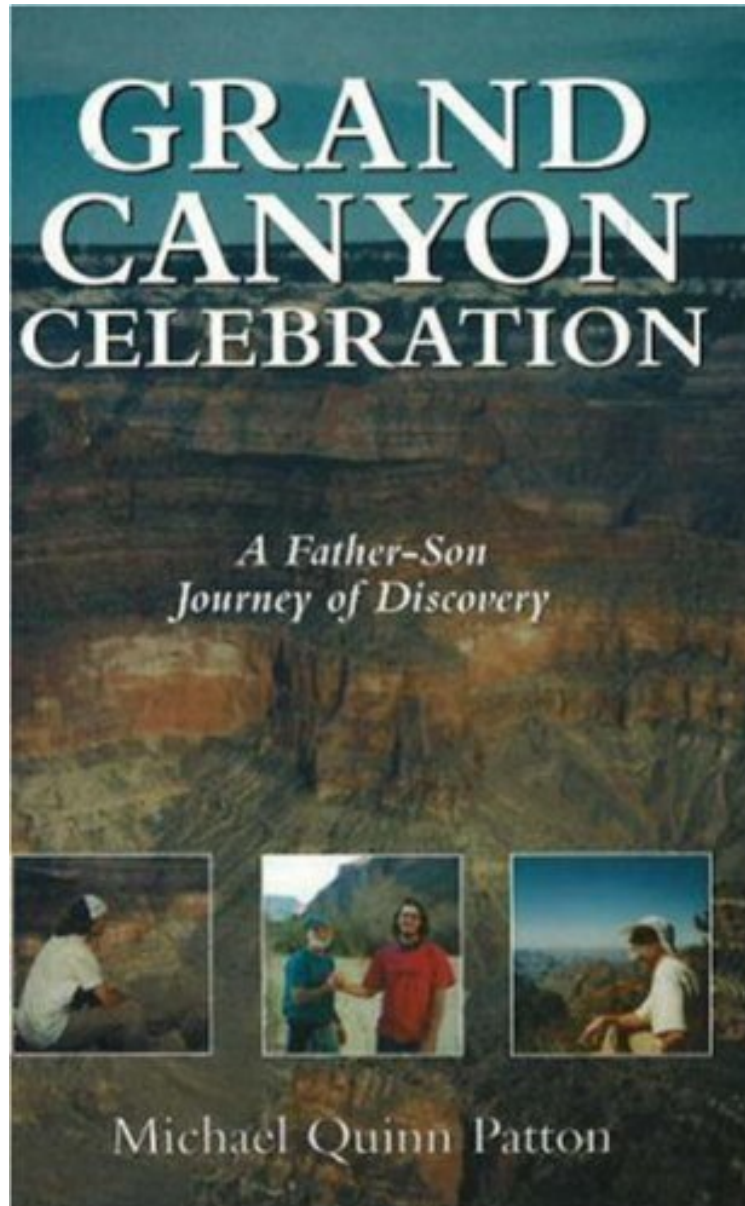


(Ebook free) Grand Canyon Celebration: A Father-Son Journey of Discovery

Grand Canyon Celebration: A Father-Son Journey of Discovery

Michael Quinn Patton

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Michael Quinn Patton : Grand Canyon Celebration: A Father-Son Journey of Discovery before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Grand Canyon Celebration: A Father-Son Journey of Discovery:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. An adventure through internal and external time and spaceBy

j.ellen@worldnet.att.net This book is a fine journey through internal and external space, past and present time. If you loved "The Man Who Walked Through Time" by Colin Fletcher, you will love this book. If you like learning history, geology and geography as stories about people, places, and creatures, you will like this book. If tensions between the rational scientist/humanist approach to life and the more spiritually-based approaches of those who are drawn to mysticism or earth-based religion spark your interest - you will like this book. And finally, if you are moved by the sincere effort of a parent and child to live in a caring, thoughtful, respectful relationship with each other, you will be moved by this book. Michael Quinn Patton is an outstanding story-teller who pokes fun at himself as a father, hiker, scientist, man and human being throughout. The book describes his fascinating journey through the Grand Canyon as a coming of age ritual with his 18 year old son and a friend who serves as guide. Along the way, Michael weaves in ancient mythology, stories of the knights of the Round Table, the geology and geography of the canyon, his friend's teachings based upon Native American spirituality, his own approach to religion as a humanist Unitarian Universalist, and much more. Both serious and comical in nature, this is a fine tale of one family's approach to raising children well, having great adventures, and ultimately understanding deeply that parents must turn their children loose with trust in their ability to act with wisdom, make mistakes, continue growing, and live their lives as they choose. My favorite parts included (1) the journey to and from Merlin Falls, containing a classic example of "jumping off the 100 foot pole without knowing where you will land" as father and son face unexpected danger together, and (2) an adventure in emergency car repair that the author compares to making love in a touching yet hysterically funny way. This would be a great book for parents and teens to read together and discuss, as well as a terrific story for people who are teens or older to enjoy and digest by themselves. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. diving into the Grand Canyon and the father-son relationship By A Customer This is a book that takes you inside: inside the Grand Canyon; inside a father-son relationship; and inside the struggle to make meaning and to take understanding from life transitions. As Patton shares the cacophony of voices in his head -- past and present, his own and his father's, the landscape's and the academy's -- he reminds us of the turbulence beneath our own surfaces. By paying attention to those voices, even when they confuse and confound, he reminds us of the gifts to be found when we are willing to live in the tension of not knowing. I was drawn into the story, carried along by the fine writing and the wilderness adventures. I wanted to find out how this experience played itself out for Patton and his son. What would this ritual ultimately look like? Whose sensibilities would most inform it? I was also drawn into the emotional and intellectual challenges Patton faces as he tries to create a meaningful experience for an 18 year old. Where is the fit of tradition? How can we create meaning without falling prey to mystical mumbo jumbo? The answers they reach together are not a prescription for initiation rituals for the new age. They are, instead, an invitation for thoughtful inquiry into our own values and history. The answers challenge us to pose our own questions -- and to be relentless critical inquirers.

