



“What beautiful blessedness: the wise and gentle heart of Mary mirrored in the wise and gentle heart of Camille Helmski.”

~ **Rev. Dr. Cynthia Bourgeault**, author of *The Wisdom Jesus* and *The Meaning of Mary Magdalene*

“This priceless book is a treasure trove of precious insights, heartfelt poetry, sacred verses and meticulous scholarship. These elements exquisitely woven into twelve chapters uniquely and profoundly enrich our mind, purify our heart and exalt our soul.”

~ **Imam Jamal Rahman**, Interfaith Community Sanctuary

“I have read numerous books on the Holy Mother in Her many guises: Kali, Chochma, Sarada Devi, Shechinah, Avalokiteshvara, and of course Mary, but none was as striking, profound, and potentially heart-transforming as *The Way of Mary*. . . . I cannot recommend it more highly.”

~ **Rabbi Rami Shapiro**, author of *The Divine Feminine in Biblical Wisdom Literature*

Booklife Review (Publishers Weekly)

The Way of Mary: Maryam, Beloved of God
Helmski, Camille

A celebration, mediation, illuminating archival adventure, and a deeply reverent dialogue between faiths, Helmski’s lavish tome blends scholarly rigor with a believer’s awe as it draws from key texts from the three Abrahamic religions to examine accounts of the life of the woman often known as Mary—or Madre, Maria, Miriam, or the Blessed Virgin. (Helmski notes that “the variations of her name indicate her universal story.”) In warm, inviting prose that’s rich with insight and a sense of grace, Helmski presents this multifaceted study as a “devotional journey,” one visiting the “twelve stations” or “passages” of Mary’s life, as established in scripture, poetry, art, and the writings of mystics. These “passages,” Helmski writes, “radiate blessing to all of us when we hold them close in remembrance.”

Readers familiar with this most beloved figure only from the perspective of one faith will find much of what Helmski presents fascinating, as she digs into Quranic accounts of Mary’s life—including the story of the infant Jesus offering a spirited defense of Mary in the face of gossiping neighbors, and several other miracles. Passages contemplating Rumi’s reflections on oneness and the “Hidden Mysteries” of divinity are rousing: “Through Rumi’s words we recognize a Love that encourages us to remove our coats—the veils of our hearts which burden us.” So, too, are the illustrations, sourced from centuries of great artwork, and photos of holy sites.

What readers of faith will most take from this is renewed appreciation for the figure of Mary across religious traditions and millennia, as Helmski, a thoughtful and nuanced guide, leads an engaging tour through a life sketched out in the gospels, assembling from her array of sources both a human portrait and dazzling radiance, as she contemplates and interrogates ancient accounts that don’t always fit cleanly together. In their points of connection and disjunction, though, she finds fresh insight and power. Believers will find this a book to treasure.

Takeaway: A radiant study of the life of Mary, drawn from the three Abrahamic faiths.

Production grades

Cover: A Design and typography: A Illustrations: A Editing: A Marketing copy: A