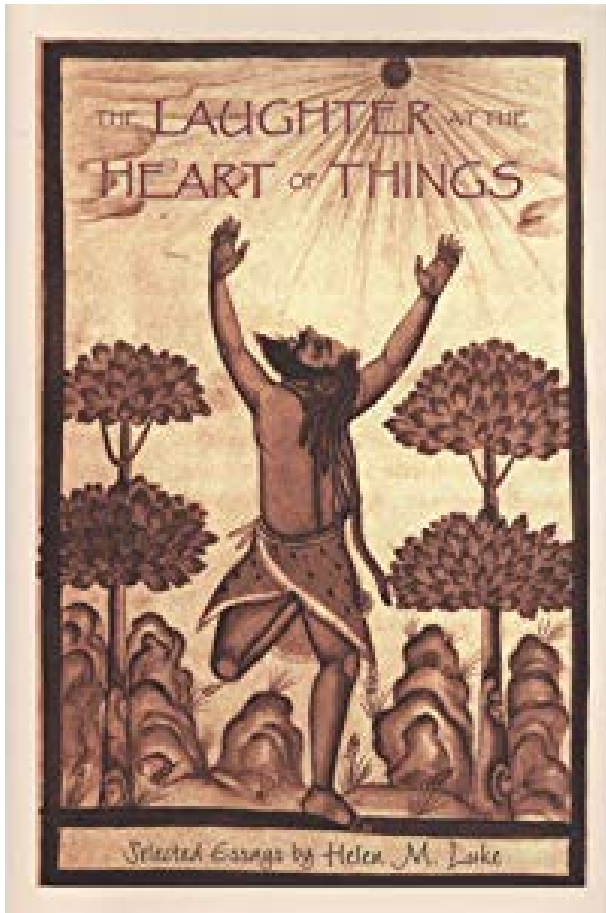


The Laughter at the Heart of Things



Pages:	128
Genre:	Uncategorized
Language	English
Author:	Helen M. Luke
ISBN10:	0930407520
Goodreads Rating:	4.12
Published:	June 1st 2001 by Morning Light Press
ISBN13:	9780930407520

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These essays explore the nature of feminine and masculine psychology and the role of story and myth in human culture, and offer insight into the spiritual meaning within modern and classical literature. Several previously unpublished essays are collected here -- including an analysis of two of Shakespeare's greatest plays, *The Merchant of Venice* and *Antony and Cleopatra*. The title essay reflects on the vital importance of a sense of humour on the spiritual road to freedom and joy. These essays combine Christian spirituality with Jungian psychology to discuss the importance of openly and consciously facing the suffering that is part of being human.