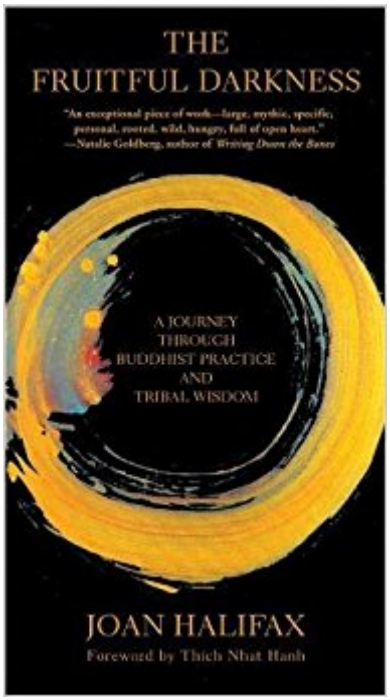
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The Fruitful Darkness: A Journey Through Buddhist Practice And Tribal Wisdom



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Synopsis

In this “masterwork of an authentic spirit personÃ¢â ¬Â• (Thomas Berry), Buddhist teacher and anthropologist Joan Halifax Roshi delves into “the fruitful darknessÃ¢â ¬Â•—the shadow side of being, found in the root truths of Native religions, the fecundity of nature, and the stillness of meditation. In this highly personal and insightful odyssey of the heart and mind, she encounters Tibetan Buddhist meditators, Mexican shamans, and Native American elders, among others. In rapt prose, she recounts her explorations—from Japanese Zen meditation to hallucinogenic plants, from the Dogon people of Mali to the Mayan rain forest, all the while creating "an adventure of the spirit and a feast of wisdom old and newÃ¢â ¬Â• (Peter Matthiessen). Halifax believes that deep ecology (which attempts to fuse environmental awareness with spiritual values) works in tandem with Buddhism and shamanism to discover “the interconnectedness of all life,Ã¢â ¬Â• and to regain lifeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s sacredness. Grove Press is proud to reissue this important work by one of BuddhismÃ¢â ¬â„¢s leading contemporary teachers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Halifax, an ecologist and anthropologist, encounters Tibetan Buddhist meditators, Mexican shamans and Native American elders in this highly personal odyssey, a lyrical farrago of field notes, reflections and reminiscence marred by New Age ecobabble. Author of Shaman: The Wounded Healer , Halifax believes that deep ecology (which attempts to fuse environmental awareness with spiritual values) ranks with Buddhism and shamanism as a way to understand the

interconnectedness of all creation and to regain a view of life as sacred. In rapt prose she recounts her explorations--geographic and mental--from Japanese Zen meditation to hallucinogenic plants, from the Dogon people of Mali to the Mayan rain forest. The terrain she covers may be familiar to spiritual seekers, but it is too fuzzy to be of value to environmentalists. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Halifax, a Zen Buddhist, anthropologist, and author (Shamanic Voices , Viking, 1991), writes of her experience of psychomental crisis and of her need to reconnect with the earth. She recounts how she found transformation through the virtues of silence, story, and nonduality, among others, with a reverence for ecology, Buddhism, and shamanism playing the largest roles in her transformation. She discovers that generosity is the root "perfection" out of which grow wholesomeness, patience, energy, natural concentration, and wisdom. Recommended for academic and large public libraries.Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Joan Halifax is an amazing creature. The official bio reads something like ex-wife of LSD psychotherapist Stanislaf Grof, anthropologist and research assistant to Joseph Campbell, deep ecologist and present roshi of Upaya Zen Center. The real Joan Halifax is a true cosmic dancer, bruja / medicine woman who has mastered the art of weaving whatever physical or etheric garments are necessary for the next grand spiritual adventure (beyond shapeshifting) and omnilinguist fluent in the languages of animals and angels. The Fruitful Darkness is one of the most beautiful, sad and ecstatic travelogues you will ever read.

Remarkably written by this insightful Roshi. Darkness of any kind can be devastating and/or abundant. This text reminded me to stay with the darkness until a candle flame guides me.

I’ve been fascinated by Shamanism and Zen for a long time but I did not find this book as enlightening as I hoped. My criticism of her philosophy is offered solely in the interest of finding a true solution to our existential crisis. I would argue that you cannot identify with nature, the absolute, or the entire cosmos. You should not find comfort in an expanded sense of identity.For example, let’s say you are working for a non-profit and you really love your job. It gives you a sense of being part of something larger than yourself. Then one day internal politics causes the non-profit to come to you and tell you that you are being let go. Now you are to lose your sense of being part of

something larger than yourself. This can be devastating if you invested too much of your ego into the non-profit. I would argue that it is important to be self-contained and realize that you are only a part of a company, a part of nature, or a part of the cosmos. It is false consciousness to identify with the whole. It is simple logic to realize that the part is not identical with the whole. To identify with the whole is a form of spiritual self-aggrandizement.So when she says, "It is also clear that our identity is not limited to what is wrapped up in our skins." There is some truth to this but you can't submerge the individual into the collective or nature as completely as she suggests.Another interesting realization, "I know that the psyche yearns to give the world a soul." Unfortunately, the entire book attempts to ensoul the world without seeing this to be a mere fantasy.

I had heard an hour and a half interview with her and Krista Tippet and was intrigued. This book is so much more in depth and while it is slow going at times it is interesting.

Joan delivers a powerful book filled with honest accounts of her journey into self. The energy created by talking and meeting with other teachers and wise elders has shaped Joan's life thus far They say that travel broadens the mind..Joan has shared that journey with us.Her positive thoughts feelings and incredible intuitive soul has enabled Joan to become one of the most respected zen Buddhist teachers at the present time. I therefore recommend this book if you are a seeker of the way the truth and the spiritual life namaste

wanted this favorite of mine as a gift for a friend

Lovely creative and personal.

Joan Halifax is a living Saint and a brilliant woman with a brilliant mind. Her books should be read by everyone.

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