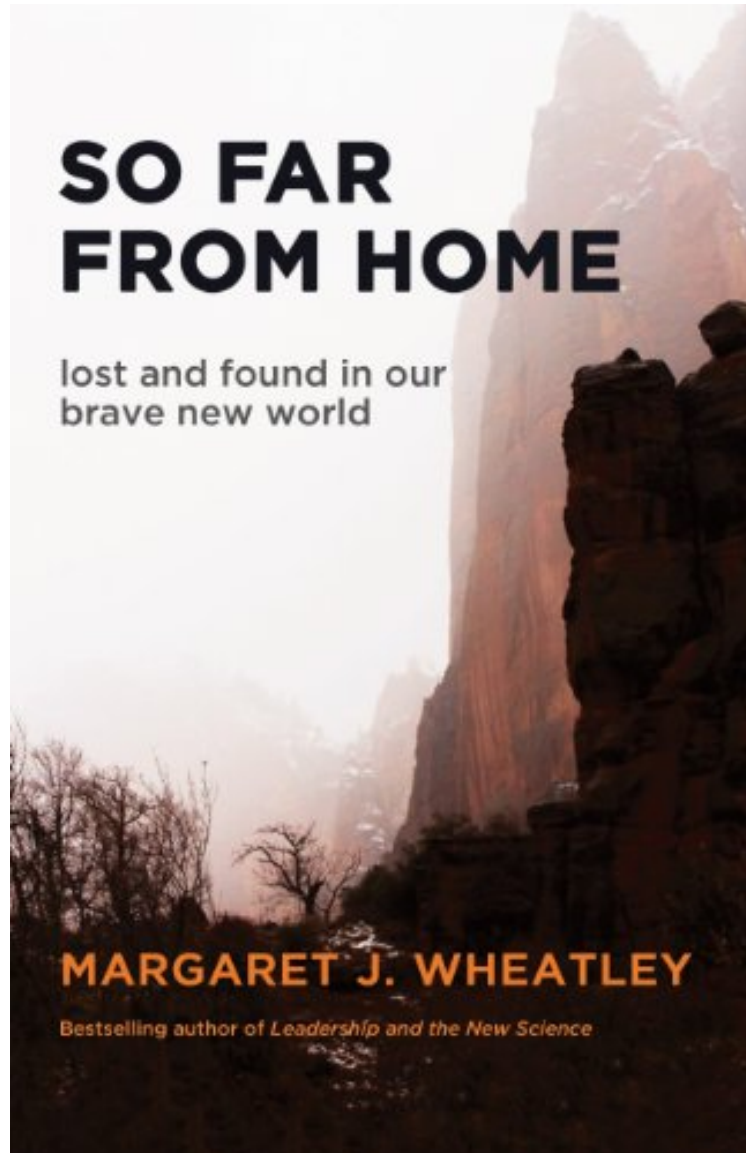


[E-BOOK] So Far from Home: Lost and Found in Our Brave New World

So Far from Home: Lost and Found in Our Brave New World

Margaret J. Wheatley

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Margaret J. Wheatley : So Far from Home: Lost and Found in Our Brave New World before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised So Far from Home: Lost and Found in Our Brave New World:

61 of 64 people found the following review helpful. Thought Provoking. Depressing.By C. BakerI have always enjoyed Wheatley's writing, but this book is unlike her others. As always, she is profound, challenging, and honest. It is a book worth reading because it will challenge you. Ultimately I rejected the central premise.The backdrop of the book is that the Earth is doomed, and our work is largely fruitless. Society won't get better. By letting go of hope and

fear Wheatley tells us that we can become warriors for the human spirit, doing our good work without expectation for any kind of result. I recognize many of the themes in this book as arising from Buddhist philosophy, such as the idea that we should focus on compassion rather than striving. You will be invited to face the reality of our doom and to spend time feeling grief. The author believes that grief is a realistic reaction to the state of the world. The author gives examples on how to be a warrior for the human spirit, but they seem pretty small. One example is working to not get angry when a cashier is on a cell phone and ignoring you. (Being aware of Triggers) Another is visiting people in person to have good conversations. I am glad I read this book, but I admit I came away feeling a bit perturbed. Perhaps Wheatley believed for a long time that her work (and that of others) would create a change in human consciousness. When that didn't happen in one lifetime, she declares the experiment void and decides to focus on not getting angry in the checkout line. Now she invites us to join her there. Who knows? Perhaps the shift in focus is what we need to get on the right track. Perhaps all we can do is live good lives and let everything else sort itself out. But I find her vision based on an assumption I can't quite swallow - that mourning is a healthy reaction to the challenges we face. I'm not so inclined to give up.

