Religion and Culture in Dialogue
East and West Perspectives
Sophia Studies in Cross-cultural Philosophy of Traditions and Cultures

Volume 15

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Jānis Tālivaldis Ozoliņš
Editor

Religion and Culture in Dialogue

East and West Perspectives

Springer
In memory of Jacob Jānis Ozoliņš (1981–2013), for Barbara, my wife and my family, both here in Australia and in Latvia.
Preface

This volume is a result of a research project which brought together a diverse range of academics in philosophy and theology from a number of different institutions. The project had very broad aims, and had as its focus the role of culture and religion in shaping human persons and developing moral values. It also sought to engage with a variety of perspectives. During monthly meetings, a number of the contributors from Australian Catholic University met to discuss some of the issues which found their way into the book. Other insights were gained at various international conferences and dialogue during such meetings grew into the papers that came together to form this book.

One aspect of the modern world has been the communication revolution which has seen the possibility of diverse peoples being able to encounter one another and the variety of faiths, cultures and traditions that they have. The authors draw on this diversity in their considerations of the ways in which different cultures and traditions have addressed common philosophical and theological questions. These range from different conceptions of God, to human values and human dignity, as well as discussion of the beliefs that shape cultures and religious tradition. These discussions illuminate our understanding of the nature of the human person and personal identity. In an increasingly globalised world and in the pluralist context of Australian society, an understanding and appreciation of other cultures is vital. The contributors themselves are from a variety of backgrounds and cultural traditions and so the book is a window into a fascinating array of perspectives on a wide range of topics. Each chapter provides a vignette into this mix of religion and culture.

Fitzroy, Australia

Jānis Tālivaldis Ozoliņš
Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge the vision of Professor Thomas Martin, the former Deputy Vice Chancellor Research, Australian Catholic University, who provided support through the Research Support Team grant scheme for the project of which this volume is a product. I thank all the collaborators, reviewers, editors and colleagues who provided valuable feedback to the contributors to this volume.
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