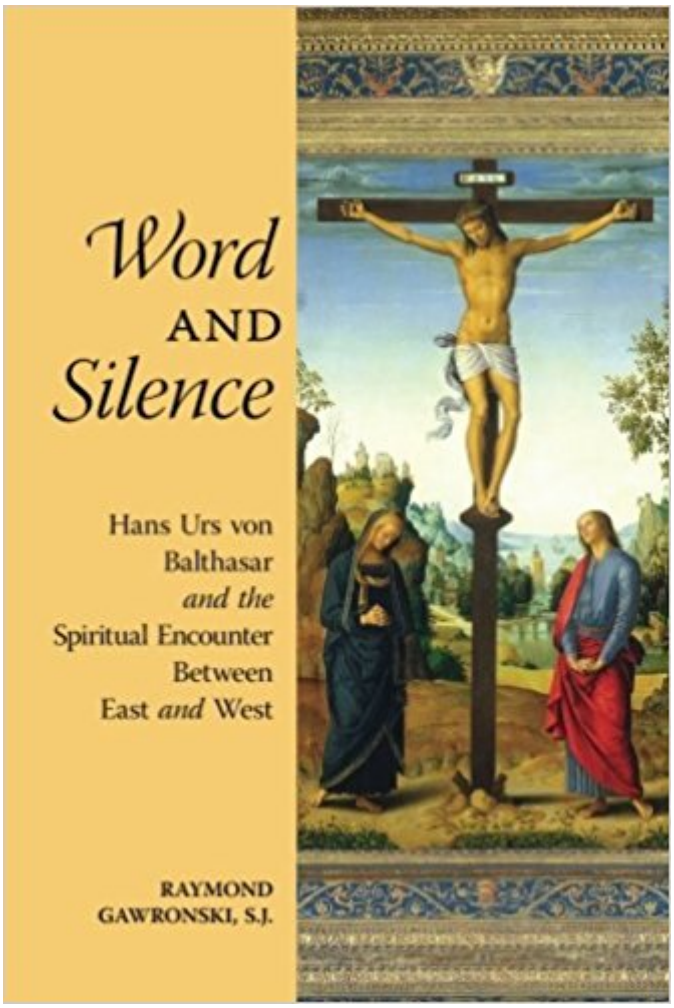
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Word And Silence: Hans Urs Von Balthasar And The Spiritual Encounter Between East And West (3rd Edition)



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Synopsis

Asked about the dialogue between Asian and Christian mysticisms, Hans Urs von Balthasar wrote: "The dialogue is possible. The question is: 'does selflessness mean emptiness, or (trinitarian) love.'" Word and Silence is an ascent to the fullness of the Christian vision, from the depths of natural and Christian wisdom and under the guidance of this great master of contemplative theology of our time. It offers an overview of the human condition, and then broadens to explore the fullness of God's revelation, which overflows the deepest longings of the human heart, fully embracing the human as human, and leading it into the heart of God.

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Customer Reviews

"What one of the greatest theologians of our century--Hans Urs von Balthasar--says about what the world's religions mean for one another as pluralism intensifies their interaction--no other study comes close to the depth with which Word and Silence addresses that subject."--Huston Smith, author of The World's Religions Ã Â "In this luminous book, Father Raymond Gawronski demonstrates the fruitfulness of Balthasar's distinctive Christology, Mariology, and nuptial mysticism for a genuine Catholic theology of world religions; and in the process, he sheds much-needed light upon the mysteries of sexuality and gender, the spirituality of obedience, and the beauty of holiness."--Carol Zaleski, Professor of World Religions, Smith College; co-author of Prayer: A HistoryÃ Â "The Epistle to the Hebrews tells us that while 'in many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers,' in 'these days he has spoken to us by a Son.' Meanwhile, at the heart of that

word, spoken in and through the Son, sits the 'wordless word' of Christ's death and descent into hell. This paradox--that in revealing himself to us in both word and deed God makes his final word a wordless deed--lies at the center of this spellbinding and beautifully written book. As Raymond Gawronski puts it succinctly, 'The Word weds silence, as it were.' This book is no less relevant now than it was when it was first published in 1995. Indeed, not only is this one of the best books on Balthasar to date, it should also be required reading for anybody interested in the important dialogue between Christianity and the East."--Rodney Howsare, Professor of Theology, DeSales University; author of Balthasar: A Guide for the Perplexed

A native of New York, Fr. Gawronski entered the Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus in 1977, after studies in East Asian culture, and then graduate study in comparative religion with Huston Smith at Syracuse University. His doctoral studies were undertaken in Rome, and included work in Eastern Christian spirituality, which led in turn to a lifelong commitment to the theology of Hans Urs von Balthasar. He was professor of theology at Marquette University for thirteen years, during which time he helped design the Spirituality Year program for the St. John Vianney Seminary in Denver, where he then served as professor and spiritual director for eight years. He has published and lectured widely on issues of culture and spirituality, and has for years served as an active retreat master, annually leading the full Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. He is currently professor of dogmatic theology at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, California, where he also gives spiritual direction.

An indepth, honest, factual but insightful and thought provoking material for serious spiritual readers and theologians. Set to give you a backdrop of philosophy and theology it, opens up the age old questions of longing, guilt and death. How human minds propose the answer and revelation extend the solution long before laid out even before human history came into recording what defines us and our relation to the Divine Being.The book allows us to comparatively view and rethink what -isms have been trying to do all this time. If you are open minded and docile to the workings of wisdom and spiritual enlightenment, the book opens discussion worth understanding and looking into deeper.

Stunningly beautiful work! Deep and dense, but well worth the effort. This is not just about comparing Eastern religions, revealed religions and Christianity, but gives the reader lots of food for thought towards a deeper relationship with the Lord.

Excellent insight into natural man’s longing for God. Religions of various cultures are discussed from the perspective of myths, philosophy, and Revelation. Quite interesting actually and well worth reading.

Excellent text.

Excellent! Balthasar’s writings are so vast and expansive, it would take a lifetime to begin understanding them, let alone "summarize" them. Yet Fr. Gawronski provides an excellent presentation of the human heart, it’s "natural" longing for God, and the wealth of insight that Balthasar has to offer in relation to these aspects of humanity in Eastern and Western traditions (and their relation to Christ). He has been an expert on Balthasar for decades and gives a vibrant and faithful expression to this profound wisdom. This book should be part of every thinking person’s library: those open to issues of faith and those who think they aren’t.

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