

# The Laughter Of Faith A Thesis Submitted To The Faculty Of Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary In Partial Fulfillment For The Degree Of Tor Of Ministry

If you ally need such a referred **The Laughter Of Faith A Thesis Submitted To The Faculty Of Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary In Partial Fulfillment For The Degree Of tor Of Ministry** ebook that will provide you worth, get the unconditionally best seller from us currently from several preferred authors. If you want to entertaining books, lots of novels, tale, jokes, and more fictions collections are then launched, from best seller to one of the most current released.

You may not be perplexed to enjoy every ebook collections The Laughter Of Faith A Thesis Submitted To The Faculty Of Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary In Partial Fulfillment For The Degree Of tor Of Ministry that we will definitely offer. It is not almost the costs. Its approximately what you habit currently. This The Laughter Of Faith A Thesis Submitted To The Faculty Of Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary In Partial Fulfillment For The Degree Of tor Of Ministry , as one of the most lively sellers here will extremely be along with the best options to review.

## **Faith, Stories and the Experience of Black Elders** - Anthony Reddie 2001

Working through oral traditions, this book illustrates the importance of spirituality and the family in African-Caribbean culture. The author shows how inter-generational conversations, where elders share personal experiences and reflections from their life with children and young people, encourage, inspire and educate the younger generation and contribute to their sense of identity. The author's approach can be applied in different cultural settings and both outlines and affirms an active role for older people in the community. It also provides useful historical background on the migration of people coming from the Caribbean to Britain.

Containing case studies, it is a practical and reflective resource for religious professionals, social workers and anyone seeking to understand the meaning of religion and faith for Britain's African and Caribbean communities. The beauties of Emanuel Swedenborg, with a preliminary dissertation upon his life and writings, tr. by R. Socius - Emanuel Swedenborg 1813

**Georges Bataille** - Stuart Kendall 2007-08-30

Georges Bataille was arguably the greatest influence on the poststructuralist revolution in twentieth-century thought and literature, yet few truly understand his work and legacy. Stuart Kendall now translates the work and life of this renowned French writer, anthropologist, and philosopher into a concise yet informative biography that reveals fascinating facets of this intellectual giant. Until his death in 1962, Bataille was an instrumental force in philosophical debate, acting as a foil for both Surrealism and Existentialism and advocating radical views that spanned the entire spectrum of political thought. Georges Bataille chronicles these aspects of his intellectual development, as well as tracing out his pivotal role in the creation of the College of Sociology and how his writings in aesthetics and art history laid the groundwork for visual culture studies. Kendall positions Bataille at the heart of a prodigious community of thinkers, including André Breton, Jean-Paul Sartre, and Jacques Lacan. A compelling account, Georges Bataille will be invaluable for all thinkers who have benefited from Bataille's lasting contributions.

**Gracious Laughter** - John Gatta 1989  
Looks at the life and career of the early

American poet and discusses his use of humor and satire in his poetry

Practicing Discipleship - Nicole L. Johnson  
2009-06-01

Despite a plurality of doctrinal statements on war, peace, and nonviolence, some United Methodists sustain a commitment to nonviolence. Through qualitative research, Practicing Discipleship draws out lived theologies of nonviolence in order to understand how nonviolent United Methodists define, ground, and practice nonviolence, and to give that voice opportunity to challenge church doctrine and thereby the wider church. An analysis of statements from the Book of Disciplines and the Book of Resolutions reveals the plurality of Methodist teachings on moral issues related to war and peace. While such plurality is indicative of the inclusive tradition of United Methodism, Johnson shows that it also causes confusion, thus hindering the vitality and authority of the church's witness. This study's qualitative analysis of in-depth interviews with twelve nonviolent United Methodists reveals a lived theology rooted in Scripture and theological reflection: it points particularly to a christocentrism that posits nonviolence as central to Christ's teachings and example. While study participants affirm the tradition of openness in the United Methodist Church, they also call for more tangible and extensive support for and education about nonviolence as a faithful option for Christians. Through amicable and constructive practical-theological dialogue, doctrinal plurality, and ecclesial openness are affirmed as appropriate and possible only within the context of the church's profound commitment to serious discipleship, which includes transformation toward nonviolence. Implications of this interaction include developing and adopting a more truthful conception of a nonviolent ethics, moving toward broadly conceived Christian formation in nonviolence, and fostering ongoing ecclesial dialogue about difficult moral issues of war, peace, and nonviolence.

