

# Press Release

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## NYQ Books™ Announces the Forthcoming Publication of *The Third Renunciation* by Matthew E. Henry (MEH)



June 2023 - Beacon, NY - NYQ Books is proud to announce the publication of *The Third Renunciation* by Matthew Henry. Heeding St. John Cassian's call, *The Third Renunciation* rejects classic depictions of divinity and religious dogma to see God more fully. Each poem begins with a proposition (e.g. "Say God is the music we strain to hear"), or an explanation for a Biblical story (e.g. "maybe Jesus was having an off day"). Henry's poetry offers answers to the myriad whys at the center of faith and doubt, gives voice to the notion that both singing and screaming are authentic responses to suffering, and argues that "grace is a Twinkie or a cockroach—/something that never goes bad, can survive/anything the cold world throws.../ despite all our best efforts to quell it."

In a tour de force of apophatic anaphora, Matthew Henry's new work offers profound—often comic, often severe, most often vertiginous—assistance in the hard work of compassion, the psalmist's and the prophet's indictment of the too often unapparent God, and the difficult descent to the heart, where we hope to find that very God who shaped us, the God who dwells within us.

~ Scott Cairns, Author of *Slow Pilgrim: The Collected Poems*

Think the word "God," and the reality of divinity sidesteps our puny word choice. Say the word "God," and the sound of it sets off as many cartoons of divinity as there are ears to hear it. In his new collection, *The Third Renunciation*, MEH (Matthew E. Henry) invites us to join his deep, double-take dive into the words "God" and "sonnet." [...] Say that my appreciation for these poems, which I will read again and again, were an obvious understatement. Say true divinity, whom MEH refuses to limit to his or my or your cartoon of Same (thus, the third renunciation), were to give legs to this wonderful body of work. May that it were so.

~ Brad Davis, author of *Trespassing on the Mount of Olives*

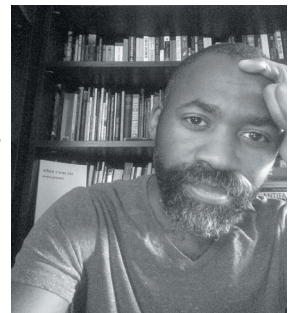
*The Third Renunciation* is spiritual poetry like you've never seen before. These poems are gritty, vulgar, and ceaselessly provocative, but they possess an unmatched earnestness, a genuine desire to know and understand God. [...] These poems are Jacob, bloodied and bruised, fighting for his life against the angel, and when the dust settles, it's the reader who walks away blessed.

~ Matthew J. Andrews, author of *I Close My Eyes and I Almost Remember*

Henry's poems articulate the thoughts we're afraid to chase and the prayers we dare not pray. Moreover, his language, imagery, and music are as riveting as the questions he asks. This book gripped me from the first page and will still not let me go.

~ Whitney Rios-Ross, author of *Birthmarks*

Matthew E. Henry (MEH) is the author of *the Colored page* (Sundress Publications), *Teaching While Black* (Main Street Rag), and *Dust & Ashes* (Californios Press). The editor-in-chief of *The Weight Journal*, and an associate poetry editor at *Pidgeonholes*, MEH's poetry and prose appears in *Barren Magazine*, *Fare Forward*, *The Florida Review*, *Massachusetts Review*, *New York Quarterly*, *Ninth Letter*, *Ploughshares*, *Poetry East*, *Relief Journal*, *Saint Katherine Review*, *Shenandoah*, *Solstice*, *Spiritus*, *The Windhover* and *Zone 3* among others. MEH's an educator who received his MFA yet continued to spend money he didn't have completing an MA in theology and a PhD in education. You can find him at [www.MEHPoeting.com](http://www.MEHPoeting.com) writing about education, race, religion, and burning oppressive systems to the ground.



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