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Reflection Paper 4: Immortal Diamond

Why the true self be buried by the wrong self-conviction? What is our true self? In the book *Immortal Diamond,* Richard Rohr asked these questions. This carries the divine tradition- which he calls Perennial Tradition in everyday life. As regards the true self, Rohr proposes that the celestial existence that lies within us can renovate us if we release it into what we want to be. The query is - are we willing to take this route? Rohr is writer and Franciscan priest who has established a follower that goes beyond the limits of Roman Catholicism. In fact, Rohr relies on a broad mystical custom which has made his work amicable and valuable, even for those who may not directly involve with a religious community. This book is written not for those who are already part of religious community but for those who see themselves out of the boundaries, more specifically for those who are disappointed with what they find in churches. Those people who have understanding, strong faith and good relationship with God. They will find this piece of work wise and worthy guide to mystical things in nature. The words Rohr offers in the book guide people in daily life. He speaks from the mystical side. The important point is that the relationship with God in us must renovate us into someone who reflects God's values.

Rohr inscribes to present people on a permanent basis and transform, with Christ as the main to that institution:

“I believe the Christ is the archetypal True Self offered to history, where matter and spirit finally operate as one, where divine and human are held in one container, “where there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, slave and free, male and female. This Christ is going before us into an ever new territory, into “Galilee,” which was the forgotten backwater of the Roman Empire and the Jewish religion(*Immortal Diamond: The Search for Our True Self by Richard Rohr*).” Since meeting with Christ as the ideal true self is the goal of our journey, then why does Rohr pursue to address firstly all those researchers who seem unpopular with religion? Through this, I do not contemplate that Rohr means those whom Lillian Daniel addressed in her latest book, people are satisfied with a superficial vision of holiness -but those who truthfully pursue something outside themselves can change life. He talks about the group that is, “often more ready to see and honor Mystery than many religious people are(*Immortal Diamond: The Search for Our True Self by Richard Rohr*).” Rohr pens that he does not have patience for those Christians who pursue to extend their personal relationship with “a very tiny American Jesus – who looks an awful lot like them(*Immortal Diamond: The Search for Our True Self by Richard Rohr*)”. This is the lingering group in the traditional, which worship the past rather than pursuing to pace with God in the future.

 For Rohr, the goal of this mystical trip is: God fills all the cracks in the world, without preference and distinction. Death is not limited to physical death, but extends deep, reaches down, spends a distance, beyond the control, and far exceeds the place. This is significant discourse for people who appear to be surrounded by fear, the fear that is divided and triumphed. When we drive to the full death and depths, and even the pits of our sin, we move out to the further side. “The impression of ​​the resurrection shows a significant part in this book, and while confirming his physical resurrection, he wants us to go outside the historical arguments to involve the promise of the resurrection, and transform our lives that can initiate before crossing death(*Immortal Diamond: The Search for Our True Self by Richard Rohr*).” The book consists of 9 chapters, starting with the explanation of the true self, and then moving to the definition of the false self. Each 7 chapters identifies and brightens the difference between the two. A warning is given by Rohr regarding the "false self". This self is not essentially corrupt - this is smart and misleading self. It could be, he says, very decent. Bad is less bogus than false self. We wear the clothes of false self, which may be essential at the beginning of life, but they are ultimately limited in the end. A false self is a ‘small relief”, which contains achievement, cars, money, body image, sexual identity, clothing, education and job and more. Rohr says that these are, “the accessories of ego that we all use to get us through a normal day. They are a fine enough stage to stand on, but they are mainly a projection of our self-image and our attachment to it(*Immortal Diamond: The Search for Our True Self by Richard Rohr*)”.

 The problem is not in the projection as much as we please it, to get out of it without query. The variance between the two is, in fact, the relationship with God with our identity. The false self is, Rohr suggests, self-understanding without respect to the celestial occurrence, while the true self is an appearance of the celestial that exists within us. People who see this as pantheism, Rohr is quick to distinguish between humanity and God. As they are connected, but they are not similar. The true self imitates that celestial being. The question is, will we allow this celestial presence to prevent us, or will we be satisfied with the definition of ourselves without honor to the Creator? The problem with this disappointment to drive towards the true self is that we fall victim to ingenuousness, its expressions through violence, anger, and greed, and our failure to allow expressions, the fruit of the true self, to express them freely.

 Rohr has put his finger on the celestial pulse of our time that is what I believed after reading the book *Immortal Diamond.*  He provides the picture of celestial realm and how one can convert themselves into the picture of Christ. Richard Rohr’s *Immortal Diamond* is an insightful and wise guide.

**Work Cited**

*Immortal Diamond: The Search for Our True Self by Richard Rohr*. https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/15869004-immortal-diamond. Accessed 19 Nov. 2019.