

No God? Know God: The Non-Religious Secret to an Infinite Life

Neil Curtis

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Neil Curtis shares his life experiences and guides the reader to an enlightened existence in an unusual book that crosses the boundary from down-to-earth to mystifying. A mix of memoir and religion, Curtis's work is simultaneously spiritual and instructive.

Divided into eighteen exploratory chapters, Curtis presents his own techniques for communicating with a higher power and describes his personal impressions in vivid detail. Regardless of whether his advice helps a person achieve greater self-awareness or a stronger bond with God, Curtis's style of prose may appeal to even the jaded atheist. Curtis takes great care with his use of language; each word seems to have been selected with purpose. His statements are concise and delivered with a punch, and some even launch into near-poetic elaboration.

Curtis writes, "You should worship the Creator because we as human beings fail to acknowledge what cannot be seen and what cannot be touched is much greater than the things we can see and touch. Society has taught us otherwise." Readers will see the contrast between such straightforwardness and the visionary quality of the following passage: "The clouds cracked open as light pierced through the gray, overcast skies, giving us a warm and welcoming feeling. The light was concentrated on the small area where my boat stood in the water. ... We were in tune with a silent guide."

Though easy on a reader's inner ear, Curtis and his collaborator tend to glorify private encounters with questionable explanations, leading one to think that the author has a prophetic mission to convert those who do not share his beliefs. This approach, however, does not detract from Curtis's well-intended purpose, which remains inspirational.

That said, a staunch critic may define these sanctified interpretations of mind-altering events as delusional, dreamlike states with physiological explanations. Like the work of many soul-searching enthusiasts, Curtis at times veers into problematic phrases of conceit like, "being able to apply what you read in this book is paramount." Curtis seems to believe that right is right and wrong is wrong, with no shades of gray.

Neil Curtis is a popular entrepreneur based in Freeport, New York, known for his mentoring skills. *No God? Know God* is his first book. The positive life enrichment he offers here will appeal to open-minded individuals who seek an alternative perspective on spirituality. Curtis deserves acknowledgment from an audience receptive to his sincere approach.

JULIA ANN CHARPENTIER (May 30, 2013)

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