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## The Religion of Hands: Prose Poems and Flash Fictions

By Ray Gonzalez

University of Arizona Press, United States, 2005. Paperback.  
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 Brand New Book. A man doesn't sleep with the moon. He sleeps with his hunger, gathers bowls of avocados and wipes his lips with his sins. The Religion of Hands does not foster sleep. Look quickly and you will catch the hint of a fox streaking in front of your car's headlights at night. Look more carefully out your bedroom window and you may see your life going by, lost loved ones waving hello. Who were you when the stars were misinterpreted as the fingertips of God? Ray Gonzalez blends symbolic play with lyrical beauty as he works from a vast and complex palette to infuse popular culture with myth. The Religion of Hands is imbued with magic realism: a suffocating dream of tamales, mysterious reptilian allusions, a man who finds God walking down the stairs to hand him an old, tattered phonebook from the year he was born. It offers strange prophecies: A steady vegetation will grow across the empire as more homeboys are killed in drive-bys. Microscopic scratches on an old vinyl record will form a message discovered...



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