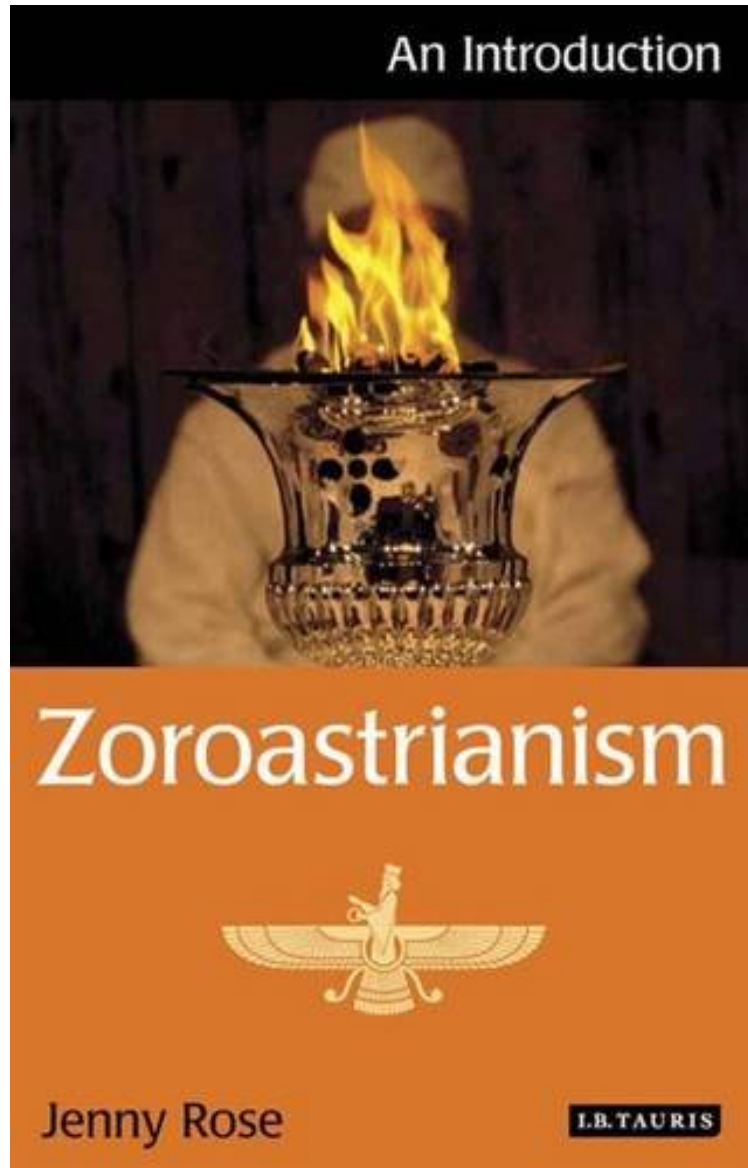


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## Zoroastrianism: An Introduction (I.B.Tauris Introductions to Religion)

Jenny Rose

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**Jenny Rose : Zoroastrianism: An Introduction (I.B.Tauris Introductions to Religion)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Zoroastrianism: An Introduction (I.B.Tauris Introductions to Religion):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. One of the definitive books on Zoroastrianism. By ZERA This is one of the definitive books devoted to Zoroastrianism along with Mary Boyce's 'Zoroastrians Their Religious Beliefs and Practices'. Despite its title, this book is much more than just an introduction. The book contains information not just on Zoroastrian practices and beliefs but also maps, a glossary, pictures and illustrations, and a comprehensive history of Zoroastrianism (a chapter devoted to Zoroastrianism in Central Asia, that is rare!). There is very few resources for the study of Zoroastrianism so this is a very invaluable book that successfully attempted to fill that void.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Good intelligent read By Patrick Foley The book is written to be informative, not entertaining. It tells about Zoroastrianism and touches upon its evolution through history and through its expansion from Persia to the Orient. Read this book if you want to understand the evolution of the religion and get a better understanding of what it is. This is not a book to tell you all about the religion and practices, although you will be able to infer some of it from the references.

15 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Excellent By R. Spratt Jenny Rose's book is in my view exceptional. I as a layman, first developed an interest in Zoroastrianism 20 years ago and I started out with an over simplified concept of one man at one time who had some important ideas the development of which moved in a steady linear progression. This author, however, has illustrated with great clarity how the ideas of this religion developed in a multitude of different ways in different places, times and circumstances. Without ever losing her grasp of the overall theme, Rose is always diligent in tying her synthesis to the available evidence. Her commentary on the religion in Central Asia was particularly illuminating (at least for me).

Two minor quibbles. Occasionally Rose slips into un-necessary academic jargon when simple Anglo-Saxon would do the job more efficiently. One of her academic reviewers described her English as beautiful. It ain't; it's accurate, even good, but might have benefited from a non-academic edit prior to publishing. Secondly, better use might have been made of better maps though I understand they would add to costs. I repeat, minor quibbles. I would give 6 stars to this book if I could. It really is that good.

Zoroastrianism is one of the world's great ancient religions. In present-day Iran, significant communities of Zoroastrians (who take their name from the founder of the faith, the remarkable religious reformer Zoroaster) still practice the rituals and teach the moral precepts that once undergirded the officially state-sanctioned faith of the mighty Sasanian empire. Beyond Iran, the Zoroastrian diaspora is significant especially in India, where the Gujarati-speaking community of exiles from post-Sasanian Iran call themselves "Parsis." But there are also significant Zoroastrian communities to be found elsewhere, such as in the USA, Britain, and Canada, where western cultural contexts have shaped the religion in intriguing ways and directions. This new, thorough and wide-ranging introduction will appeal to anyone interested in discovering more about the faith that bequeathed the contrasting words "Magi" and "magic," and whose adherents still live according to the code of "Good Thoughts, Good Words, Good Deeds." The central Zoroastrian concept that human beings are continually faced with a choice between the path of "good" and "evil," represented by the contrasting figures of Ahura Mazda and Ahriman, inspired thinkers as diverse as Voltaire, Mozart, and Nietzsche. Jenny Rose shows why Zoroastrianism remains one of the world's most inspiring and perennially fascinating systems of ethics and belief.

"Jenny Rose's lively and engaging account comprises a very readable, well informed survey of Zoroastrianism and its history. The book is a pleasure to read throughout, and the author's writing style is markedly beautiful, placing her very much within Mary Boyce's literary tradition. Rose has read widely round the subject, engaging with important primary and secondary sources and rendering her thorough treatment of Zoroastrianism fully up-to-date. I particularly welcomed her valuable discussion of Zoroastrianism in Central Asia. All in all, the book is a fine example of considered synthesis and compression. This is a book one wants to read from beginning to end without putting it down. It will find a warm welcome from students of the subject and their teachers." -- Almut Hintze, Zartoshty Reader in Zoroastrianism, SOAS, University of London