

HPHC Barcelona, Spain: *Holy Envy - Finding God in the faith of others* by Barbara Brown Taylor

Daniel Badosa
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The official presentation of the new book from the Espacio Ronda publishing house: "Holy Envy. Finding God in the faith of others". The event took place at the Migra Studium Foundation in Barcelona, a significant place for this event due to its valuable work in interreligious education in Barcelona for twenty years. We met one of the organizers of the foundation, Alicia Guidonet, at a recent presentation we had in Barcelona for the book *The Raft Is Not the Shore*, and we felt that it was the perfect place for the presentation of this new title.

The two main speakers were Javier Melloni (anthropologist, theologian, writer, and Jesuit of Spanish-Italian origin who kindly wrote us a prologue for this book) and Jordi Gómez (meditation and personal development trainer and member of the Buddhist association Shanghai Activa) and the moderation of Carlos Badosa as editor.

The event began at 19:00 p.m. with the participation of 60 attendees, the vast majority linked to Javier Melloni and his interreligious and contemplation group. Melloni has spoken highly of the book since its publication, and the growing interest in the title in interfaith circles has noted this. Alicia Guidonet spoke first, welcoming the event and Migra Studium, followed by a few introductory words from Carlos about the book and the publisher, and finally, giving the floor to Melloni.

Javier Melloni commented with great respect and affection how wonderful he found the book and that its author, Barbara Brown Taylor, is an excellent pedagogue who has been able to make a profound synthesis of all her experiences and reflections in a book full of sympathy and empathy for the religion of the other. Melloni emphasized that when you delve deeper into your tradition, what it should do is "broaden it" and help you appreciate other religions. If you don't have full confidence in your tradition, what it does is distance you and despise other types of beliefs. But "Holy envy" is born when one can fully accept one's tradition and see other religions with eyes of admiration and respect.

Jordi Gómez spoke afterward, commenting on what his interreligious experience has been like throughout his life, giving a sympathetic and, at the same time, profound testimony about how it is not easy to integrate the interreligious experience when one is already part of a tradition. It reinforced the book's idea of how important it is to compare one's religion with that of others symmetrically (the best of religion with the best of one's own) and that, little by little, society is improving in this crucial aspect.

The event ended with a question-and-answer session, during which participants contributed interesting reflections and comments that further enriched the presentation. It was a high-level event whose attendees were grateful and excited for a book they took home and wanted to read.

We believe this is an excellent book with a high potential to educate others about this "Holy Envy" and the essential aspect of interreligious matters. We will continue to promote it as much as we can so that it reaches as many people as possible. Thanks to all the participants, speakers, the editorial team, and the Migra Studium Foundation.

Daniel Badosa
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