanding one of the world's oldest and most influential religions.

Michael Stausberg is a Professor of Religion at the University of Bergen and a member of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters. His books in English include *Religion and Tourism: Crossroads, Destinations, and Encounters* (2011) and *Zarathustra and Zoroastrianism* (2008), and he is the editor or co-editor of *Defining Magic* (2013), *The Routledge Handbook of Research Methods in the Study of Religions* (2011), *Contemporary Theories of Religion* (2009), and *Theorizing Rituals* (2 vols., 2006–2007). Dr. Stausberg has also published widely on Zarathustra and Zoroastrianism in German; he is co-editor of the international journal *Religion*.

Yuhan Sohrab-Dinshaw Vevaina is a Lecturer in Religious Studies at Stanford University. After

completing his PhD in 2007 at Harvard University, he served as Postdoctoral Fellow in the Undergraduate Core Curriculum and as the Lecturer on Old Iranian in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. Dr. Vevaina is the author of several articles in peer-reviewed journals and edited volumes, and in 2010 he received a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities, USA. He is currently completing a book project on Zoroastrian hermeneutics in Late Antiquity.

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