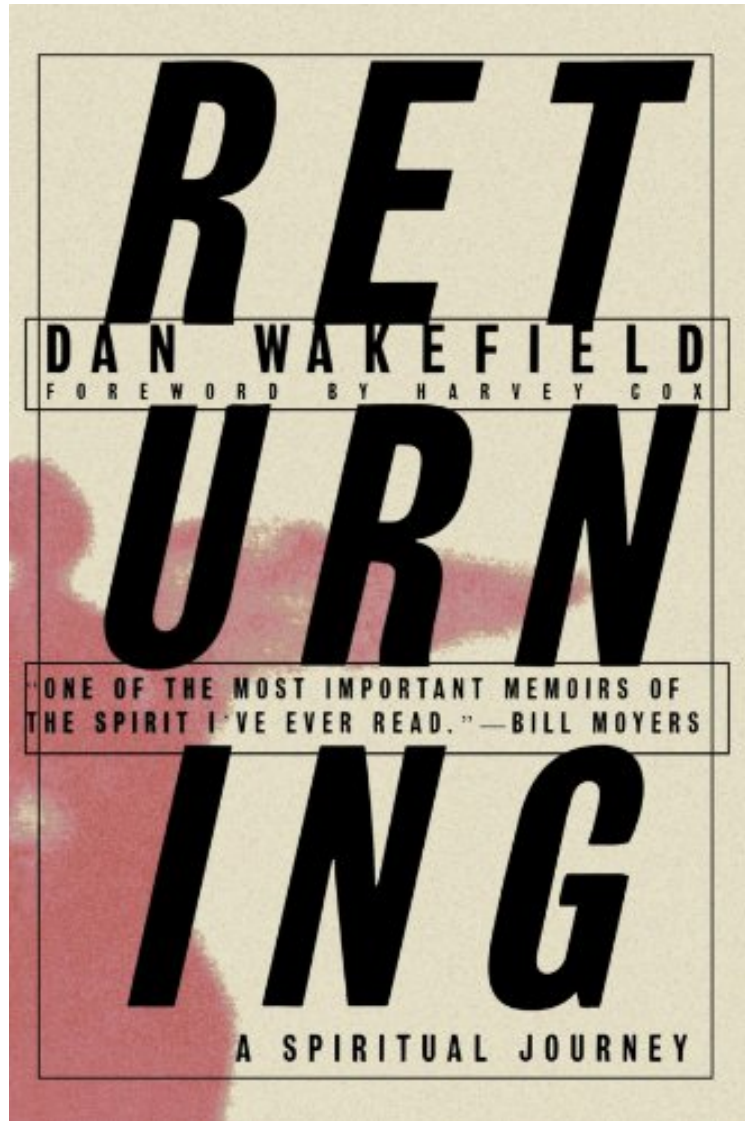


(Download pdf) Returning: A Spiritual Journey

Returning: A Spiritual Journey

Dan Wakefield

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Dan Wakefield : Returning: A Spiritual Journey before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Returning: A Spiritual Journey:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Re-connecting with ourself, others and ultimately God, who is the Center-the SourceBy Jackie St. HilaireI have enjoyed reading Dan Wakefield's own spiritual journey. I am in the process of writing my memoirs. I have 20 years done 50+ to go.The book gives the reader an incentive to move on. The process is very healing. You develop stories within stories what's even better because of computers etc, you just

