



# BOOK REVIEW

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Paul Clemens

(530) 265-6925 PST

Complimentary Review Copies

Magazine/Newspaper Articles

Author Tour Schedule

Author Interviews/Seminars

*The Inner Palace: Mirrors of Psychospirituality in  
Divine and Sacred Wisdom-Traditions*  
by Mitchell D. Ginsberg, Ph.D.

I have never met Mitchell Ginsberg, but exchanged some emails with him about a year ago in response to his request for a back-cover endorsement for use in the publication of his book, *The Inner Palace*. And then of course I have met him through his writing—though unfortunately I was only able to read a small portion of his book at the time, given an extremely busy teaching and writing agenda at a time when I am past seventy years old. At my age those things that we take to be our “swadharma”—as Indian culture calls what we alone are meant to accomplish, for nobody else would be able to bring about—become, of course, urgent.

The fact that I accepted the request from the book’s publisher for a review should in itself convey my enthusiasm about the work in question.

One of the greatest heroes of our time, Vaclav Havel, president of the Czech Republic and playwright, who single-handedly brought about the so called “Velvet Revolution” that liberated his country from Communist oppression, has remarked that in recent years “the great religions have been playing an increasingly important role in global politics.”

Since the fall of Communism the world has become multi-polar instead of bi-polar. Many countries outside the hitherto dominant Euro-American cultural sphere have grown in self-confidence and influence, but the more closely tied we are by the bonds of a single global civilization, the more the various religious groups emphasize the ways in which they differ from each other. This is an epic of ever greater spiritual, religious and cultural “otherness.”

In view of this, Havel conjectures: “Perhaps the way out of our current bleak situation could be found by searching for what unites the various religions—a purposeful search for common principles. Then we could cultivate human coexistence while at the same time cultivating the planet in which we live, suffusing it with the spirit of this religious and ethical common ground—

what I would call the common spiritual and moral minimum.”

Of course, the task of pointing at the unity behind the multiplicity of forms of religious and spiritual expression requires more than mere eclecticism and learning. The job falls naturally on a kind of individual that is at the same time an encyclopedic scholar and has traveled far and wide in the experiential paths of the wisdom traditions. Mitchell Ginsberg is an extraordinary instance of such a man. For he combines a training in philosophy and psychology with the vocation of a seeker that has brought him to the depth of experience required to be a teacher in both the Buddhist and Sufi traditions.

His investigation of the wisdom traditions in *The Inner Palace* is grounded in primary sources from the Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Taoist, and other traditions and a Bibliography of some 1500 works.

His subject—*The Inner Palace*—is that Holy of Holies of firsthand spiritual experience that, despite being ineffable, has inspired the greatest treasures of the spoken word. But it is noteworthy that he brings to his discussion not only the experience of a traditional spiritual seeker but also that of Western culture at its best—and I take it as a high compliment that the book’s foreword has been written by one of the exponents of contemporary philosophy and psychology that I happen to hold in the greatest esteem—Robert C. Solomon.

I enthusiastically celebrate Blue Dolphin’s initiative in publishing this contemporary treasure that deals with the elucidation of theological matters, and hope that the light that it contains may contribute to the welfare of our troubled age.

**Claudio Naranjo, M.D.**, Psychiatrist, Prof. of Psychology (UCSC) and Comparative Religion (CIIS); pioneer in the Human Potential Movement.

Author of 12 books, the most recent of which are *The Enneagram of Society*, *The Way of Silence and the Talking Cure*, and *Songs of Enlightenment*.

MAIL: P.O. Box 8 • Nevada City, CA 95959

SHIPPING: 12428 Nevada City Highway • Grass Valley, CA 95945

PHONE: (530) 265-6925 • FAX: (530) 265-0787 • ORDERS: 1 (800) 643-0765

E-MAIL: [bdolphin@netshel.net](mailto:bdolphin@netshel.net) • WEB SITE: <http://www.bluedolphinpublishing.com>