When Brandon was born, Michael Quinn Patton began pondering how best to celebrate the day his son would become a man. As a sociologist, Patton was intrigued with the rich history of coming-of-age rites of passage for young men, dating to ancient tribal cultures. But as a humanist he was wary of contemporary men's movements and their stressing of new age spiritualities. When Brandon turned 18, Patton took his son to a place of mystery and wonder - the Grand Canyon - where they could explore together what it means to come of age. With an anthropologist as their guide, Patton and his son hiked the magnificent and dangerous canyon, exploring the oldest exposed rock on Earth while delving deeply into ancient coming-of-age myths like the Grail Legend. They found themselves faced with choices between fundamentally opposed paradigms: tribe-based warrior initiation and an emergent humanist celebration of father-son bonding and rational deliberation. Written in the tradition of *The Man Who Walked Through Time*, and *Zen and The Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*, this is the story of the Pattons' remarkable journey of discovery as they learn about history and geology, false spirituality, facing danger together, and what it means to be a man in today's world. Patton cuts across many branches of social thought and belief: humanism, skepticism, father-son relations and men's movements, liberal religions, mythology, psychology, and social science. Life-affirming lessons of mutuality and acceptance are captured in *Grand Canyon Celebration*, a timeless memoir for all families as they journey through the canyons of their own lives.

.com *Grand Canyon Celebration* is a stunning, deeply personal, and profound account of a true, contemporary father-son coming-of-age ritual in the Grand Canyon. When Michael Quinn Patton's son Brandon turned 18, the two of them joined a mystical anthropologist and descended into the canyon for a 10-day trek. Patton, a social science professor, was interested in the differences between tribal manhood rituals (where the adolescent struggles to separate from the tribe to form an identity) and the modern adolescent struggle (to find and maintain a connection to the family). Through the lenses of the modern-day men's movement, formal skepticism, mythology, psychology, and ancient legends, the Pattons explored Brandon's coming-of-age while challenging themselves physically in the deepest exposed rock on Earth. *Grand Canyon Celebration* should be required reading for parents of teenage sons seeking ways to initiate them into the adult world, and is highly recommended for all readers interested in the father-son relationship, hiking, nature, social thought, or the conflicts between New Age and secular humanist theories. Patton is

a beautiful, thoughtful writer, and his balance of geographical imagery and questioning intellect will keep readers turning pages. --Ericka LutzFrom School Library JournalYA-Along with his friend Malcolm as a guide, Patton takes his 18-year-old son, Brandon, on a backpacking trek through the Grand Canyon as an initiation into manhood. Patton describes the beauty, geology, and history of the area as they hike. At night, he tells the story of Iron John and the three hikers discuss its meaning as a story about manhood. At the Holy Grail Temple, they retell the story of the Holy Grail, how the story has changed, and the significance of these changes as humankind has evolved. As they hike, the two men continually look for meaning and symbolism. When a lone bighorn sheep makes prolonged eye contact with Brandon, Malcolm suggests that it might be the young man's totem. At the confluence of Merlin and Mordred Abysces, Patton gets an idea for a "ritual test of Brandon's vulnerability to superstition and New Age mysticism." As they walk, Patton is so prone to sociological explanations that his fellow hikers tease him about his never-ending "reviews of the literature." This book is more than the retelling of an exciting trek. It is for teens who appreciate a discussion of the symbolism and interpretations of stories and events from psychological, sociological, mystical, and humanist points of views.Jane Drabkin, Chinn Park Regional Library, Prince William, VA Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalIt's a slippery slope going down and a rough uphill climb out of Patton's Grand Canyon journey with his 18-year-old son, Brandon. Patton, a social science professor at the Union Institute in Cincinnati, has authored several academic works. In writing for a general audience, Patton is often pedantic, and what could have been a lyrical adventure becomes mired in turgid prose and stilted conversation. In the company of an anthropologist/family therapist friend, Patton takes his son on a ten-day trek. What he hopes to achieve is a humanist coming-of-age experience for Brandon. There are nightly readings of Robert Bly, various interpretations of Arthurian legend, and attempts to define the quest for the Holy Grail. Patton tosses in Canyon geology and geography for good measure, adding a brief history of the first residents and early explorers. Brandon is an amusing young man, well grounded in the real world; we have to conclude that what Patton so desperately attempts to create for his son he actually yearns for himself. The illustrations are a delight. This could have been a popular classic; sad to say, it comes up short. Recommended only for larger public and academic libraries.?Janet N. Ross, Sparks Branch Lib., NVCopyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.