

GERARDETTE PHILIPS, RSCJ, PHD

BEYOND PLURALISM

OPEN INTEGRITY AS A SUITABLE APPROACH
TO MUSLIM-CHRISTIAN DIALOGUE

Preface by Prof. Seyyed Hossein Nasr



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- By Gerardette Philips, rscj, PhD

Preface by Prof. Seyyed Hossein Nasr

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Cetakan I: 2013

Penulis: Gerardette Philips, rscj, PhD

Editor: Elga J. Sarapung

Desain Cover: Agung Istiadi

Layout: Lusiana Susanti

xx + 288 halaman; 14.5 x 21 cm

ISBN: 979-8726-43-X

Penerbit:

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BEYOND PLURALISM

"The discourse on pluralism is an almost perennial issue within the discourse of religion, almost as old as the axial era in the history of humankind. Despite the fact that this discourse is at the very heart of the religious discourse, there has not been, to my knowledge, a middle way of thinking that can satisfactorily act as an alternative view between the two extremes: exclusivism and radical pluralism that would entail relativism. By taking the cases of two of the most prominent thinkers among Islam and Catholicism – Sayyed Hossein Nasr and Hans Küng – this work by Sr. Gera has paved the way for a very productive discussion that would pave the way for a more acceptable resolution to the old age discourse."

Haidar Bagir Lecturer The Islamic College and Director Mizan Publishing.

"This is a challenging book. Sr. Gerardette Philips brings together two religious masters who, precisely in their very different approaches, show how religions, while staying faithful to their creeds, can become a united force in promoting peace and understanding in a world threatened by shallow secularism on the one hand and religious fanaticism on the other. Hans Küng challenges religions to put their weight behind four essential demands of post traditional ethics: rejection of violence as a means to resolve conflict, solidarity with the poor, religious tolerance, and rejection of all discrimination of women. While Sayyed Hossein Nasr opens the transcendental unity of the religions. Together, they challenge us to a new experience of religion that make it possible that the different religions work together, in deep respect towards each other, for a more human and just world."

Franz Magnis Suseno, SJ Professor Sekolah Tinggi Filsafat Driyarkara.

"An oasis in the vast desert! A powerful enlightening approach for a dialogue that roots to the very core of religious traditions, sincerity, integrity and its uniqueness. From a spiritual person who dedicates her entire life in the field, this book is truly fundamental for realizing a world of peace and compassion beyond Muslim-Christian community."

Arif Samil, Life Coach & NLP Master Practitioner MINDINSIGHT coaching, training & consultancy.

"A genius breakthrough towards a genuine dialogue between Muslims and Christians is unprecedentedly formulated in the concept of OPEN INTEGRITY, by which Sr. Gerardette Philips offers a new way of dialogue synthesizing Küng's Global Ethics and Nasr's Perennial Philosophy, resulting in confirming one's own religious identity and recognizing others' religious belief. For those who want to be a true believer while engaging in the authentic dialogue, this book is a must."

Dr. Anton Subianto OSC, Provincial of the Order of Holy Cross, Indonesia.

"Timely and significant! Open Integrity is an approach if we desire true dialogue among followers of religions and if we want our world to be free from suspicion, fear and pain. A prophetic voice invites us at this moment to return to the truth of ourselves and take seriously the truth of the other."

Yusuf Daud, Sufi Master Mishkatul Anwar Thaha.

It is imperative that pluralism should not stop at discourse. It must be translated into a tangible presence in the pluralistic society we live in. In fact, even this is not enough. We need a vision and ideas to respond to the challenges of the globalization process that is beyond what we ever imagined. What is shared by Sr. Gerardette in this important work, no doubt, is vital and highly timely. It enriches our notions for participation in building mutual understanding as citizens of the world.

Djohan Effendi, Activist of Religious Pluralism and Interfaith Dialogue for Peace Movement in Indonesia.

There is only one humankind. It is defined by factors such as nationality, ethnicity, race, culture and religion. Yet these factors have caused tension or conflict in the history of humankind, particularly in relations between religions. Often it seems that these factors offer nothing to human civilisation. But in reality, these factors have a positive contribution to humanity and this can also be said of religion. There is evidence to prove this; this book by Sr Gerardette highlights the work of two experts, Prof. Hans Kung and Prof. Seyyed Hossein Nasr that substantiate such a view. This shows that people of different religions need not clash because of their differences, but in fact through creative dialogue are able to develop and foster common humanity. This book is worth reading for anyone with goodwill to promote our mutual peace and wellbeing."

Andreas A. Yewangoe, General Chairman of the Communion of Churches in Indonesia.



Sr. Gerardette Philips, RSCJ, is a Religious of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. At present a lecturer in the Parahavangan Catholic University Bandung and The Islamic College Jakarta, she has written many articles, papers and conducted seminars, workshops and programs on the subject of Muslim-Christian Dialogue.

