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# Peace Be With You: Monastic Wisdom For A Terror-Filled World



PEACE BE WITH YOU

MONASTIC WISDOM FOR A TERROR-FILLED WORLD

DAVID CARLSON



## Synopsis

Self revenge and retaliation are the best responses that our nation could muster after 9/11, then Jesus did not have to come, live among us, and preach a radical understanding of "neighbor" that includes the enemy. In the wake of the ten-year anniversary of 9/11, as tensions rise between Christians and Muslims, author and religious studies professor David Carlson seeks guidance in the modern-day deserts of monastic communities across America. Are Christianity and Islam destined to confront one other as clashing civilizations? *Peace Be with You: Monastic Wisdom for a Terror-Filled World* clearly answers "No." *Peace Be With You* is the result of more than thirty interviews with abbots, nuns, monks, and other seekers at monasteries and retreat centers. Carlson reveals the untapped wisdom of these men and women in their own words as they speak with hope to a suffering world. Follow the author on this personal, moving, and at times difficult journey, and discover a new yet ancient basis for genuine peace between Christianity and other religions—especially Islam. It is time for Christians to use their power to change the conversation," Carlson says, "to ponder Jesus' command to treat the stranger as our neighbor and to treat our neighbor not only as ourselves, but as God in our midst." As Carlson reminds us, there is another thing stirring around the world. There is a movement of extremists for love and for grace that have been singing a different song. "Shane Claiborne "One of the richest, most insightful, and most instructive books I have ever read on the business of living the Christian life fully, biblically, faithfully, and non-dogmatizedly." Phyllis Tickle

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As we approach the 10th anniversary of 9/11, one valuable tool to enable persons of faith to reassess the meanings of both the horrendous events of that day, as well as attitudes and actions taken in response to those events, would be a reading of David Carlson's "Peace Be With You." Carlson's text generously invites us into a journey filled with revelations of many sorts as we follow him on his own pilgrimage to be with and hear 'a word of life' from contemplatives from a variety of American monastic communities. Yes, this volume is relevant and powerful on many levels, but I would have to say that I was struck by the important theological questions and insights considered within it. As every reader of "Peace Be With You" will readily realize, the centrality of the Christian doctrine of 'Incarnation' is lifted to us, with layers of meaning unveiled through some of his interviews. Heavily influenced by the writings of Thomas Merton, Carlson will offer Merton's 'epiphany' on the corner of Fourth and Walnut Street in Louisville as not only relevant to reflections upon 9/11, but as a 'watershed moment' for Carlson's post-9/11 incarnational thinking about God and humanity. I was very intrigued by and have much to ponder from the discussion Carlson relates with Brother Christopher of New Skete on the theology of the cross and the paschal mystery in relation to the 9/11 events. How God responds in the face of violence, and our own possibilities in similar instances, was striking.

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