**Faith in the Fight** - Jonathan H. Ebel  
2014-02-24

*Faith in the Fight* tells a story of religion, soldiering, suffering, and death in the Great War. Recovering the thoughts and experiences

of American troops, nurses, and aid workers through their letters, diaries, and memoirs, Jonathan Ebel describes how religion--primarily Christianity--encouraged these young men and women to fight and die, sustained them through war's chaos, and shaped their responses to the war's aftermath. The book reveals the surprising frequency with which Americans who fought viewed the war as a religious challenge that could lead to individual and national redemption. Believing in a "Christianity of the sword," these Americans responded to the war by reasserting their religious faith and proclaiming America God-chosen and righteous in its mission. And while the war sometimes challenged these beliefs, it did not fundamentally alter them. Revising the conventional view that the war was universally disillusioning, *Faith in the Fight* argues that the war in fact strengthened the religious beliefs of the Americans who fought, and that it helped spark a religiously charged revival of many prewar orthodoxies during a postwar period marked by race riots, labor wars, communist witch hunts, and gender struggles. For many Americans, Ebel argues, the postwar period was actually one of "reillusionment." Demonstrating the deep connections between Christianity and Americans' experience of the First World War, *Faith in the Fight* encourages us to examine the religious dimensions of America's wars, past and present, and to work toward a deeper understanding of religion and violence in American history.

**The Legacy of Nietzsche's Philosophy of Laughter** - Lydia Amir 2021-09-30

This book investigates the role of humor in the good life, specifically as discussed by three prominent French intellectuals who were influenced by Nietzsche's thought: Georges Bataille, Gilles Deleuze, and Clément Rosset. Lydia Amir begins by discussing Nietzsche's reception in France, and she explains why and how he came to be considered a "philosopher of laughter" in the French academe. Each of the subsequent three chapters focuses on the significance of humor and laughter in the good life as advocated by Bataille, Deleuze, and Rosset. These chapters also explore the complex relationship between the comic and the tragic, and of humor and laughter to irony, satire, and ridicule. *The Legacy of Nietzsche's Philosophy of*

Laughter makes an invaluable contribution to recent interpretive work done on Bataille and Deleuze, and offers further introduction to the relatively understudied Rosset. It illuminates the philosophies of these three thinkers, their connection to Nietzsche, and, overall, the significant role that humor plays in philosophy.

**The Living Church** - 1952

**A Cultivated Reason** - Christopher Williams  
1998-12-01

As Plato's tripartite division of the soul, Descartes's criterion of clear and distinct ideas, and Kant's notion of the categorical imperative attest, philosophy has traditionally been wedded to rationalism and its &"intellectualist&" view of persons. In this book Christopher Williams seeks to wean his fellow philosophers away from an overly rationalistic self-understanding by using resources that are available within the philosophical tradition itself, including some that anticipate strands of Nietzsche's thought. The book begins by developing Hume's critique of rationalism, with reference especially to the section of the Treatise that deals with the continuing existence of bodies (an argument that subverts intellectualist criteria by attempting to satisfy them) and to his neglected essay &"The Sceptic&" where Hume reveals the importance of our embodiment through a comic portrayal of philosophers' efforts to &"correct our sentiments.&" Then it moves on to ward off charges of irrationalism by showing that, although our powers of self-correction are more limited than the rationalist thinks they are, a Humean position is able both to sustain a commitment to reflection and to sensitize us to a version of irrationalism, manifest in monotheistic theologies, that is otherwise difficult to detect. The book concludes, more speculatively, with a comparison of persons to artworks in order to show how our aesthetic dimension is the source of some of the normative work previously assigned to rationalist reason. Ranging as it does across subfields from epistemology and history of philosophy to ethics and aesthetics, **A Cultivated Reason** should appeal to a wide audience of philosophers and to scholars in other fields as well.

**Abuse, Power and Fearful Obedience** -

Jennifer G. Bird 2013-05-01

"Jennifer G. Bird analyzes the construction of wives' subjectivity in 1 Peter, working primarily with what is referred to as the Haustafel (household code) section and engaging feminist critical questions, postcolonial theory and materialist theory in her analysis. Bird examines the two crucial labels for understanding Petrine Christian identity--'aliens and refugees' and 'royal priesthood and holy nation'--And finds them to stand in stark contrast with the commands and identity given to wives in the Haustafel section. Similarly, the command to 'honour the Emperor', which immediately precedes the Haustafel, engenders a rich discussion of the text's socio-political implications. The critical engagement of several 'symptomatic irruptions' within the commands to the wives uncovers the abusive dynamic underlying this section of the letter. Finally Bird considers the present-day implications of her study."--Publisher description.

