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Based on decades of work, travel, and experience, Rohr, a Franciscan brother and best-selling author, unearths the complexities of male spiritual maturation and helps us to understand the importance of male initiation rights in both culture and the church.

Adam's Return: The Five Promises of Male Initiation Details

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Ben De Bono says

In general, I'm not a big fan of Richard Rohr. He has some good things to say, but it always comes with a healthy dose of his liberal theology and politics.

Those issues are definitely present in this book, but despite that what Rohr has to say in this book is really important. Our culture has ignored masculine initiation for far too long. Thanks to the work of Rohr and others, many of us are beginning to recognize the problem and will hopefully be able to do something about it.

The book is far from perfect, but what it has to say is extremely important.

Alan Marr says

Even though Richard Rohr, like many prolific authors, tends to repeat himself from time to time, everything he writes is worth reading a second or third time. Rohr has been a source of grace and wisdom to me for many years. This book is no exception.

Ken Doman says

The book is a good cross-cultural study of male initiation and rights-of-passage for young boys turning to men. It echos a need for that in our society, which has replaced rights of passage that men have to earn, with things that they can simply buy.

As an evangelical Christian, I didn't like the pot-shots the author took at my faith. He tried to box my beliefs into a straw-man he could beat up from time to time. Other than that, it was a pretty decent book.

Rex Lee says

this read changed my view of the world

Peter Walker says

I listened to this on Audible, and for the most part really enjoyed Rohr's reading of his own book.

One of the most impactful nonfiction books I've read in the last 5 years has been Rohr's "From Wild Man to Wise Man." "Adam's Return" is less packaged for general consumption, and relies a little more heavily on

Rohr's Roman Catholic worldview.

Men's work, and male initiation in particular, has become a central focus in my own personal/spiritual journey, so most of Rohr's writing is both inspiring and practical. That said, Rohr's lens is limited, and at times lacks the context and balance I personally require when discussing gender, God and identity. Where Rohr is concrete (and he is admirably gray for a friar) I need gray. And what may be generally true, or true at times, sometimes sounds more like a rule for Rohr. The most frustrating section for me revolved around the assertion that masculine/father-love is necessarily **CONDITIONAL**. I can think of subtle, nuanced ways there may be some truth there, sometimes, but on paper (or in audio) it sounds like counterintuitive, patriarchal nonsense. Additionally, I find it important and even necessary to continually frame the conversation of male liberation as an affirming, feminist, egalitarian endeavor. Too much damage is being done in conservative Christian circles, so the balance and context can't be overstated.

There is still not enough written to address healthy masculinity, male identity and male spiritually, so this is still an important contribution to a still latent canon.

Anthony Michaelson says

At the very least, this book is filled with highlightable quotes and thought provoking ideas.

At its best, it is a narrative challenging thesis that asserts that in part, the reason for so much hurt from and in the current male population of earth is not because there is too much masculinity, but rather too little "earned" masculinity. That having initiative rights turns masculinity into a responsibility and a tool for communal good rather than a veil of superiority and aimless violence. At its best, the book filled me with a healthy sense of "its ok to be a man-it can even be good to be a man".

At its worst, this book needlessly separates the world into masculine and feminine. I don't know that there's any positive trait that men should have, listen in this book, that would not equally apply to any woman. There are times when the glossing, sweeping criticisms contained in the book feel more like quips than worthy inclusions.

There are times, despite some caveats, that ancient cultures and barbaric practices are needlessly glorified in a "look at how much better things were then" sort of way, and that puts too much emphasis on the positive aspects of male imitation.

I know I wrote more in the negative side of the review, but I don't think that reflects my overall experience of the book or my view of how worthwhile a read it is. It was refreshing to read a book with unapologetically emphasized the beautiful and good parts of manhood before it tore into all the ways that men fail. I have this nagging feeling like the overall message of this book is "right" in some important way, but that I can't put my finger on what exactly the take away should be.

Chad Lynch says

Not my favorite book of his, but as always Rohr makes incredible observations about life, spirituality and psychology that, if followed and practiced, would make our world an immeasurably better place.

Brian Eshleman says

Richard Rohr has the voice, both literally and metaphorically as an audio book reader, to say hard things gently. He can challenge areas in which the reader has failed to grow up, and he can do so in a way that is simultaneously bracing and encouraging. Another thing that makes his way of getting across the five things men need to learn as part of their initiation effective is his ability to cross centuries both in his chosen language and in the illustrations he uses. The reader does not expect a Franciscan father who quotes Thomas Aquinas to quote something from the latest American sitcom a few minutes later. As he challenges the reader to be both a contemporary in his own time and to maintain a perspective for the ages, he does the same thing as a writer.

John Mahoney says

Powerful book, one worth discussing with others.

Jānis Ekmanis says

Šo grāmatu man uzdevināja. Izlasot Jura Rubeņa rakstīto ievadu, krietni apjuku - kā gan tas varētu attiekties uz mani? Apmēram pus gadu es šo grāmatu 'mocīju'. Rindkopu pa rindkopai, aiz ciešas pretdevinātību ;) Man, kas ar ticību ir uz 'j's', traucēja daudzās atsauces uz Bēbeli un citu autoru darbiem (bibliogrāfijas saraksts ir uz 14 lapaspusēm!). Kaitinoši, ja ideja ir nevis pamatota, bet izskaidrota ar atsauci uz grāmatu, kuru neesmu lasījis. Frāzes un izteikumi, kas tiek atkārtoti neskaitāmas reizes, katru reizi nepasakot neko vairāk.

