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Richo's "When Catholic Means Cosmic: Opening to a Big-Hearted Faith" (Book Review)

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When Catholic Means Cosmic: Opening to a Big-Hearted Faith,

by David Richo. New York: Paulist Press, 2015. 179 pp. \$16.40. ISBN 9780809149322

Reviewed by Craig Rosenbeck, Graduate Student, University of North Texas, Denton, TX

David Richo, a psychotherapist and teacher, introduces the reader to a different perspective on the meaning of catholic. He challenges the reader to think of catholic as cosmic and throughout this book he builds on the definition. Richo defines cosmic as “extended without limit” (p. 2). Throughout this book, he defends his argument by using the perspective of cosmic will as a benefit to a person’s faith. Richo notes, “cosmic faith makes a radical difference in how we live, how we love, how we think” (p. 161). The manner by which Richo builds his argument is with lenses of psychology. The quotes from numerous individuals at the beginning of each chapter were not only thought provoking, but a helpful introduction into each chapter. Richo laid a foundation of his argument for the conversation to continue in this field of study. This cosmic concept seems to be thinking outside the box. People adopting the cosmic approach, would live out their faith in the Triune God, their faith would not be confined.

This book would be helpful in a theology class at a Bible college or seminary. His view would seem to challenge students in those settings. This book would be helpful to professors interested in this area of study. Another type of audience for this book is those persons wanting an understanding of the term catholic and looking at the term from a different set of lenses. There were occasions in the book in which Richo was not clear if the argument was totally from faith in Christ. Therefore, the reader could be confused as to what is truly the author’s argument. Overall, this book would be a benefit to the field of study.