



## Virtually Sacred: Myth and Meaning in World of Warcraft and Second Life

By Robert M. Geraci

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

### Virtually Sacred: Myth and Meaning in World of Warcraft and Second Life

By Robert M. Geraci

Millions of users have taken up residence in virtual worlds, and in those worlds they find opportunities to revisit and rewrite their religious lives. Robert M. Geraci argues that virtual worlds and video games have become a locus for the satisfaction of religious needs, providing many users with devoted communities, opportunities for ethical reflection, a meaningful experience of history and human activity, and a sense of transcendence. Using interviews, surveys, and his own first-hand experience within the virtual worlds, Geraci shows how *World of Warcraft* and *Second Life* provide participants with the opportunity to rethink what it means to be religious in the contemporary world. Not all participants use virtual worlds for religious purposes, but many online residents use them to rearrange or replace religious practice as designers and users collaborate in the production of a new spiritual marketplace.

Using *World of Warcraft* and *Second Life* as case studies, this book shows that many residents now use virtual worlds to re-imagine their traditions and work to restore them to "authentic" sanctity, or else replace religious institutions with virtual communities that provide meaning and purpose to human life. For some online residents, virtual worlds are even keys to a post-human future where technology can help us transcend mortal life. Geraci argues that *World of Warcraft* and *Second Life* are "virtually sacred" because they do religious work. They often do such work without regard for-and frequently in conflict with-traditional religious institutions and practices; ultimately they participate in our sacred landscape as outsiders, competitors, and collaborators.

 [Download Virtually Sacred: Myth and Meaning in World of War ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Virtually Sacred: Myth and Meaning in World of W ...pdf](#)

# **Virtually Sacred: Myth and Meaning in World of Warcraft and Second Life**

*By Robert M. Geraci*

## **Virtually Sacred: Myth and Meaning in World of Warcraft and Second Life** By Robert M. Geraci

Millions of users have taken up residence in virtual worlds, and in those worlds they find opportunities to revisit and rewrite their religious lives. Robert M. Geraci argues that virtual worlds and video games have become a locus for the satisfaction of religious needs, providing many users with devoted communities, opportunities for ethical reflection, a meaningful experience of history and human activity, and a sense of transcendence. Using interviews, surveys, and his own first-hand experience within the virtual worlds, Geraci shows how *World of Warcraft* and *Second Life* provide participants with the opportunity to rethink what it means to be religious in the contemporary world. Not all participants use virtual worlds for religious purposes, but many online residents use them to rearrange or replace religious practice as designers and users collaborate in the production of a new spiritual marketplace.

Using *World of Warcraft* and *Second Life* as case studies, this book shows that many residents now use virtual worlds to re-imagine their traditions and work to restore them to "authentic" sanctity, or else replace religious institutions with virtual communities that provide meaning and purpose to human life. For some online residents, virtual worlds are even keys to a post-human future where technology can help us transcend mortal life. Geraci argues that *World of Warcraft* and *Second Life* are "virtually sacred" because they do religious work. They often do such work without regard for-and frequently in conflict with-traditional religious institutions and practices; ultimately they participate in our sacred landscape as outsiders, competitors, and collaborators.

## **Virtually Sacred: Myth and Meaning in World of Warcraft and Second Life** By Robert M. Geraci

### **Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #2081762 in Books
- Published on: 2014-07-14
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 6.30" h x 1.40" w x 9.30" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 368 pages



[Download Virtually Sacred: Myth and Meaning in World of War ...pdf](#)



[Read Online Virtually Sacred: Myth and Meaning in World of W ...pdf](#)

---

## Download and Read Free Online Virtually Sacred: Myth and Meaning in World of Warcraft and Second Life By Robert M. Geraci

---

### Editorial Review

#### Review

"Robert Geraci has produced another excellent study...Geraci's specific analysis merits scholarly attention and response. His clear writing style makes this work of scholarship digestible for the interested general reader. The book could serve well as a textbook in an advanced undergraduate or graduate seminar on religious transhumanism. Despite the fast-changing world of virtual reality and gaming, and the scholarship explosion surrounding these and related topics, Geraci's book is likely to stand for some years as the authoritative work on things virtually sacred."--*Nova Religio*

"Robert Geraci's astute argument that video gamers discover enchantment, redemption, and transcendence in gaming deserves widespread attention. *Virtually Sacred* is one of the most original treatments of gaming and participation in virtual worlds I have ever read. The elegant, understated prose provides the perfect foil for Geraci's unexpected, provocative foray into grasping the contours of religiosity in gaming and virtual worlds." --Bonnie Nardi, Professor at University of California, Irvine, and author of *My Life as a Night Elf Priest: An Anthropological Account of World of Warcraft*