move things around, add, delete, enhance with photos and memories just keep coming. You start realizing that those who have hurt, misguided you or just plain ignored you were going through the same pain and conflict as yourself. Sometimes you need to go backwards in order to be able to go forward. Like the rest of life always renewing itself. If it stopped changing it would wither and die. The important thing is to just get started and the most important reason is to see how your life story has developed and finding the meaning and purpose of your life. Dan Wakefield: "Returning doesn't always mean going back to something but rather re-turning as in "turning again". The process is continuous and lifelong, a constant renewal and discovery." One of the statements that Dan Wakefield mentioned that really stood out was from the story of "The Prodigal Son". The focus should not only be on the father who was reconciled with his son but the son who had come to himself. One has to come to herself, to dig deep within and to look at oneself and stop putting the blame on your circumstances, other people and even God. The Pain of Being Human by Eugene C. Kennedy. Dan Wakefield: "Understanding and living with the pain, rather than providing a meaning for it." "One thing certain it is better to be in this soul darkness with others, who are seeking the light, than to be lost in it alone." "We are part of a "body" larger and more meaningful than our own body of bones, not just isolated flecks of dust lost in the universe." "Like part of a jigsaw puzzle." What Dan is suggesting is that one should not go through the dark night of the soul alone but look for community, within the family, a church, an AA group etc. Isolation just multiplies the pain. So we move on with the question: "Is that all there is" or with a little voice telling us: "There has to be more." The Dark Night of the Soul: A Psychiatrist Explores the Connection Between Darkness and Spiritual Growth by Gerald G. May MD. The following are words from Dan's pastor in Boston during the 1980's. "A "flow" is a stream of events. Being influenced by history does not mean being stuck in the past but rather being aware of the connections of past, present and future." St. Augustine: "When a thing is everywhere, the way to find it is not to travel but to love." So let the "flow" be with you in your spiritual journey/journal. Another book of Dan Wakefield's for you to consider The Story of Your Life: Writing A Spiritual Autobiography 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. What a great story! By D. Tarantini I loved this book! I'll be honest, I didn't expect to enjoy it as much as I did but Wakefield was so honest and intense, I was instantly engaged. What a great faith journey: a believer, an atheist, a believer. That's real life, for you. 6 of 9 people found the following review helpful. An Exercise in Moderation By Richard Wells Spiritual memoirs tend to follow the same plot line. It's the boy meets girl story with God substituted for the girl. There's nothing wrong with the formula, the author's job is to make it fresh and interesting. Dan Wakefield doesn't get the job done. The structure of "Returning" is linear, the pace is ponderous, and the insights only moderately interesting. In fact, the entire book is an exercise in moderation, written by a moderate talent, who, on the evidence presented, has lived a moderate life. It's no wonder Bill Moyer's, a paragon of moderation, liked this book. There are parts of this book where the author could have revealed more. The account of his nervous breakdown is scary, but all too brief, and on too many occasions - bouts of adolescent [activity], unsuccessful psychoanalysis, addiction to alcohol - Mr. Wakefield seems like a kid in a confessional. He rushes through his sins in order to be unburdened, but also undiscovered. It doesn't work. If we give the penitent the benefit of our attention, he should give us the benefit of a compelling story.

Dan Wakefield was a successful writer of novels, nonfiction, and screenplays when he awoke to a private life that was disintegrating in alcohol, depression, and isolation. He fled Hollywood for Boston where he reclaimed a faith he had thought he was too sophisticated to embrace. In this moving memoir, Wakefield returns to his religious roots and his early life: his Indiana boyhood, his tumultuous student days, and his growth as a writer.

From Publishers Weekly At age 48, Wakefield awoke screaming in panic. He fled from Hollywood to Boston in search of treatment for stress, and later for a deeper malady: spiritual emptiness. "Eloquently, he re-creates his initial steps in regaining his religious faith," commented PW, finding this a "compelling testament." Author tour. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Memories of abandoned childhood faith and the gracious aid of mentors (Mark Van Doren, Robert Coles) illumine this account of writer Wakefield's spiritual pilgrimage from his boyhood in Indiana through teen-age agonies over acne and sex, immersion in atheistic Columbia University in the early 1950s, protracted analysis, and a depressing mix of alcohol and failed relationships even as his writing career flourished. Triggered by mid-life conversion and nurturance in Boston's King's Chapel, this narrative reflects obliquely on the ways God was really there all along, despite Wakefield's frantic resistance. A moving book honest, evocative, and insightful. EC Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Scientific American Returning is the book in which Wakefield speaks most directly about the physical and mental desperation that sent him back to his faith. And it turns out to be not only the best of his books about his spiritual journey, but the best book he has written. A vivid memorable description ... it traces the forces that formed him as a writer and intellectual.