**Ironies of Faith** - Anthony Esolen 2007

In *Ironies of Faith*, celebrated Dante scholar and translator Anthony Esolen provides a profound meditation upon the use and place of irony in Christian art and in the Christian life. Beginning with an extended analysis of irony as an essentially dramatic device, Esolen explores those manifestations of irony that appear prominently in Christian thinking and art: ironies of time (for Christians believe in divine Providence, but live in a world whose moments pass away); ironies of power (for Christians believe in an almighty God who took on human flesh, and whose "weakness" is stronger than our greatest enemy, death); ironies of love (for man seldom knows whom to love, or how, or even whom it is that in the depths of his heart he loves best); and the figure of the Child (for Christians ever hear the warning voice of their Savior, who says that unless we become like unto one of these little ones, we shall not enter the Kingdom of God). Esolen's finely wrought study draws from Augustine (*Confessions*), Dante (*The Divine Comedy*), Shakespeare (*The Tempest*), and Tolkien ("*Leaf, By Niggle*"); Francois Mauriac (*A Kiss for the Leper*), Milton (*Paradise Lost*), and Alessandro Manzoni (*The Betrothed*); the poems of George Herbert and Gerard Manley Hopkins, and Edmund Spenser

(Amoretti); Charles Dickens (A Christmas Carol), Dostoyevsky (The Brothers Karamazov), and the anonymous author of the medieval poem Pearl, among other works. Readers who treasure the Christian literary tradition should not miss this illuminating book.

*Humor in the Gospels* - Terri Bednarz

2015-05-05

*Humor in the Gospels* offers a comprehensive history of the various scholarly approaches to the study of humor in the Gospels over the past 150 years. It explores the barriers, insights, and advances in the field of biblical humor and offers an extensive bibliography for further study.

*Collective Biologies* - Emily A. Wentzell

2021-11-19

In *Collective Biologies*, Emily A. Wentzell uses sexual health research participation as a case study for investigating the use of individual health behaviors to aid groups facing crisis and change. Wentzell analyzes couples' experiences of a longitudinal study of HPV occurrence in men in Cuernavaca, Mexico. She observes how their experiences reflected Mexican cultural understandings of group belonging through categories like family and race. For instance, partners drew on collective rather than individualistic understandings of biology to hope that men's performance of "modern" masculinities, marriage, and healthcare via HPV research would aid groups ranging from church congregations to the Mexican populace. Thus, Wentzell challenges the common regulatory view of medical research participation as an individual pursuit. Instead, she demonstrates that medical research is a daily life arena that people might use for fixing embodied societal problems. By identifying forms of group interconnectedness as "collective biologies," Wentzell investigates how people can use their own actions to enhance collective health and well-being in ways that neoliberal emphasis on individuality obscures.

*Laugh Your Way to Grace* - Susan Sparks 2010

Laughter the GPS System for the Soul Laughter was honored by the ancients as a spiritual healing tool and celebrated by the world's great religions. So why aren't we laughing along the spiritual path today? What would happen if we did? In this personal and funny look at humor as a spiritual practice, Rev. Susan Sparks an ex-

lawyer turned comedian and Baptist minister presents a convincing case that the power of humor radiates far beyond punch lines. Laughter can help you: Remove the fearful mask of a God who doesn't laugh. Debunk the myths that you don't deserve joy. Find perspective when faced with adversity. Exercise forgiveness for yourself and others. Reclaim play as a spiritual practice. Heal emotionally, physically, and spiritually. Keep your faith when God is silent. Live with elegance, beauty, and generosity of spirit. Whatever your faith tradition or if you have none at all, join this veteran of the punch line and the pulpit in reclaiming the forgotten humor legacy found in thousands of years of human spiritual history."

**A Cheerful and Comfortable Faith** - Lauren F. Winner 2010-01-01

"A very satisfying book, persuasive in showing how material culture and household devotion are central to the workings of 'lived' Anglicanism in eighteenth-century Virginia." David D. Hall, Harvard Divinity School.

**Interfaith Marriage** - Bonni-Belle Pickard 2022-05-05

As societies across the globe rethink and often discard the institutions of marriage and religion, interfaith marriages continue to grow in number. These unions, usually committed to seeing past the traditional sectarian labels, often struggle when the traditional sources of support for marital life—faith community, family support—are not available. Still, the determination of interfaith couples to negotiate and cross boundaries gives hope to a fractured world. Bonni-Belle Pickard draws from her personal and professional experience to suggest ways of addressing the challenges of interfaith couples and their families.

