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posted 4/24/03

IF I GAVE YOU GOD'S PHONE NUMBER.... SEARCHING FOR SPIRITUALITY IN AMERICA

Mare Cromwell

Spiritual Nonfiction, Pamoon Press

September 2002, ISBN: #0971703205 , Hardcover Edition

Mare Cromwell has compiled a collection of narrative conversations that will touch every reader who has ever believed, doubted, questioned, rejected, revered, wondered about, or worshipped a higher power.

Beginning with her own spiritual search and journey, the author begins to question people she meets across America. The initial question which entitles this book moves each interviewed person in various ways and in turn affects both interviewer and reader in various cycles. This is the strength of this book, as the narrative accounts of each person reflect something deep within every human being, acknowledged or not.

Does God test us? Why does He allow such evil to not only exist but absolutely flourish? How can I ever stop thanking Him for his salvation and love? How can I believe in something or someone who obviously has nothing to do with my life? How real is the Bible? And if that is so, what about other religious scriptures that teach others to hate? Is there a devil? What is the purpose of everything? Is there a "jailhouse God?" How do I know when prayer is successful - or not? How can I form a meaningful relationship with God in every moment of every day?

These and numerous other questions and related statements are carefully woven into accounts ranging across every racial, age, economic, and social level. Participating in the process seems to awaken something unique within every person sharing their response to the initial query. Many interviewees clearly describe the intimate, moment-by-moment, sacred relationship that enfolds their every living moment. The ultimate reality of every interview seems to be, "Does God absolutely love me and this creation in whose midst I live?" The author, because of these interactive and intimate moments, avidly responds, "Yes". The reader wonders how each participant would answer months after these powerful meetings.

While this reader was tempted to mention here the most meaningful responses, ultimately every one touched me deeply, whether liking or disliking what each induced! No matter where in the spiritual spectrum one is at present, this book is sure to invite one to deeper contemplation of an essential core experience.

Fascinating, Mare Cromwell!

Reviewed by Viviane Crystal.