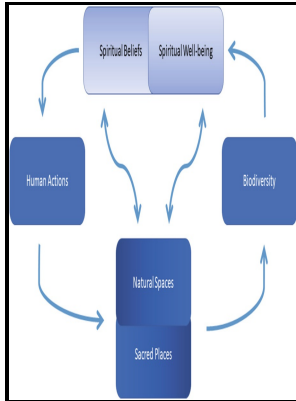


# Spirituality and the secular quest

**SCM - Religion Book Review: Spirituality & the Secular Quest by Peter Van Ness, Author, Ness Peter Van, Author Herder & Herder \$49.5 (576p) ISBN 978**



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That these secular arenas contain implicitly spiritual dimensions affirming the interconnectedness of life is a welcome acknowledgement. Fostering this direct experience — as opposed to having spiritual truth dispensed by outer authorities of clergy and scripture, as in religious traditionalism, or dismissing it entirely, as in secular modernity — is the key factor that will bring evolutionary spirituality into fruition. But despite great effort, I stumble on the way McIntosh derives proof of the existence of an intelligent Creator.

## Spiritual Exercises for a Secular Age

Margaret Placentra Johnston The reviewer is the author of Faith Beyond Belief: Stories of Good People Who Left Their Church Behind Quest Books. Overall, I am glad I read this book.

## The Presence of the Infinite: The Spiritual Experience of Beauty, Truth, and Goodness

Lucid prose and thoughtful religious reflections make this volume essential for all libraries. He bases it on the sense that some kind of creative will or intelligence must have created the Big Bang in the first place and that this creative will or intelligence is continually still creating through the evolutionary process as humans continue to imagine and strive toward a better existence. Unlike progressive spirituality, it will respect the contributions and truths of all the earlier forms of spirituality, and will offer an improved and expanded set of values that allow us to experience greater beauty, truth, and goodness in our lives.

## Spiritual Exercises for a Secular Age

Margaret Placentra Johnston The reviewer is the author of Faith Beyond Belief: Stories of Good People Who Left Their Church Behind Quest Books. Furthermore, evolutionary spirituality acknowledges the differences between a nondual sense of the ultimate and a theistic one without feeling a need to resolve the gap between these two polarities.

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Though I write on a related topic myself, I feel I have gained an enhanced appreciation of the type of faith that can evolve outside the walls of traditional religion — a perspective toward which increasing numbers are now being called, and of which it behooves us all to seek greater understanding. Rather they are given a chance to test and verify each other — synthesizing their strengths without erasing their differences.

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