Tomēr, pati grāmatas vēsts (messidžs) ieintrēja - pati iniciēja, piemēri no dažādiem kultūriem, paskaidrojumi, ko nozīmē kā? un b? par v?rieti. Tva nozīme puiku audzināšanai. Sajūtas un notikumi kas man ir pazīstami no bērnbāsi, un notikumi kurus es piedzīvoju šobrīd, kad pats audzinu dēlu. Daudz kas no t? ir t? vērts, lai par to padomātu. Daudz kas lasot likās nesaprotami, neticami. Neticami nevis zinātniskās fantastikas stilā, bet, piemēram, apgalvojums, ka katra vēriēša dzīv? pienāk br?dis, kad tas (apzin?ti vai neapzin?ti) mekl? veidu, kā sajūties pieaugušam, man bija neticams, jo man? dzīv? t?ds br?dis v?l nebija pien?cis. Un dažu dzīv? tas ar? nepien?k, ja k?ds - t?vs, sabiedrība vai k?di radikāli notikumi uz to akt?vi nevirza. Ar? par to ir š? grāmata.

Kādu laiku p?c tam, kad grāmatu (l?dz galam neizlas?tu) noliku plauktā, pienāca ar? mans br?dis 'mekl?t sevi'. Un, sagadāšanās p?c, es atkal atv?ru šo grāmatu vietā, kur biju to p?rtraucis. P?kš?i t? bija grāmata man! Viss, kas iepriekš likās kā skats no malas uz hipotētisku situāciju k?da cita vēriēša dzīv?, p?kš?i bija mana dv?seles st?vokā apraksts. Saprātu daudz ko no iepriekš nesaprast?. P?rlas?ju sadašas kas iepriekš likās interesantas, lai paman?tu iepriekš garām palaistas lietas.

Vai kaut kas no t? man ir kaut kā pal?dz?jis izaugt? Nezinu. Ta?u saprast, ka ir kur augt, un uz ko tiekties, gan. Vai es ieteiktu šo grāmatu izlas?t citiem? Kamēr neatrad?šu neko vienkār?ku, vieglāk las?mu, skaidr?ku, tikmēr j?, nov?lu katram vērietim pacietību šo grāmatu izlas?t!

Abigail says

Before reading this book, I recommend reading Rohr's book *Everything Belongs*, and then *From Wild Man to Wise Man*. Rohr weaves ideas together in a stream-of-consciousness type of writing and I think the other books will help to make sense of this one.

At the beginning of this book, Rohr describes his credentials and experiences, which I appreciate. He isn't claiming to be an expert in everything, which is good because he sometimes makes statements that need more nuance or clarification. I think part of what makes some of Rohr's writing vague is that his source materials (often theologians and psychologists) can be confusing to read. He is trying to articulate comments complex ideas, and I see value in that. I don't always agree with his conclusions, but I think his intentions are good.

This book would make a good source for discussion. I found value in reading it because of my personal background, but I don't recommend it universally. (Dare I say, better this than Mark Driscoll.)

Peter says

A great look at the spirituality of growth, maturity, and initiation.

Austra says

Katrai gr?matai ir sava laiks un vieta, un š? šobr?d mani ?oti uzrun?ja, kam?r es p?rdom?ju m?sdienu sabiedr?bas ?patn?bas un to, no kurienes t?m aug k?jas.

Erik says

Single best book on spirituality for men that I've ever read.

Matúš says

"Kam sa podeli všetci muži?" pýta sa naša spoločnosť. Odpovedí by sa dalo nájst mnoho. Po pre?ítaní tejto knihy si myslím, že chýbajúca iniciácia, či zasvätenie do toho, čo to znamená byť mužom, by mala byť jednou z tých odpovedí.

Chlapec (a dnes už asi aj muž) potrebuje starších mužov, ktorí by mu ukázali, že ten, kto sa vyhýba strachu, utrpeniu, bolesti, či iným útrapám, paradoxne nežije, pretože sa schováva a bojí sa žiť čo najlepšie s tým, čo dostal. Ktorí ho naučia, že jeho život bude ťažký a nebude o ňom, nemá nad ním absolútnu kontrolu, nie je dôležitý tak, ako si myslí a nakoniec zomrie. Toto sú okruhy iniciácie.

Predošlé slová možno nie sú tie najpozitívnejšie, ktoré by mali byť dôvodom na prežítanie. No tak, ako aj autor ponúka ku každému okruhu iniciácie jedno ALE, jedno pozitívne uistenie, tak ten dôvod na prežítanie by mohol spočívať v tom, že pri žítaní zistíte, že muži ani zľaleka nie sú tak jednoduchí, ako tvrdí spoločnosť. Že napriek obrazu o neschopnosti, ktorý v spoločnosti pretrváva, muži dokážu veľké veci. Že vás prinúti aspoň na chvíľu premýšľať o tom, že vyhľadáte mužov, ktorí by vás k tomu viedli.
