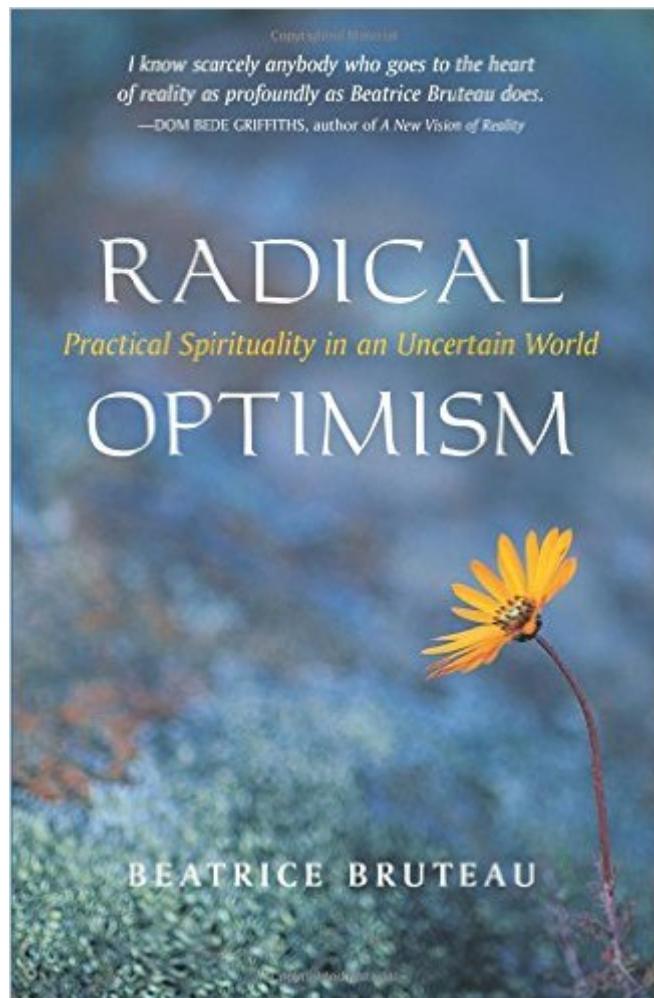


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Radical Optimism: Practical Spirituality In An Uncertain World



Synopsis

Title: Radical Optimism(Practical Spirituality in an Uncertain World) Binding: Paperback Author: BeatriceBruteau Publisher: SentientPublications

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I bought this book not for the title but because I like the author. And when I started reading about leisure, stillness, meditation, I thought, well it may be interesting, but it is not for me. I don't have time to stand still and meditate, and even less for leisure. But then, I began to feel concerned when I read for instance, that "the Sabbath is not a time among other times, but the underlying eternity; or that the Sabbath is there to remind us that our deepest reality is not to be identified with our works". I understood that this is something we should keep in mind at all times. I also felt this book actually concerns me when she defines contemplation as being "not something that is done alongside or before or after our everyday action," but that "Contemplation is what we should be doing at every moment of our life". In other words, contemplation does not stop me from acting but enables me to act with a much more authentic awareness of the reality within which I operate. Another positive development I found among others, in this book is about the Holy Trinity. Beatrice Bruteau offers some interesting insight on how the concept of trinity may operate as self-giving love, and why the relevant pattern requires at least three persons in order to be operative. Then she wisely comes back to earth by connecting these highly speculative considerations to everyday life. She is convinced that comprehensive life-giving relationships among us, based on the Trinitarian faith, can

gradually turn this world into a communion of saints. Eventually, the radical optimism which makes the title, comes from the actual belief that if we have the will and a genuine faith in the indwelling Trinitarian God, we will be able to make this happen.

Beatrice Bruteau is a mystical genius. She writes with the authority of a woman who has deep knowledge of Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism, and science, and her musings on meditation, stillness, the finite and the infinite are inspired. The section of the "mystery" of evil is alone worth the price of the book--a very timely analysis. Originally conceived as a guidebook for creating a retreat for yourself in your own home, this book goes far beyond the "spirituality lite" produced by many popular authors and will profoundly deepen your understanding of both human and divine nature. A book for the closet contemplatives among us.

In Radical Optimism, author and philosopher Beatrice Bruteau presents a persuasive argument for the necessity of meditation and contemplation for the bringing about of a new world view that can truly celebrate the individual and the community. First, Bruteau discusses the concepts of leisure and silence (they are not what we normally think!) as necessary attributes for meditation. In her chapter describing meditation itself, she gives an example that I have found very useful. After discussing meditation, she moves into the both the mysticism and metaphysics of the human condition in relation to the divine. She brings her treatise to a close by showing how a trinitarian God (One and Many in the same being) allows for the greatest of loves and the salvation of the individual human person and humanity as community. Dr. Bruteau writes with amazing lucidity and concreteness. Her arguments follow logically and very analytically. I am a scientist, and although I appreciate the need of metaphor for describing the transcendent and love mystical poets like Rumi and Tagore, I really appreciated Dr. Bruteau's down to earth writing. For such complex subjects, Dr. Bruteau's style proved refreshing and easy to follow without ambiguity. Highly recommended.

This is a work of synthesizing and expressing a deep spirituality out of the forms of the common religious experience of our day-- the writing is both scholarly and touching...a splash of color-- like the flower on the cover-- in world gone blue...highly recommended.

I've just discovered Bruteau and this is the first of her books I read. I read it 3 times in a row, not because it was hard to understand but because of the great clarity and depth of her insights. Now I'm going on to read the others--all so worthwhile. Great for Catholic contemplatives.

I appreciated Bruteau's profound and thorough approach to understanding radical optimism. I consider this book a classic. I plan to review and pray it more than once. It will take me years to digest the truths which she puts forth. I believe that anyone who is interested in deepening his/her spirituality will find this book very helpful.

This is one of the most beautiful books I have ever read on spirituality, forgiveness, and optimism. I feel like I need to continually read this book over time to allow all of the wonderful lessons contained within it to keep me focused on an optimistic life.

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