Book Previews
Ken Wilber, Jack Engler and Daniel P. Brown (Editors) Transformations of Consciousness: Conventional and Contemplative Perspectives on Development

In this groundbreaking work, Western and Eastern approaches to psychology are brought together to create the first "full-spectrum" model of human development. The authors—leaders in the fields of psychology and psychiatry—integrate the stages of growth as defined by Western science with the higher possibilities for human consciousness as seen by the meditative disciplines of Buddhism, Hinduism, and other spiritual traditions. In nine seminal essays, the authors and three contributors look at questions such as these: How does the full-spectrum model of development compare with recent findings in psychoanalytic ego psychology? What psychiatric complications can arise with the practice of meditation, and how should they be treated? Is the authors' model consistent with the contemplative stages reflected in the writings of some of the world's recognized saints? And do these stages have universal validity, or are they merely the subjective belief systems of particular cultures?

These and other discussions make Transformation of Consciousness a powerful book that could alter the future of consciousness research as well as clinical practice. It will appeal not only to psychologists, psychiatrists, and theologians, but also to lay readers interested in the fascinating interface between psychology and spirituality.

Ken Wilber, General Editor of New Science Library, is regarded as the founder of "spectrum psychology." He is the author of ten books and some hundred articles on psychology, psychiatry, sociology, philosophy, and religion. Jack Engler is clinical
director of the Schiff Psychiatric Day Treatment Center of Cambridge Hospital as well as a supervising psychologist on the faculty of Harvard Medical School. Daniel P. Brown is the director of psychology training and clinical services and director of behavioral medicine at Cambridge Hospital/Harvard Medical School. 