"This lucid but sophisticated book demonstrates that online virtual realities like *World of Warcraft* and *Second Life* allow the sacred to flourish in a secular society, encourage players to experiment with ethical issues, sustain community in an age when tribe is an obsolete concept, and offer not merely escape but transcendence." --William Sims Bainbridge, author of *The Warcraft Civilization* and *eGods*

"In *Virtually Sacred*, Robert Geraci argues that 'virtual worlds are now rearranging or replacing religious practice', competing with traditional religions and their stories in a new spiritual marketplace. This provocative book represents a major empirical and theoretical step forward for the study of digital religion, engaging seriously and thoughtfully with the history of religions, virtual anthropology and actor-network theory, and will make an essential contribution to the next generation of debates in the field of religion, media, and culture." --Tim Hutchings, CODEC, St. John 's College, Durham University

#### About the Author

**Robert M. Geraci** is Professor in the Department of Religious Studies at Manhattan College. He is the author of *Apocalyptic AI: Visions of Heaven in Robotics, Artificial Intelligence, and Virtual Reality* and many essays that analyze the ways in which human beings use technology to make the world meaningful. He was the principle investigator on a National Science Foundation grant to study virtual worlds and the recipient of a Fulbright-Nehru Senior Research Award (2012-2013), which allowed him to investigate the intersections of religion and technology at the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Michelle Favors:**

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important take action, like looking for your favorite publication and reading a publication. Beside you can solve your short lived problem; you can add your knowledge by the e-book entitled Virtually Sacred: Myth and Meaning in World of Warcraft and Second Life. Try to the actual book Virtually Sacred: Myth and Meaning in World of Warcraft and Second Life as your buddy. It means that it can being your friend when you truly feel alone and beside that of course make you smarter than ever before. Yeah, it is very fortuned for you personally. The book makes you a lot more confidence because you can know everything by the book. So , let me make new experience in addition to knowledge with this book.

#### **Antonio Mock:**

Often the book Virtually Sacred: Myth and Meaning in World of Warcraft and Second Life will bring you to definitely the new experience of reading the book. The author style to describe the idea is very unique. In the event you try to find new book to read, this book very acceptable to you. The book Virtually Sacred: Myth and Meaning in World of Warcraft and Second Life is much recommended to you to learn. You can also get the e-book from official web site, so you can quickly to read the book.

#### **Robert Victor:**

Beside this specific Virtually Sacred: Myth and Meaning in World of Warcraft and Second Life in your phone, it might give you a way to get nearer to the new knowledge or information. The information and the knowledge you will got here is fresh in the oven so don't become worry if you feel like an older people live in narrow community. It is good thing to have Virtually Sacred: Myth and Meaning in World of Warcraft and Second Life because this book offers to your account readable information. Do you often have book but you don't get what it's interesting features of. Oh come on, that will not end up to happen if you have this inside your hand. The Enjoyable option here cannot be questionable, just like treasuring beautiful island. So do you still want to miss this? Find this book and also read it from now!

#### **Donna Moore:**

Is it anyone who having spare time after that spend it whole day by simply watching television programs or just resting on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This Virtually Sacred: Myth and Meaning in World of Warcraft and Second Life can be the answer, oh how comes? The new book you know. You are so out of date, spending your time by reading in this fresh era is common not a geek activity. So what these ebooks have than the others?

**Download and Read Online Virtually Sacred: Myth and Meaning in  
World of Warcraft and Second Life By Robert M. Geraci  
#DRU43VH9FM6**

# **Read Virtually Sacred: Myth and Meaning in World of Warcraft and Second Life By Robert M. Geraci for online ebook**

Virtually Sacred: Myth and Meaning in World of Warcraft and Second Life By Robert M. Geraci Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Virtually Sacred: Myth and Meaning in World of Warcraft and Second Life By Robert M. Geraci books to read online.

## **Online Virtually Sacred: Myth and Meaning in World of Warcraft and Second Life By Robert M. Geraci ebook PDF download**

**Virtually Sacred: Myth and Meaning in World of Warcraft and Second Life By Robert M. Geraci Doc**

**Virtually Sacred: Myth and Meaning in World of Warcraft and Second Life By Robert M. Geraci MobiPocket**

**Virtually Sacred: Myth and Meaning in World of Warcraft and Second Life By Robert M. Geraci EPub**

**DRU43VH9FM6: Virtually Sacred: Myth and Meaning in World of Warcraft and Second Life By Robert M. Geraci**