Are all religions simply different ways up the same mountain? Or is the key to religious tolerance found in better understanding differences? Stephen Prothero argues that persistent attempts to portray all religions as different paths to the same God overlook the distinct problem that each tradition seeks to solve. Delving into Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, Judaism, Confucianism, Yoruba Religion, Daoism and Atheism, he contends that the path to enduring interreligious understanding lies not in “pretend pluralism,” but in profound knowledge of religious difference.

Stephen Prothero, professor of religion at Boston University, has been described by Newsweek as “a world religions scholar with the soul of a late night comic.” His award-winning and best-selling books include The American Bible: How Our Words Unite, Divide, and Define a Nation, God is Not One: The Eight Rival Religions That Run the World—and Why Their Differences Matter, and Religious Literacy: What Americans Need to Know. He regularly comments on religion on National Public Radio and on CNN, NBC, MSNBC, FOX, and PBS.

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