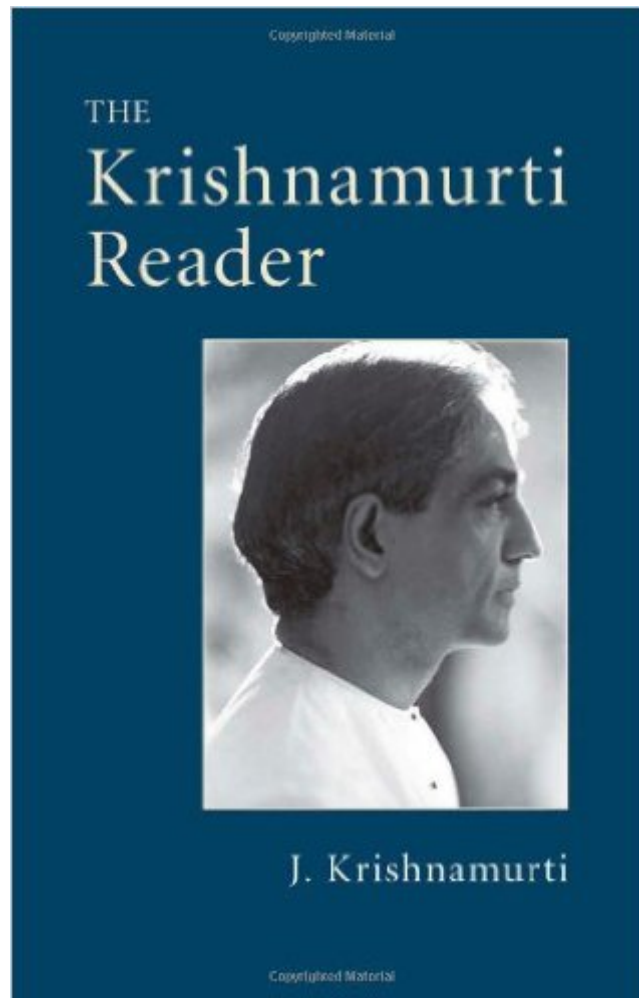


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The Krishnamurti Reader



Synopsis

J. Krishnamurti was renowned for the penetrating insight and immediacy of his spiritual teachings. Radical in his day for seeking truth beyond the boundaries of religion, ideology, or tradition, he declared that "Truth is a pathless land, and you cannot approach it by any path whatsoever." He traveled and lectured throughout the world, calling for a new approach to life and spirituality. In this compilation of Krishnamurti's most essential teachings, he explores what he calls "the art of living." The topics addressed include such perennial human concerns as: living life without conflict and confusion, how to act with skill and clarity, the significance of meditation, death and dying, true freedom, and bringing the sacred into everyday life. These timeless teachings guide us to live our lives simply, intelligently, and with great love—free from the bonds of sorrow and fear.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jiddu Krishnamurti (1895-1986) was singled out by Charles W. Leadbeater, a leader of the Theosophical Society, as the coming "World Teacher"; and he was groomed for this role by Leadbeater and fellow TS head Annie Besant, who formed an organization, the Order of the Star, to support him in this role. However, in 1929 he famously rejected this role, and became an independent spiritual teacher for the rest of his life, writing many books such as *You are the World*, *Commentaries on living*; First series, from the notebooks of J. Krishnamurti, etc. This book was edited by Mary Lutyens [author of the 3-volume biography, *Krishnamurti: The Years of Awakening*, *Krishnamurti: The Years of Fulfillment* and *Krishnamurti: The Open Door*], and includes excerpts

from Krishnamurti's books

It's really too bad this book seems to be long out of print and difficult to find. I picked it up, a battered old paperback, from the library of a monastery in Nepal where I was staying. I'd never read any Krishnamurti before and I was greatly impressed. His life story itself is very impressive, raised as he was by the Theosophists to be the 'world savior,' and then when he came of age, rejecting this role and becoming an independent teacher teaching people to teach themselves! This book very honestly presents these unique teachings. Not so much a book, but a collection of talks given by K. on various topics, it is a formal and somewhat slow read, but very edifying. One slightly annoying thing is that there is no indication of when or where the talks are given. The Cold War discussions suggest it was some time in the 1950's, and the repeated references to the burning ghats suggests the location was Varanasi/Benares. Krishnamurti patiently and penetratingly goes over all the major issues of religion (Free Will, morality, seeking, the meaning of it all, etc.) but in an entirely fresh and original way that is quite difficult to explain, probably because it is so utterly simple. His advice to question and hold no faith in any system, including his own, is a welcome idea, and still far ahead of its time for most of us. But what DOES Krishnamurti advocate, besides just thinking for yourself, if he thinks all systems have failed us?

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