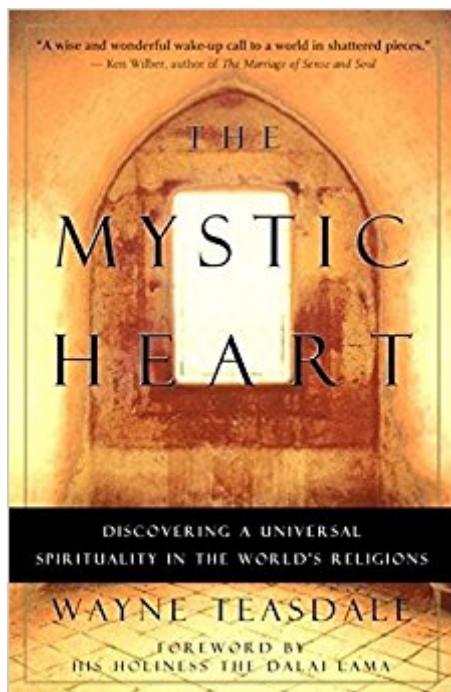


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The Mystic Heart: Discovering A Universal Spirituality In The World's Religions



Synopsis

Drawing on experience as an interreligious monk, Brother Wayne Teasdale reveals the power of spirituality and its practical elements. He combines a profound Christian faith with an intimate understanding of ancient religious traditions.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Author Wayne Teasdale believes that we're entering the "Interspiritual Age," when a new civilization will be formed--a global culture based on common spiritual values. "Such a universal society will draw its inspiration from perennial spiritual and moral insights, intuitions, and experiences," Teasdale predicts. Throughout this ambitious book, Teasdale examines the world's religions and highlights the underlying beliefs and yearnings that will ultimately link humankind. Nonetheless, Teasdale is also a proponent of spiritual diversity, urging readers to protect and study their own indigenous religions (or in many cases the religions of their childhoods) before rejecting them. In his glowing introduction, the Dalai Lama also speaks to the importance of preserving religions while simultaneously joining forces to create a more spiritually evolved and compassionate planet. In his final chapters, Teasdale offers ideas for cultivating a more spiritual life. Although his suggestions aren't startlingly original ("Gravitate toward silence," "Always leave the door of hope wide open.") they are tried and true and well worth the reader's time and investment. --Gail Hudson --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Teasdale is a sannyasa, or Hindu monk, who also practices Roman Catholicism and serves on the board of trustees of the Parliament of the World's Religions. Here, he proclaims the advent of a new movement toward "interspirituality"--one that claims as its heritage all valid spirituality from any and all faiths. Teasdale distinguishes "spirituality" from "religion," explaining that "Being religious connotes belonging to and practicing a religious tradition. Being spiritual suggests a personal commitment to a process of inner development that engages us in our totality." For the author, religion is a potential means to the greater end of genuine spirituality, which is highly mystical. Teasdale identifies what he considers the main elements of true spirituality and their manifestation in various religious traditions. Although he is Catholic and the book appeals to the unity underlying all traditions, most of his terminology derives from Buddhist and Hindu sources. Teasdale's style is gentle and winsome. Those who disapprove of eclecticism in religion will at least find this a clear presentation to react against, while those who share Teasdale's optimistic vision of the coming age as fostering spiritual unity among diverse peoples will consider the book an inspirational guide.

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Mysticism (as Teasdale tells it) would make better sense if it was shown clearly in relation to the "final integration" that is referred to at the end of chapter 9. If you look at mysticism as a duality of self and non-self, it suggests that it is a state that waits for resolution. I see mysticism as a transitional state, a sort of halfway house of being before becoming whole. I do not see the spiritual destination as the mystical life but rather the final integration. To romanticize the mystical state of being is to lock one in place. I recall one women I was corresponding with who said she was relieved to no longer be a mystic. The resolution of the mystical life is a happy moment as one is finally free to live an ordinary life. The mystical state still retains the narrative of one's culture and that narrative separates us from others in other cultures who hold different narratives. The duality of mysticism does not rise above these cultural narratives, in fact it is the narrative that helps gives one direction. The final integration is not only self-transcendence but also transcendence of the narrative as well. At that point I think we could start to talk about interspirituality. It seems premature to approach it from the unresolved mystical state.

Inspiring and informative. Not something you read like a novel. This one take time and pauses. I like it.

If everyone in the world read this book today the world would truly change for the better, and we would all come to know peace on Earth. God Bless the late Brother Wayne Teasdale a truly Holy man.

This book is the epitome of books for all who are seeking to understand mysticism and the connection of all world religions, and also what is happening in terms of spiritual growth within their own minds and souls. I happened to order it on a friend's recommendation just before I landed in the hospital and nearly died. I had amazing experiences and when the book arrived while I was in the hospital, it validated everything I was going through. Truly Amazing.

The Mystic Heart by Wayne Teasdale is a trusted resource for those persons beginning on an intentional spiritual journey as well as those well along the way and asking the many questions that inevitably arise. Wayne Teasdale draws on a profound knowledge of the world's spiritual traditions and orientations to help us better understand the shape and nature of our past travels as well as possibilities for the future. The volume is a store of wisdom into which one may delve again and again without fear of exhausting the richness of its contents. It has been my privilege to use this teaching tool with students in prison as well as seekers in upper-middle-class congregations. All were enthused and aided by such a splendid volume of spiritual wisdom.

A very good, clean copy of The Mystic Heart arrived within the promised time.

This book arrived as expected in excellent condition.

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