*Princeton Alumni Weekly* - 1998

**It's a Funny Thing, Humour** - Antony J. Chapman 2013-10-22

*It's a Funny Thing, Humour* contains the papers presented at the International Conference on Humor and Laughter, held in Cardiff in July 1976. The symposium provides a platform from which authors from different professional and personal backgrounds can talk about their own definition and analysis of humor. The book is structured into 10 main sections that reflect the

structure of the conference and presents various studies and research on the nature of humor and laughter. Contributions range from theoretical discussions to practical and experimental expositions. Topics on the psychoanalytical theory of humor and laughter; the nature and analysis of jokes; cross-cultural research of humor; mirth measurement; and humor as a tool of learning are some of the topics covered in the symposium. Psychologists, sociologists, teachers, communication experts, psychiatrists, and people who are curious to know more about humor and laughter will find the book very interesting and highly amusing.

Pleasure of Fools - Jure Gantar 2005

"Men cannot laugh heartily without showing their teeth," quipped Samuel Butler. From St Paul to Descartes to Adorno, scholars and writers have questioned the ethics of laughter - any laughter. In *The Pleasure of Fools*, Jure Gantar wrestles with our moral right to laugh and the limitations of contemporary critical approaches. The crucial question is not whether or not there is offensive laughter but whether or not all laughter offends. Almost everyone has felt the bitter stab of malicious laughter and knows that laughter can be cruel, but it is more difficult to decide if there is also laughter that can never insult. Through a reading of Aristophanes, Rabelais, Molière, Fielding, and Rostand, Victorian nonsense poetry, and the philosophical texts of Plato, Dante, and More, Gantar explores the reasons for critics' prejudice against comedy, the specific position of laughter in various utopian societies, and self-deprecating laughter and role of the comedian as its primary producer. His conclusions contradict basic postmodern thought and contribute to current debates on the epistemological nature of criticism.

**The Index ...** - Benjamin Franklin Underwood 1883

**Surprised by Laughter** - Terry Lindvall 2012-01-17

*Surprised by Laughter* looks at the career and writings of C. S. Lewis and discovers a man whose life and beliefs were sustained by joy and humor. All of his life, C. S. Lewis possessed a spirit of individuality. An atheist from childhood, he became a Christian as an adult and eventually

knew international acclaim as a respected theologian. He was known worldwide for his works of fiction, especially the *Chronicles of Narnia*; and for his books on life and faith, including *Mere Christianity*, *A Grief Observed*, and *Surprised by Joy*. But perhaps the most visible difference in his life was his abiding sense of humor. It was through this humor that he often reached his readers and listeners, allowing him to effectively touch so many lives. Terry Lindvall takes an in-depth look at Lewis's joyful approach toward living, dividing his study of C. S. Lewis's wit into the four origins of laughter in *Uncle Screwtape's* eleventh letter to a junior devil in Lewis's *The Screwtape Letters*: joy, fun, the joke proper, and flippancy. Lindvall writes, "One bright and compelling feature we can see, sparking in his sunlight and dancing in his moonlight, is laughter. Yet it is not too large to see at once because it inhabited all Lewis was and did." *Surprised by Laughter* reveals a Lewis who enjoyed the gift of laughter, and who willingly shared that gift with others in order to spread his faith.

*Anarchy with a tendency to order: Montesquieu and the foundations of modern liberty* - Stephen Butler 2012

*An Exposition of the Bible* - Marcus Dods 1903

**Twists of Faith** - Joseph Roccasalvo 2019-05-14  
*Twists of Faith* is a captivating title for stories of the spiritual life, a phrase that might conjure up people at odds with the world. But these tales are the stellar opposite. In a phrase, they're thrilling. These twenty-one action narratives, with twists and turns, project our inner struggles: epic accounts of our journey here below—our spiritual saga.

**Magic and the Supernatural in Fourth Century Syria** - Silke Trzcionka 2006-11-22  
*Magic and the Supernatural in Fourth Century Syria* presents an in-depth investigation of a variety of 'magical' practices with a focused study in the late antique Syria and Palestine. Offering new research using both archaeological and literary sources, and blending Classical, Jewish, and Christian traditions from both regions, Silke Trzcionka examines a myriad of magical activities such as: curses, spells and amulets accusations related to chariot races,

love and livelihood methods involved in protection, healing, possession and exorcism. The information is provided with clarity and theoretical sophistication which enables students to develop an understanding of these beliefs and their place within the social context of the time. Altogether, a useful, enlightening and enjoyable book which students studying religion and/or social history will find invaluable.

