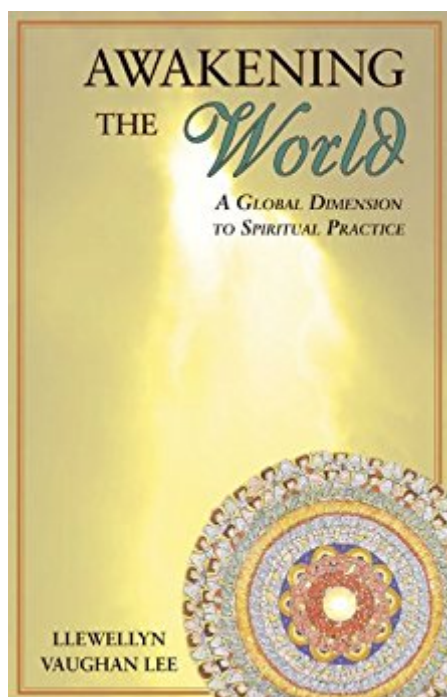


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Awakening The World: A Global Dimension To Spiritual Practice



Synopsis

With an in-depth exploration of the relationship between individual spiritual practice and global transformation, this chronicle describes and outlines the possibilities of a cultivated global consciousness. By looking at developing patterns in spirituality, both individual and on a global level, this resource aims to expand perceptions on a basic level of sacredness, urging humanity to take more responsibility for its spiritual heritage and to step into the arena of spiritual service.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This review was actually written by a REAL book reviewer, Thomas Peter von Bahr: The author makes it clear from the outset that for a healthy planet, any attempt at spiritual awakening and practices must be holistic and go beyond each person's individual self-concern. That each person pursues their inner opening path is a good thing; but part of the issue is that human greed, corruption, and "darkness" obscures the light energy that comes to the planet and at those roots is often ego-selfishness. So to awaken the world, there must be a global dimension, an unselfish commitment to a larger all-embracing vision. Vaughan-Lee makes his point with clarity (page 111) when he proposes that the "world spins on an axis of love." The axis of love encircles the earth "at a

very high frequency" and thus is almost undetectable. It nourishes and nurtures life more than most people are aware of. It can be tapped into but in order to do so, we must open and cultivate the heart. These principles represent a Sufi perspective, but there are wise and penetrating insights that are distinctly Vaughan-Lee's. An example: "much of our present insecurity comes from a deep knowing that our governments and cultures are planning for a future that will never happen" (p. 45). From social security to the apparent dead-end of having mobilized the industrialized countries to fight a "war on terrorism," it is clear that the evolving future is hardly couched in certainty. The author is working hard to substantiate his main point that we must choose spiritual ways to integrate our individual path with the planetary influences of love. It is inarguable that such a perspective can only have salutary effects.

The beginning of the book starts out with a good, not great thesis, that we are destroying the world because of our separation driven by the ego. That even our spiritual pursuits are often me-oriented. But there is hope and that we are more connected to the planet than we realize. From this good start we end up wandering around in interesting points which often do not support the original goals of the book. Early on the author points out that ego and our focus on duality (aka separation) are at the root of our problem. However, throughout the rest of the book the author cannot ascend or drill down into a life-core where duality does not exist or does not matter. He holds onto traditional Sufi concepts such as Lover and Beloved (separation), the world of Gods 'Command' (that does not sound so good) and the World of God's creation (separation again). The author should have taken a lesson from Meister Eckhart in that the persistent use of the word God (as a separate self) continually reinforces the concept of separation and not unity. The use of the phrase Being or Great Being would have been more effective. This book, even its deepest line like 'The spiritual body of the earth is a macrocosm of the spiritual body of the individual follows similar ways of awakening.' (Page 11) is steeped in duality and separation. We are not individuals living on the earth. We are manifestations of being which are a combination of spirit and the earth itself. Where spirit and this planetary being intersect a form of life is produced. And it's this intimate union that is missing from this book. Yes, the author is able to quote from great thinkers and to convey that he is no feeble thinker himself.

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