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religious experience often serves vicariously at second hand it rarely does so at third hand.

Second, there is great ecumenical strength in this book as the author ranges across the religious landscape to point out devotional beauty from many sources, Christian and non-Christian. He has contributed significantly to the Quaker-Catholic dialogue, as the publication data for several essays indicate. But this ecumenicity lies along a narrow band. Consider his treatment of intercessory prayer. He finds deficient Roman Catholicism, "conventional" Protestantism, and our "more conservative-minded" denominations with their "simple and unthinking way of trust." This type of hasty generalization is applied to all three groups. But it is particularly uninformed or prejudiced concerning a body of devotional literature on the subject by evangelical writers such as Hallesby or Tozier.

A third strength is Steere's insights into the process of divine grace. "We are unfinished creatures even when we have been drenched with grace..." he writes, "and require all the skillful assistance that can be given us in the continuous process of increasing self-surrender and inward abandonment..." (p. 5). This is well said. But there is lurking danger of substituting a spiritual director for the living Christ, or a devotional book for the immediacy of prayer. The treasured book, with its nuances of antiquarian or aesthetic value, can turn the intellect's icon into an idol. The chapter on Baron von Hügel awoke these reflections in me. It is good to know how this leisured man of letters was gifted — saturated with awareness of God at work, dependent upon daily religious practice, reverent toward souls, and willing to expend himself on behalf of others. Is it the spiritual giftedness of the good baron or his talent in expressing it literally, however, which lingers in the mind of the reader of this chapter? I am not sure it is the former. In many ordinary Christians the same virtues are joyously present and observed. But their presence there seems to have fewer credentials and to be overshadowed here by an aristocratic air.

In conclusion, pondering these fine, thoughtful essays by a well-loved Friend, brought to the surface a recurring question: Why has devotional literature remained so largely in the rational-intuitive mode, rather than the sensory-intuitive? The question reflects my phenomenalistic stance, and my own interest. Perhaps that explains some of my reservations about the book. Perhaps it indicates a new direction to be taken.

Arthur O. Roberts

Contributors

Richard J. Foster is Associate Professor of Theology and the Writer in Residence at Friends University, Wichita, Kans. A graduate of George Fox College, he majored in biblical studies and social ethics at Fuller Theological Seminary, receiving the degree of Doctor of Pastoral Theology. His dissertation was on "Quaker Concern in Race Relations: Then and Now." In addition to over sixty published articles, he is the author of two Harper & Row books, Celebration of Discipline (1978), on the classical disciplines of the spiritual life, has been translated into Chinese, Dutch, German, Spanish, and Portuguese. Freedom of Simplicity (1981), received the 1982 Gold Medallion Award from the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association.

Previous to his Friends University appointment, he had served simultaneously on the pastoral team of Newberg Friends Church and as Adjunct Professor of Bible and Theology at George Fox College from 1974 to 1979. This was preceded by twelve years of ministerial and counseling experience in California, at Garden Grove, Arcadia, and Canoga Park.

Richard and Carolynn Foster have two sons; Joel is 12 and Nathan is 9. Richard and the boys spend a lot of time playing soccer in their front yard.

Myron H. Weaver is a pastor at the small Baptist church in Wilton, Conn. A Knoxville native, he holds degrees from the universities of Tennessee and Arkansas, and from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. His interest in matters of spirituality led to additional study at Yale, Furtham, and Pendle Hill. Books by Douglas Steere and Glenn Hinson join others by William Law, John Yungblut, and Shinryu Suzuki in his library.

In addition to implementing a deepening appreciation for devotional classics between endless cups of coffee, his hobbies include hiking, pistol marksmanship, and twice-daily Tai Chi Chuan exercises. Free evenings are often spent listening to classical music (with most of his recordings from the Renaissance era) in the company of his trusty cat, Symetra.

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Robert Leo Fancy, a native of St. Paul, Minn., has a B.S. (U.S. Naval Academy, 1949), an M.A. and Ph.L. (St. Louis University), S.T.L. (Seminaire des Missions-Etrangeres, in Quebec), S.T.D. (Catholic University of America). In 1971, following teaching at Catholic University, he was appointed to the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, where he is Professor of Theology.


While in the U.S., he was a participant in the Faith and Order Colloquia of the National Council of Churches. Abroad he has served as a theological consultant for the Science and Technology Report of the World Council. His Wind and Sea Obey Him: Approaches to a Theology of Nature (London: SCM, 1982), reflects his long interest in the cosmic and ecological dimensions of salvation.

In addition to his writing and teaching, Father Fancy ministers as spiritual director for the Italian Charismatic Renewal, and is co-editor of a newsletter on spirituality for priests and nuns.

Arthur O. Roberts has been a contributor to QRT since 1961. He was a member of the first QTGG Steering Committee established in 1960. Although the pressure of other appointments prevents him from currently holding any position with QTGG, he is always ready to help when called on. His review was undertaken on short notice when Douglas Steere's book seemed particularly appropriate for this issue. It was completed during the busiest part of the academic year at George Fox College in Newberg, Oregon, where he has held a deanship, various chairs and professorships since 1957. A more complete biographical note appeared recently in QRT #47.