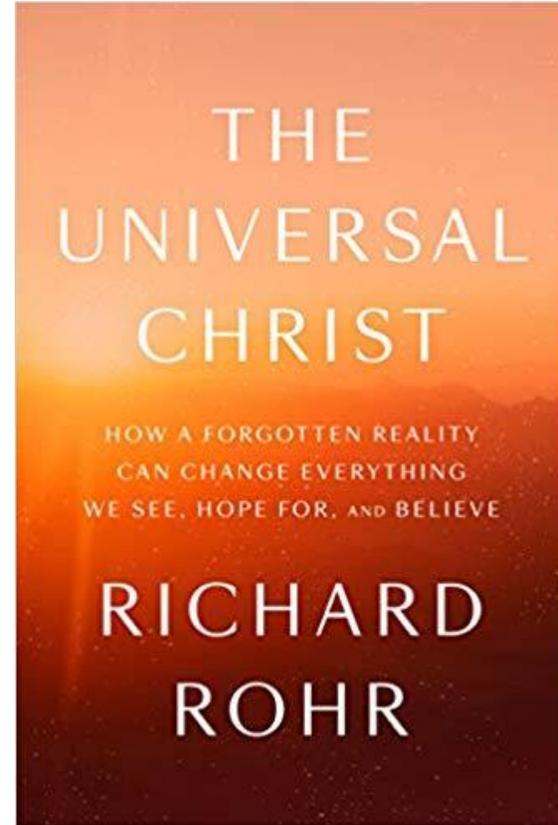


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Chapter 16

The Universal Christ: *Transformation and Contemplation.*

*The day of my spiritual awakening
was the day I saw and knew I saw all
things in God and God in all things.
--Mechtild of Magdeburg (1212-1282)*





Understanding a cosmic notion of Christ
using a dualistic mind to understand
a nondual notion

We need to install new software in our
Western dualistic mind
either-or
problem-solving
all-or-nothing

A different way of seeing... mystics
They were marginalized.

A contemplative way of knowing must
come to the rescue and allow us to
comprehend a cosmic notion of Christ

A lack of mindfulness and
capacity for presence





A contemplative mind can see things in their depth and in their wholeness instead of just in parts



The binary mind is totally out of its league in dealing with things like love, death, suffering, infinity, God, sexuality, or mystery in general

Rediscovery of contemplative mind
Center for Action and Contemplation

Not metaphysics but epistemology
not “what is real”
but “how we think we know what is real”
a new humility

Love and Suffering as Ways of Knowing

If we have never loved deeply or suffered deeply, we are unable to understand spiritual things at any depth

Even God has to use love and suffering to teach you all the lessons that really matter. They are his primary tools for human transformation

meditation
contemplation
prayer of quiet
centering prayer
chosen solitude

Jewish Sabbath rest





Why Interest in Buddhism?

Buddhism and Christianity shadow each other

Western Christians have not done contemplation very well.
Buddhism has not done action very well

Meditation-----Social Work

Transformation: It is a full map for a very real human journey.
“God comes to you disguised as your life.”

Richard's Methodology

“How do we know
what we think we know?”

Experience
Scripture
Tradition

Christianity in its maturity is supremely
love-centered,
not information- or knowledge-centered
(Gnosticism).

Head (Bible)
Heart (Experience)
Body (Tradition)





Why So Much Talk of Suffering and Dying?

If Christ represents the resurrected state, then Jesus represents the crucified/resurrecting path of getting there

If Christ is the source and goal then Jesus is the path from that source toward the goal of divine unity with all things.

The pattern of transformation, the pattern that connects, the life that Reality offers us is not death avoided, but always death transformed!

Death and Resurrection