**From Pentecost to Patmos** - Craig L. Blomberg 2006

A companion to Jesus and the Gospels, Blomberg's ECPA Gold Medallion winner, *From Pentecost to Patmos* introduces serious Bible students to the depths of information found in Acts through Revelation.

**The Problem of Pain** - C. S. Lewis 2001-02-06  
Why must humanity suffer? In this elegant and thoughtful work, C. S. Lewis questions the pain and suffering that occur everyday and how this contrasts with the notion of a God that is both omnipotent and good. An answer to this critical theological problem is found within these pages.  
Dissertation Abstracts International - 2008

**Psychiatry** - 1949

*Going Nowhere, Slow* - Mikkel Krause Frantzen 2019-11-29

Using examples from art and literature, Frantzen explores the social, political and economic implications of both real and imagined depression. Is feeling blue a symptom of the death of progress? Was the suicide of David Foster Wallace a proverbial canary in a coal mine? Margaret Thatcher once declared that there is no alternative to the social order that we now reside within. Have we accepted her slogan as a fact, and is that why so many are on Prozac and other anti-depressants? Frantzen examines the works of Michel Houellebecq, Claire Fontaine and David Foster Wallace as he seeks out an answer and a way to formulate a new future oriented left movement.

**Kookaburra** - Sarah Legge 2004-06-10  
Laughing Kookaburras are the largest kingfishers in the world, and Blue-winged Kookaburras are not far behind. Their size and distinctive shape and posture make them easily recognisable; their comical and personable characters make them readily memorable. They

are able to live in a wide variety of habitats, and adapt to living around humans relatively well. This cheerful familiarity has caused them to figure prominently in the psyches and folklores of all peoples who have inhabited Australia. Kookaburras live in family groups marked by the extremes of social behaviour. Whilst in the nest, chicks fight their siblings for dominance and food so aggressively that the smallest chick is often killed. In complete contrast, many adult kookaburras delay their own breeding in order to help their relatives raise young. *Kookaburra: King of the Bush* provides a complete overview of kookaburras and their unique place in Australian culture and natural history.  
Pamphlets, Religious - 1874

**Religion in the Thought of Mikhail Bakhtin** - Hilary B.P. Bagshaw 2016-04-08

This book examines the significance of religion in the work of the twentieth century philosopher Mikhail Bakhtin. Exploring Bakhtin's contribution to debates on methodology in the study of religion, this book argues that his use of religious terminology is derived from his source material in philosophy of religion and not from his confessional commitment to Russian Orthodox Christianity. Critiquing Gavin Flood's important work *Beyond Phenomenology*, Hilary Bagshaw explains how Bakhtin's work on 'outsideness' presents invaluable insights for scholars of religion, particularly pertinent to the contemporary insider/outsider debate.

**The Language of Science and Faith** - Karl W. Giberson And Francis S. Collins 2011-03

Christians affirm that everything exists because of God--from subatomic quarks to black holes. Science often claims to explain nature without including God at all. And thinking Christians often feel forced to choose between the two. But the good news is that we don't have to make a choice. Science does not overthrow the Bible. Faith does not require rejecting science. World-renowned scientist Francis Collins, author of *The Language of God*, along with fellow scientist Karl Giberson show how we can embrace both. Their fascinating treatment explains how God cares for and interacts with his creation while science offers a reliable way to understand the world he made. Together they clearly answer dozens of the most common questions people

ask about Darwin, evolution, the age of the earth, the Bible, the existence of God and our finely tuned universe. They also consider how their views stack up against the new atheists as well as against creationists and adherents of intelligent design. The authors disentangle the false conclusions of Christians and atheists alike about science and evolution from the actual results of research in astronomy, physics, geology and genetics. In its place they find a story of the grandeur and beauty of a world made by a supremely creative God.

