

# If You are a Teacher of Religion, this Book is a Must.

## **The Enigma of Consciousness**

*A Philosophy of Profound Humanness and Religion*

by Gene W. Marshall

iUniverse 2015

*The book is about a fundamental redefinition of religion, not just the Christian religion, but why any sort of religion appears among the social processes of human societies.*

This work is also an inquiry into the foundations of consciousness with special attention to wonder or awe and how to understand and share wonder experiences. It is written for the general reader of religious content, but it probes the edge of paradigm shifts in the most academic circles. It is a controversial book, but also a practical outline of directions for both solitary and small group practice of a vital religion.

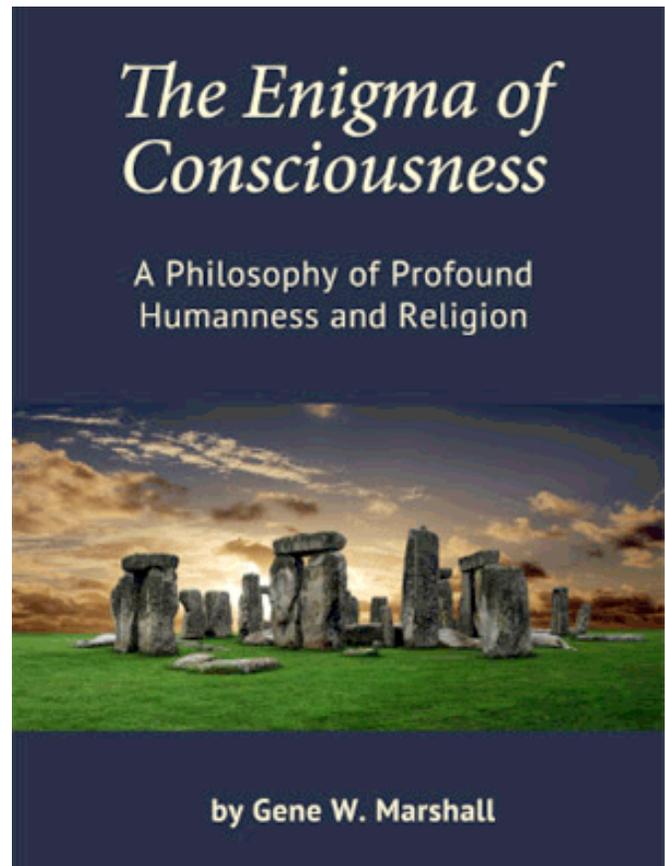
This beautiful 276-page 7.5 X 9.25 inch book with many helpful charts spells out important perspectives with full illustrations and careful definitions of the human approaches to truth, consciousness, wonder, and religion.

The nature of good religion is indicated by this story of a student who asked his meditation teacher if meditation causes enlightenment. "No," said the teacher, "enlightenment is an accident, but meditation makes one more accident prone." If "religion" is defined as any practice that opens us to the enlightenment of wonder, then good religion is any practice that makes us more accident prone to the gift of wonder-filled living. Because wonder is foundational in human existence, every long-standing human society has come up with some form of wonder-filled religion. This also explains why religion appears as one of the down-to-Earth social processes in human society along with education, economic systems, and sewage disposal.

This book is available from iUniverse in both paperback and e-book. Bargain copies and sets of books can also be secured directly from the author.

For a reduced price, postage-free copy send a \$25 check to:  
Gene Marshall; 3578 N. State Highway 78; Bonham, Texas 75418

\* \* \* \* \*



## Here are some Words of Endorsements for this Book

With clarity and abundant insights, Gene Marshall proposes ways by which we can move beyond old forms to those that would enable us to manifest qualities of "profound humanness." He has given us a roadmap constructed of vital possibilities, which are urgently needed in this time of multiple crises when the status quo simply will not do.

—Charlene Spretnak: author of *Relational Reality, The Resurgence of the Real, and States of Grace*; Ojai, CA

The truth of reality is a mystery—in Gene Marshall’s language, “an almighty unknown”—but reality is ever-present to our consciousness. To know what is known, or to make reality real, these are the profundities that Marshall systematically and thoughtfully probes in an analysis that rings as earnest and true as the author who penned it.

—Dr. Jeffrey W. Robbins: Professor and Chair of Religion and Philosophy; Lebanon Valley College; Annville, PA

Gene Marshall coaxes the reader beyond the limiting enclosure of the personality-centered self and ego mind and into the realm of authentic personal interior experience. The author lifts the fog created by the pesky self-serving human mind regarding the interior life, and provides a path of clarity into depth states of being.

—Michael D. May: Teacher, Group Discussion Leader, Curriculum Editor for *Interior Mythos Journeys*; Bloomington, IN

**Gene Wesley Marshall** began his education as a mathematician and physicist. In 1953 he decided to leave a mathematics career and attend seminary at Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, Texas. He has served as a local church pastor, a chaplain in the army, and in 1962 joined a religious order of families (the Order:Ecumenical), and traveled the United States, Canada, Latin America, Europe, India, Hong Kong, and Australia as a teacher and lecturer of religious and social ethics topics. These trips included an in-depth study of world cultures and a vivid sense of the social conditions of the world’s peoples. He was an active participant in the civil rights revolution, serving for one year as the Protestant executive of The National Conference on Religion and Race. For six years he served as dean of an eight-week residential academy that trained leadership for religious and social engagement work throughout the world. In 1984 Gene and Joyce Marshall organized a nonprofit educational organization, Realistic Living, and began publishing journals, books, and essays. The couple were also organizers of bioregionalism, a geographically sensitive form of ecological realism, radical feminism, and interreligious sensibilities. This book is Gene’s eighth book-length project. Gene and Joyce live in Bonham, Texas in a straw-bale house.