



2016

## Marshall and Mosher's "Death, Resurrection, and Human Destiny: Christian and Muslim Perspectives" (Book Review)

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### Recommended Citation

Hunter, John M. (2016) "Marshall and Mosher's "Death, Resurrection, and Human Destiny: Christian and Muslim Perspectives" (Book Review)," *The Christian Librarian*: Vol. 59 : Iss. 1 , Article 36.  
Available at: <http://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/tcl/vol59/iss1/36>

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**Death, Resurrection, and Human Destiny: Christian and Muslim Perspectives,**

edited by David Marshall and Lucinda Mosher. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2014. 288 pp. \$26.95. ISBN 9781626160309

*Reviewed by John M. Hunter, Library Director, Seth Wilson Library,  
Ozark Christian College, Joplin, MO*

Georgetown Press offers these words about the editors:

David Marshall is director of the Anglican Episcopal House of Studies and associate professor of the practice of Christian-Muslim relations, Duke Divinity School, and the academic director of the Building Bridges seminar. Lucinda Mosher is the faculty associate for interfaith studies, Hartford Seminary, and the assistant academic director of the Building Bridges seminar.

The book is divided into two parts: “Surveys” and “Commentaries.” Dr. Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, commented about Christianity and Islam, which is also the rationale for the seminar, “They share a sense of human destiny as historically shaped – shaped around the address and engagement of God the Creator.”

The decade of dialogue between Christian and Muslim scholars has confirmed similarities and differences. This volume captures the three-day London seminar in April 2012. The thirty participants represent predominantly European culture. Throughout the book, the two perspectives clash; some beliefs are held in common but others are quite divergent.

N.T. Wright condenses biblical doctrine on death, resurrection, and the afterlife.

The Creator God will rescue his whole Creation from all that defaces and corrupts it, and this act of restorative justice, long promised in scripture, has been accomplished through the death and resurrection of Jesus, Israel’s Messiah. When, therefore, humans come to share the life of Jesus through faith and baptism, they are caught into that larger project (pp. 15-16).

Reza Shah-Kazemi responds by affirming Islamic belief in a bodily resurrection. The reader will notice semantic disconnects in this formula of presentation and response. Participants are not always on the same page in giving their opinions about opinions. The underlying difference is starting point: either grace or works. While it may be too simplistic to assess it this way, it colors man’s purpose in life and destiny in death.

This life is preparation for the afterlife and receiving punishment or reward on the Day of Judgment. Familiar terms are jostled, for example, heaven and hell, mercy and grace, salvation, limbo, the eschaton, a good death, soul sleeping, angels and demons, meaning of death and life, euthanasia, and assisted suicide. Muslims have perpetuated death and burial preparations as handed down from Muhammad through fourteen centuries. It would not be a shock to realize that cremation is considered a cardinal sin to Muslims, while it is becoming more acceptable to Christians. Islamic terrorists are not the only ones who think that the West has slipped away from spiritual moorings. Both religions claim to champion life despite their being categorized otherwise. Rowan Williams offers a balanced critique of the book's first part in "Reflections" (pp. 117-121). David Marshall addresses some underlying concerns in his summary (pp. 231-239), especially about salvation and inspiration of scripture.

Academic libraries and those institutions with emphasis on comparative religions should acquire this book (and the entire history of eleven seminars). Endnotes are helpful; the index lists key names, subjects, Bible and Qur'an passages. It is also available as a paperback or an ebook.

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### **Dictionary of Debate and Public Speaking,**

by Leslie Phillips. New York: International Debate Education Association, 2016.  
277 pp. \$25.95. ISBN 9781617701009

*Reviewed by Gary Fittsimmons, Director of Library Services, Bryan College, Dayton, TN*

A highly accessible reference work, this volume falls somewhere between a pocket guide to parliamentary procedure and an encyclopedia of debate and public speaking. The 165 pages (over 500 entries) of terms include concrete examples of how each term would be specifically used and which major debate format employs the term. The extensive appendix includes a synopsis of the history, structure, features, judging, etc. of the major debate formats, treating those of different countries separately. Also included are a list of abbreviations and acronyms and a thematic index, arranging the covered terms by the debate format in which they would be used, which is a great tool for quickly becoming familiar with the terminology of a specific format. Author Leslie Phillips has taught high school and College debate for over 30 years, has co-authored the textbook *Basic Debate*, and is a recipient of the Six Diamond award from the National Speech and Debate Association.