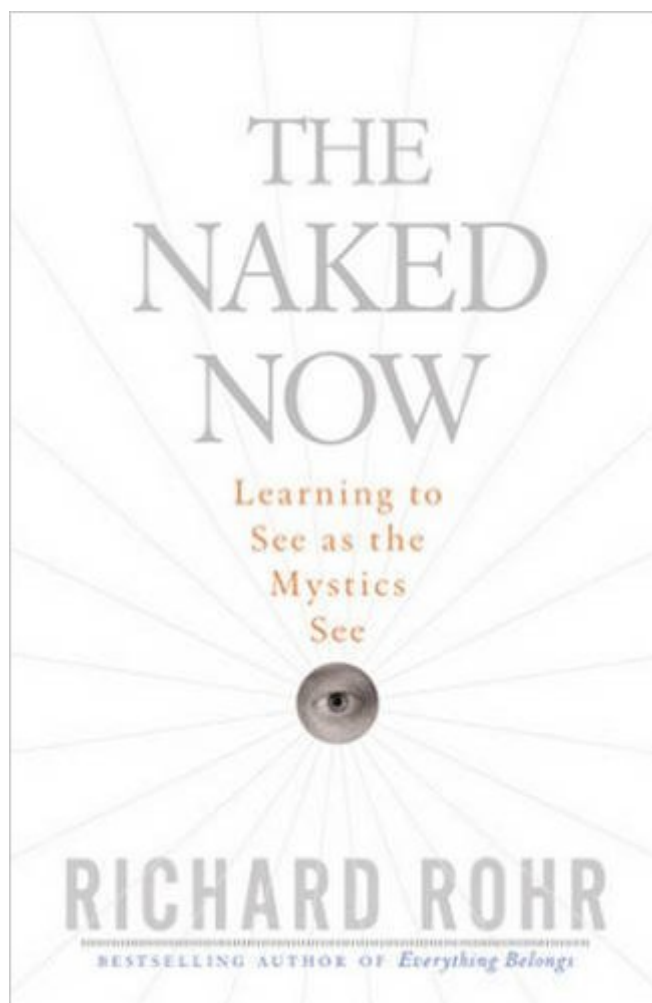


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The Naked Now: Learning To See As The Mystics See



Synopsis

For Christians seeking a way of thinking outside of strict dualities, this guide explores methods for letting go of division and living in the present. Drawn from the Gospels, Jesus, Paul, and the great Christian contemplatives, this examination reveals how many of the hidden truths of Christianity have been misunderstood or lost and how to read them with the eyes of the mystics rather than interpreting them through rational thought. Filled with sayings, stories, quotations, and appeals to the heart, specific methods for identifying dualistic thinking are presented with simple practices for stripping away ego and the fear of dwelling in the present.

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Customer Reviews

I have read 5 of Rohr's works, and this one is the culmination of several of his classics. His seminal work is Everything Belongs: The Gift of Contemplative Prayer, which is his first attempt at the description of the holistic nature of Spiritual life, and how the Eternal is unitive, and not dualistic. This unitive theme is refined and brought home in an even more lucid way in this writing. In the Naked Now, he brings together much of the works of others that he has synthesized and learned. He is truly an avid learner and gleaner of the wisdom of sages of all traditions and schools of thought. This contemporary writing reflects this new insight. Fr. Rohr, like his contemporaries: Eckhart Tolle- The Power of Now: A Guide to Spiritual Enlightenment, Cynthia Bourgeault The Wisdom Way of Knowing: Reclaiming An Ancient Tradition to Awaken the Heart, many of the explorers of the Nag Hammadi texts, Francis of Assisi-the founder of Rohr's Franciscan order, and

many ancient desert fathers have discovered a foregone conclusion- that true wisdom is evidenced and is experienced in the Eternal Now--where Yahweh exists and has always existed.(I AM That I Am.)Rohr's description of the origination of YHWH: the name of God in the Hebraic tradition, as the source of the breath of all humanity is particularly profound.

This is an amazing work. It feels to me like this book combines some of what "Putting on the Mind of Christ" sets up, along with "The Wisdom Jesus." But for reasons not clear it also feels like it advances beyond where those books go. In part it is perhaps because Rohr has clearly done his contemporary reading and his contemplation. This is one of the only Christian writers I have seen who seems to understand the role Ken Wilber has had on clarifying what, for goodness sake, all true religious teachings are trying to get human beings to realize. He also calls our attention to contemporary non-dual realized beings and teachers, such as Byron Katie and Eckhart Tolle. Perhaps that is what feels so unique about this book. It feels to me like this is the first time I have read a Christian writer who has really gone out and read, assimilated, and then integrated the current non-dual awakening process happening all over the world right now with the actual message and teaching of Christ: Jesus. It is as if some sort of mental wall that has been separating Christianity from the the vital and enormously powerful work of the Holy Spirit that is going on right now in the non-dual spiritual world gets conceptually and actually torn down in this book. I feel on some level like I have been waiting all my life for this book to show up. I thank Rohr and God, Christ and The Holy Spirit for bringing it out. Since Christ: Jesus is my spiritual Teacher and model, I have had little choice but to wait for this kind of book to make sense of how he fits in with the larger non-dual teachings of the world both past and present. In other words, I feel, at last that someone has explained very well why I experience Christ: Jesus as I do, as a non-dual master, fully divine and fully human.

The Reverend Father Richard Rohr has long served as the pre-eminent American author, speaker, retreat director and counsellor of Roman Catholic spirituality, including mysticism, coming from a profoundly Franciscan foundation. This new release is the culmination and summary of all that has gone before and a glimpse of the riches to come. As well as several retreats presenting this work across America, the Reverend Father Rohr will host on a Saturday morning in early January an official webcast we all may easily attend. Thus we have left no reason left not to accompany the Reverend Father Richard Rohr in his introduction to this essential work of Catholic spirituality. Released mere weeks ago, we gratefully find here a summary of his long life of spiritual

mastery in the Roman Catholic tradition, beginning with an explanation of why he wrote this book. The book is then divided into three parts, plus eight appendices, as well as extra back material; an overflowing cornucopia of spirituality in the Roman Catholic tradition which all may find profoundly beneficial and instructive. Chapter One describes the Gift Already Given and our yearning for union (not perfection) now with God, who is already one with us, our birthright. Prayer is described as Practicing Heaven Now. Each chapter, beginning with a Biblical passage, concludes with a bold print summary, or commissioning, we may safely say, here in Chapter One with the great hope of union with God in which we already dwell. Chapter Two goes on to explore the Great Unsay, the root of mystic union with God. As Father Rohr explains in the introduction: "All saying must be balanced by unsaying, and knowing must be humbled by unknowing."

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