From Decision to Heresy: Experiments in Non-Standard Thought
François Laruelle
Ed. Robin Mackay

This book is a collection of the English translations of François Laruelle’s writings, mainly from the first two stages of the five-stage development of his thought of non-philosophy. The tone of the book is set by the wonderful introduction by the editor, Robin Mackay, who brings out the dissatisfaction of Laruelle that propelled him to rethink philosophy and propound a new thought, that of non-philosophy. The introduction is interspersed with quotations from a conversation with Laruelle, which bring out his insights. Here, we see Laruelle describing the gradual growth of his thought and how his ‘critique is a critique of all possible philosophy’ (9). This volume showcases Laruelle’s literary talents as well, as we have different forms of writing, including some poems. This book is a reference for anyone interested in the history of the development of non-philosophy.

Christo-Fiction: The Ruins of Athens and Jerusalem
François Laruelle
Trans. Robin Mackay

François Laruelle calls this book a ‘faith experiment’ (xi) and presents the problem that led to such an experiment: ‘The war of religion continues, and there will be no Christian return of Christ. If Christianity is the religion of the exit from religions, Christ is the exit from Christianity itself’ (ix). He proceeds to apply the ‘Algebra of the Messianic Wave’ (103) to bring about a ‘transformation of theology and the production of a christo-fiction that replaces the “return of Christ” as object of belief’” (112). Through this work, Laruelle tries to find ‘new relations between religion, science, politics, and art’ (blurb). He seeks a more humane Christ as opposed to the authoritarian figure propagated by academic theology. His Christ is human and he establishes that the science of Christ is the same as non-philosophy, free from any preconditioning. Listing the new ‘tasks ... prescribed by this placing of Christ’s message into the gnostic matrix’ (xiv), Laruelle mentions the following, among others: ‘To reinterpret the distinction between belief and faith ... To rename this whole set of axioms as being those of a gnostic but nonreligious usage of Christ, of his kerygma and of his faithful’ (xv). Representing a major rethinking of theology and the philosophy of religion, this book is a good resource for anyone interested in religion.

Gita Bodh: Understanding Life and Beyond—A Conceptual Presentation of the Bhagavad Gītā
Uday Karanjkar
Uday Karanjkar, Flat C-9, ‘Pinnac Memories’, Phase 1, Kothrud, Pune 411038. Email: uday.gitabodh@gmail.com. 2015. ₹ 1,599. 546 pp. HB. ISBN 979352359394.

This book is, in every sense of the word, a remarkable achievement which embodies in its content every aspect of Bhagavadgita’s teachings. If Gita teaches bhakti, jnana, karma, and other yogas, the spirit of those yogas is evident in every section, every paragraph of this stunningly beautiful book. Devotion, intense knowledge, and impeccable activism in executing the task and above all a comprehensive, flawless execution in producing the outcome—what are these except values of the text itself! In short, it is a radiant replica brought out of the crystallisation the author absorbed from above all, his guru Swami Satswarupananda, a disciple of the late Swami Dayananda Saraswati, the founder of Arsha Vidya Pitham.

This does not exhaust the uniqueness of this volume. With his experience as a corporate leader...