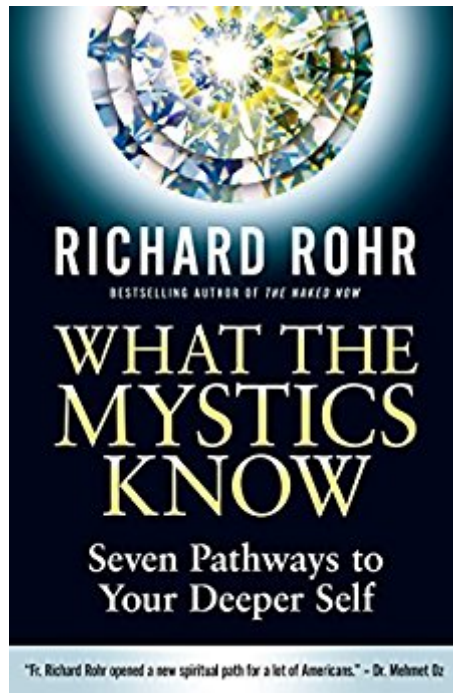




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# What The Mystics Know: Seven Pathways To Your Deeper Self



## Synopsis

Drawing from the best and most poetic of Richard Rohr's essays from nearly a quarter of a century, each chapter in this new collection examines one of the seven core mystical truths. Organized according to the mystical paths that every worshiper must follow, Rohr identifies the despair of everyday life, promotes opportunities for change even in the face of pain, thereby transforming one's deeper self into a beacon of light that aids in the perpetual metamorphosis of others. Illuminating these insights with reflections on Christian and Jewish scriptures while citing the greatest religious writers throughout the ages, Rohr offers an unparalleled window into the wisdom of the mystics, within a succinct volume that represents the best treasury of his vast library of writing.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I needed to read this: "To become aware of God's Presence in our lives, we have to accept what is difficult....We have to accept that human culture is in a mass hypnotic trance. We're sleepwalkers."

page 11. I have resisted this fact. I have tried so hard to be in this world and not of this world and it is not easy. I cannot understand why this human culture is just walking towards what I perceive to be a cliff, with their ear buds plugged in and reading their devices while walking down sidewalks and crossing streets. I want to be a lunatic with a microphone screaming at people in front of Union Station as they walk as if in a herd with little or no regard for one another "Wake up!". It is a hard observation to accept but that is all I can do - or become the lunatic with the microphone screaming "Wake Up" with futility as some might notice me and say silently to themselves, "Another nutcase". All of Fr. Rohr's books have helped me grow and accept. I will read this book several times, as I have his other books. I thank Fr. Rohr for writing another book I needed to read. Blessings to him and others responsible for this book.

When we have big questions we may reach for a big book to look for answers, but Franciscan Father Richard Rohr makes it easier for us. He answers questions, including some we didn't know we had, in a collection of straightforward little articles or essays. Each one addresses a major concern, and Father Rohr is a practiced story-teller with a talent for getting to the point. "What the Mystics Know" begins with a collection of essays under the heading, "The Enlightenment You Seek Already Dwells within You." After that comes a collection called "God is Found in Imperfection." That interested me, because imperfection is one of my specialties. Mine is not a defiance of God, like Job's, but I was stirred by Job's remarks as worded by Rohr: "I know God is right somehow; I just don't understand in this instance how he is right." Then Job gets it: "But, he says, 'I'm willing to wait.'" Rohr founded the Center for Action and Contemplation (CAC) in Albuquerque, New Mexico. His books and lectures and followed by people of all faiths along with people who are uncertain about their faith.

When one is working on deepening one's relationship with Jesus Christ, this book comes in very strong. Rohr gives us vignettes to meditate on that are life changing and call us to the challenge of truly being a disciple of Jesus. I especially liked the entry of p.111-112 in which he states: "- learning how to be taught, how to receive love, how to be healed and transformed- before they would dare to father or mother others." I also like Rohr's thoughts on "What you think God is, He isn't". In this meditation he states: "(You only get to know God) through painful encounters with the living God

where you feel your flesh being torn off and yet you do not die. Then you experience another kind of life, another kind of freedom. Christians call it the life of the risen Jesus." There are so many meditations in the book that resonate with being a disciple of Jesus.

As an Episcopal priest, I had often heard of Richard Rohr, and had been encouraged to read him. We did have a video series at our church that amounted to my introduction to him. Apart from that, this book has served as my introduction to this dedicated Christian mystic and compassionate contemporary. There's nothing "linear" here, such as a step-by-step instruction in the seven pathways which provide the framework for this book. Rather, others have apparently suggested to Fr. Rohr meaningful passages from his corpus of writings, which have then been collected and grouped under those seven parts or paths. Each little selection is an end in itself, in my opinion, very useful I suspect as a daily reading for one's devotion life, not sequentially connected to the one before or after. The photos and artwork add to the appeal for me, at least. I have only applause for this book, from a modern colleague in ministry, whose ministry I more and more appreciate and honor.

I read this book with fascination. Covers in-depth the topics of Mysticism and is educational. I recognized 80% of the themes from my previous studies but found the presentation really helpful. I write in books, so I liked this books layout, good for repeated use.

Hard to get into but,worth the effort.Richard Rohr has way with words that makes it clear, he is special soul. I would encourage all not only Catholics to read his works.

Purchased for a friend, who loves it! Richard Rohr is an amazing author.

I am still slugging through it, but it isn't easy to read. Really more of a collection of thoughts than a book. I has some good insights and thoughts, but it is a fairly tough sledding. I pick it up every day or two and read a few pages, then put it down. I don't want to say it isn't good, but it isn't something you can just sit down and read for hours at a time.

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