14 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Hope in the midst of despair

By Roberto Castro

Wheatley's words offer encouragement to anyone who longs for a more just world but finds little evidence of hope grounded in reality and not merely in dreams. Yet her hope is severely tempered and comes close, at times, to surrendering to despair. At times, it seems she has been disappointed one too many times. But haven't we all? Her insights are not new but they are fresh. Wheatley reminds us not to succumb to the temptation of perfection but, rather, to be mindful that it is the journey, the path, that matters and in which meaning and peace reside. She writes that "[h]ope is such a dangerous source of motivation." She described the "warriors" weapons, to challenge the power that destroys life, as being compassion and insight. Yet I am a bit uneasy about her reluctance to more boldly embrace love as the primary if not sole source and sustaining power behind those who desire (or who are called) to walk the difficult path of what some would call righteousness. Wheatley cites Trungpa for the proposition that "our strength grows as a consequence of our commitment to serve the world," but the core question is, what is the source of that commitment? Is it merely insight? If so, it is tenuous at best. For reasons not entirely clear to me, Wheatley seems hesitant to name or fully embrace this source. Perhaps it is an attempt to keep distance with faith traditions that have been distorted, misrepresented and, in the eyes of many, discredited. That's understandable, but the substitute seems a bit shallow. I love Wheatley's discussion about systems and organizations. She possesses a deep understanding of the essence of collective bodies and systems and the reasons they are resistant to change and adaptation. Her discussion about the impact of technology (in particular, the Internet) is insightful albeit a bit dismissive of the positive contributions of technology. Implicit in her discussion seems to be the purity of more primitive times. But perhaps I'm reading too much into her words. In any event, I remain skeptical of both explicit and implied criticisms of digital technology and its supposed erosion of human values. Nonetheless, I found Wheatley's discussion of these matters to be both thoughtful and thought provoking. In my mind, the real test of Wheatley's insights, wisdom and words--indeed, her lament--is the extent to which it engenders reflection and action. It is potentially considerable. I find myself reaching for the book repeatedly, and, despite the fact it seems to pull up short in some respects, I suspect it will remain a source of contemplation and reflection for quite some time. It also would be a great avenue for rich group discussion.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The book reads like a lecture and offers some interesting advice for those ...

By Thomas T. C.

The book is very well written and has many interesting ideas, which have been pointed out by many other readers. But I think her perspectives are somewhat on the darker side and less optimistic. I believe that regardless what we are facing, we must never abandon hope. The book reads like a lecture and offers some interesting advice for those who feel lost.

AN INVITATION TO WARRIORSHIP

I wrote this book for you if you offer your work as a contribution to others, whatever your work might be, and if now you find yourself feeling exhausted, overwhelmed, and sometimes despairing even as you paradoxically experience moments of joy, belonging, and greater resolve to do your work. This book describes how we can do our good work with dedication, energy, discipline, and joy by consciously choosing a new role for ourselves, that of warriors for the human spirit. This book contains maps of how we ended up in a world nobody wants--overtaken by greed, self-interest, and oppressive power--the very opposite of what we worked so hard to create. These maps look deeply into the darkness of this time so that we can develop the insight we need to contribute in meaningful ways. This book provides maps for the future, how we can transform our grief, outrage, and frustration into the skills of insight and compassion to serve this dark time with bravery, decency, and gentleness. As warriors for the human spirit, we discover our right work, work that we know is ours to do no matter what. We engage wholeheartedly, embody values we cherish, let go of outcomes, and carefully attend to relationships. We serve those issues and people we care about, focused not so much on making a difference as on being a difference.

About the Author

Margaret (Meg) Wheatley writes, speaks, and teaches globally about how we can accomplish our work, sustain our relationships, and willingly step forward to serve in this troubled time. She has been working

actively out in the world since 1966. She is the author of six other books.