**The Laughter of Faith** - John L. Torres, Jr.  
2005-11-18

This is my DMin Thesis for Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. I did not "improve" it or work to make it more readable. Many have requested it, so my producing it here is in response to them. From the abstract... This work is a study of laughter and its importance in congregational life from the perspective of pastors. It is concerned with the history and theories of laughter in terms of how they connect with current pastoral attitudes towards it. Questions of appropriateness are central to this exploration. A primary premise of the work is that laughter is a significant component of pastoral ministry, but its study seems marginalized by the church. This incongruity is further aggravated by the fact that much of the rest of the world accurately sees laughter as a significant social force. Except for the church, almost all other entities in society interested in shaping society seem to know the power and place of laughter. To address this inconsistency, this study reviewed all available literature and the Scriptures in order to discover the theories and views of laughter leading theologians and philosophers have had and then apply the best of the categories emerging from this to a current understanding of laughter. Both surveys and interviews uncovered what the current understanding of laughter is for a sample group of pastors within the geographical framework of New York's Hudson Valley. The research findings led to the development of ideas for applying an enlightened view of laughter to pastoral ministry for the purpose of making it more effective.

**Grunge: Music and Memory** - Catherine Strong  
2016-04-22

Grunge has been perceived as the music that defined 'Generation X'. Twenty years after the height of the movement there is still considerable interest in its rise and fall, and its main figures such as Kurt Cobain and Courtney Love. As a form of 'retro' music it is even experiencing a resurgence, and Cobain remains an icon to many young music fans today. But what was grunge, and what has it become? This book explores how grunge has been remembered by the fans that grew up with it, and asks how memory is both formed by and forms popular culture. It looks at the relationship between media, memory and music fans and demonstrates how different groups can use and shape memory as part of an ongoing struggle for power in society. Grunge was the site of such a struggle, as popular music so often is, with the young people of the time asking questions about their place in the world and the way society is organized. This book examines what these questions were, and what has happened to them over time. It shows that although grunge challenged many social structures, the way it, and youth itself, are remembered often work to reinforce the status quo.

**The Labor of Faith** - Judith Casselberry  
2017-04-14

In *The Labor of Faith* Judith Casselberry examines the material and spiritual labor of the women of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc., which is based in Harlem and one of the oldest and largest historically Black Pentecostal denominations in the United States. This male-headed church only functions through the work of the church's women, who, despite making up three-quarters of its adult membership, hold no formal positions of power. Casselberry shows how the women negotiate this contradiction by using their work to produce and claim a spiritual authority that provides them with a particular form of power. She also emphasizes how their work in the church is as significant, labor intensive, and critical to their personhood, family, and community as their careers, home and family work, and community service are. Focusing on the circumstances of producing a holy black female personhood, Casselberry reveals the ways twenty-first-century women's spiritual

power operates and resonates with meaning in Pentecostal, female-majority, male-led churches.  
**An Exact Exposition of the Orthodox Faith** - St John Damascene 2015-09-08

*The Transformative Power of Faith* - Erin Dufault-Hunter 2012-04-26

This book argues that thick, embodied faith uniquely sustains moral transformation among those whom society deems "hopeless." It insists that by applying a narrative lens to religious conversion, we can better understand the dynamics of personal transformation in ways that make sense of psychological and social factors without ignoring so-called "spiritual" ones. It also helps us comprehend why religion often refuses to remain tamed or contained in the personal or private sphere many Americans wish.

**The Life of a Balinese Temple** - Hildred Geertz 2004-06-30

Should a temple be seen as a work of art, its carvers as artists, its worshipers as art critics and patrons? What is a temple (and its art) to the people who make and use it? Noted anthropologist Hildred Geertz attempts to answer these and other questions in this unique look at transformations in material culture and social relations over time in a village temple in Bali. Throughout Geertz offers insightful

glimpses into what the statues, structures, and designs of Pura Désa Batuan convey to those who worship there, deepening our understanding of how a village community evaluates workmanship and imagery. Following an introduction to the temple and villagers of Batuan, Geertz explores the problematics of the Western concept of "art" as a guiding framework in research. She goes on to outline the many different kinds of work—ideational as well as physical—undertaken in connection with the temple and the social institutions that enable, constrain, and motivate their creation. Finally, the "art-works" themselves are presented, set within the intricate sociocultural contexts of their making. Using the history of Batuan as the main framework for discussing each piece, Geertz looks at the carvings from the perspective of their makers, each generation occupying a different social situation. She confronts concepts such as "aesthetics," "representation," "sacredness," and "universality" and the dilemmas they create in field research and ethnographic writing. Recent temple carvings from the tumultuous and complex period that followed the expulsion of the Dutch and the increasing globalization and commercialization of Balinese society demonstrate yet again that any anthropology of art must also be historical.