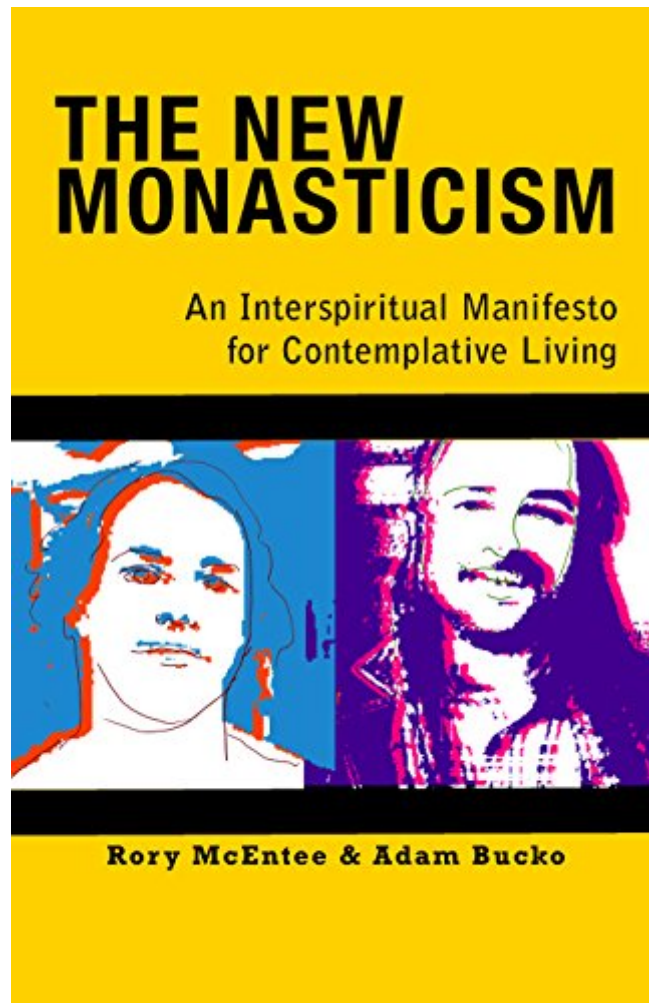


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New Monasticism: An Interspiritual Manifesto For Contemplative Living



Synopsis

Young leaders of the new monastic movement introduce their vision for contemplative life "one that draws from the long traditions of East and West but also seeks an interreligious and "interspiritual" dimension to intentional living in our time. With a preface by Mirabai Starr, a foreword by Sufi teacher Llewellyn Vaughan-Lee, and an afterword by Fr. Thomas Keating.

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Customer Reviews

There is an entire generation of young people who are not jaded, cynical, or numbed out on entertainment, yoga bliss, or organic artisanal everything. They are sincere spiritual seekers with high aspirations, a strong sense of social justice, and the determination to live their convictions, despite a world that doesn't really support them. Adam and Rory have had the patience and the persistence to mine the best of the spiritual traditions that seem to be crumbling. They understand the realities of the younger generation, yet honor the traditions and have sat with the texts, the traditions, and the elders that most young people find to be too boring, stale, or irrelevant to them.

They have unearthed modern day gems like Brother Wayne Teasdale, who began pointing the way towards the mystic heart beating under all religions. This is one form of Brother Wayne's continuation. Realizing that the young are not going to put up with discrimination or exclusion in their spirituality, they bring in the best thinkers and mystics across many spiritual traditions. But they are not just addressing the altar boys and girls; they practice and work with kids living on the streets of New York City — those who have been failed by every institution. They have tuned in to what their hopes and dreams are, what resonates for them, and are using that understanding to build a new spiritual framework that truly works for everyone. As the old institutions come down, young people are building the scaffolding for new institutions that will truly serve them. This book is an important guide book for that work.

This is a wonderful book -- bringing together strands that have become a hugely important part of my spiritual path in recent years - the Interspiritual view of Br. Wayne Teasdale, the Integral perspective of Ken Wilber, and the teachings of teachers within all of the "traditional religions" (and outside of any of the traditional religions) who have seen arriving at the 'other shore' as more essential than the boat one uses to navigate the waters. This book provides a model for helping spiritual seekers integrate the deep commitment to a contemplative life of the traditional cloistered monastic and the passionate engagement in social justice of the modern activist. This balancing of inner and outer life has been spoken of within many traditions (e.g., Engaged Buddhism), but the power of this book is in its guidance toward how to do this on a variety of Interspiritual paths that are becoming increasingly common -- including the practitioner who is deeply rooted in one tradition and openly exploring others, the multiple-belonging practitioner (Zen Christians; Hin-Jews, etc.), and the practitioner who belongs to no particular tradition and explores many (the "inter-spiritual but not religious" set). In some ways, the model and methods being proposed here are the antidote to the "supermarket of spiritual superficiality" — criticism often levied against these paths. It is possible to develop a path that is true to one's unique calling but also has deep integrity. In short, anyone who is deeply spiritual but has had trouble finding a home in traditional religious structures will find valuable guidance and advice in this book. The writing can be a bit uneven, at times — but the messages are extremely powerful. The "manifesto" that forms the heart of the book is exquisitely written.

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