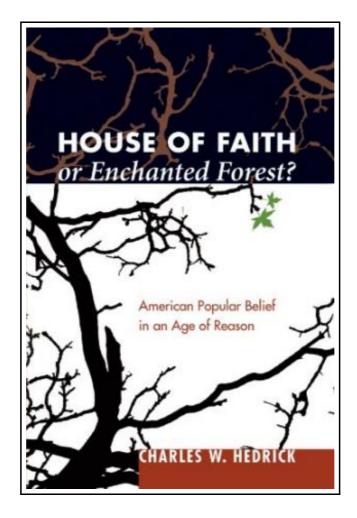
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(Lorenz Vandervort)

HOUSE OF FAITH OR ENCHANTED FOREST?: AMERICAN POPULAR BELIEF IN AN AGE OF REASON



Wipf Stock Publishers, United States, 2009. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 224 x 150 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. Description: Since the Renaissance of the 14th through 17th centuries, and particularly since the Enlightenment of the 18th century, the ancient creeds of faith have been under serious fire, and the struggle has not gone well for popular religion in America. The rapid advances made by the physical sciences in the 19th and 20th centuries and the corresponding reliance on scientific accomplishments in American life have been matched by the growing influence of reason in the way Americans think about religion. Except for pockets of resistance, these developments have negatively influenced the practical role of traditional religion in American life. These essays-published over a twenty-year period as newspaper editorials addressed to the general public-confront popular beliefs and morals with the challenge of human reason. At issue in this meeting of faith and reason is nothing less than the nature of religion in the twenty-first century. Will faith embrace reason to create a House where both dwell in harmony or will faith ignore the claims of reason and continue to live in an Enchanted Forest? Each essay, written in the practical language of the streets, attempts to dialogue with the general reader and gently provoke critical thinking on sensitive issues of belief. Endorsements: Charles Hedrick is a scholar who has come clean. From the buckle on the Bible Belt comes this honest, intelligent, and creative reflection on the struggle between reason (and/or science) and personal faith. Charlie s reminder to take our personal absolute truths (house of faith) a little less seriously and enjoy the diversity of thought and experience (enchanted forest) is practical, powerful, and incredibly timely. --Glenna S. Jackson, Professor, Department of Religion and Philosophy...

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