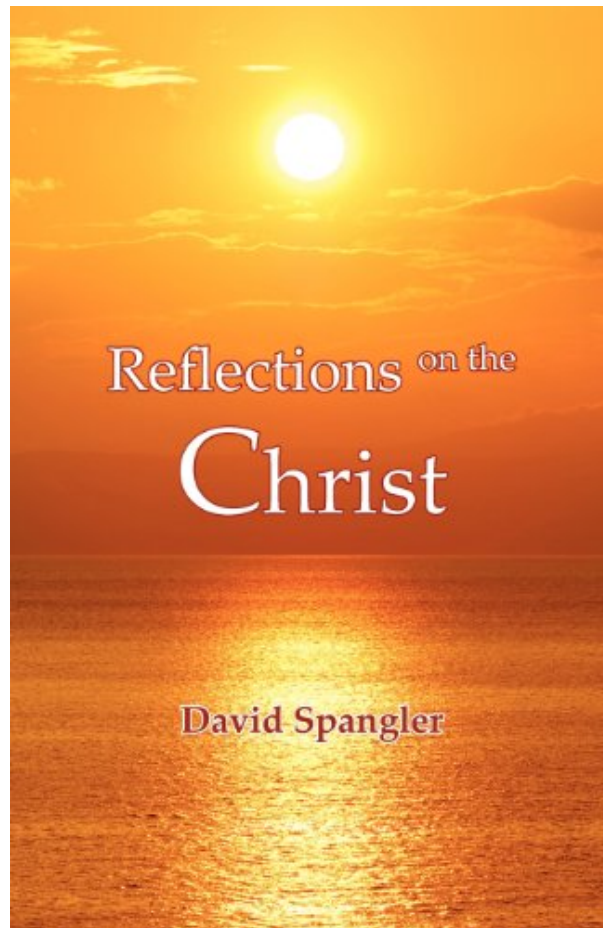
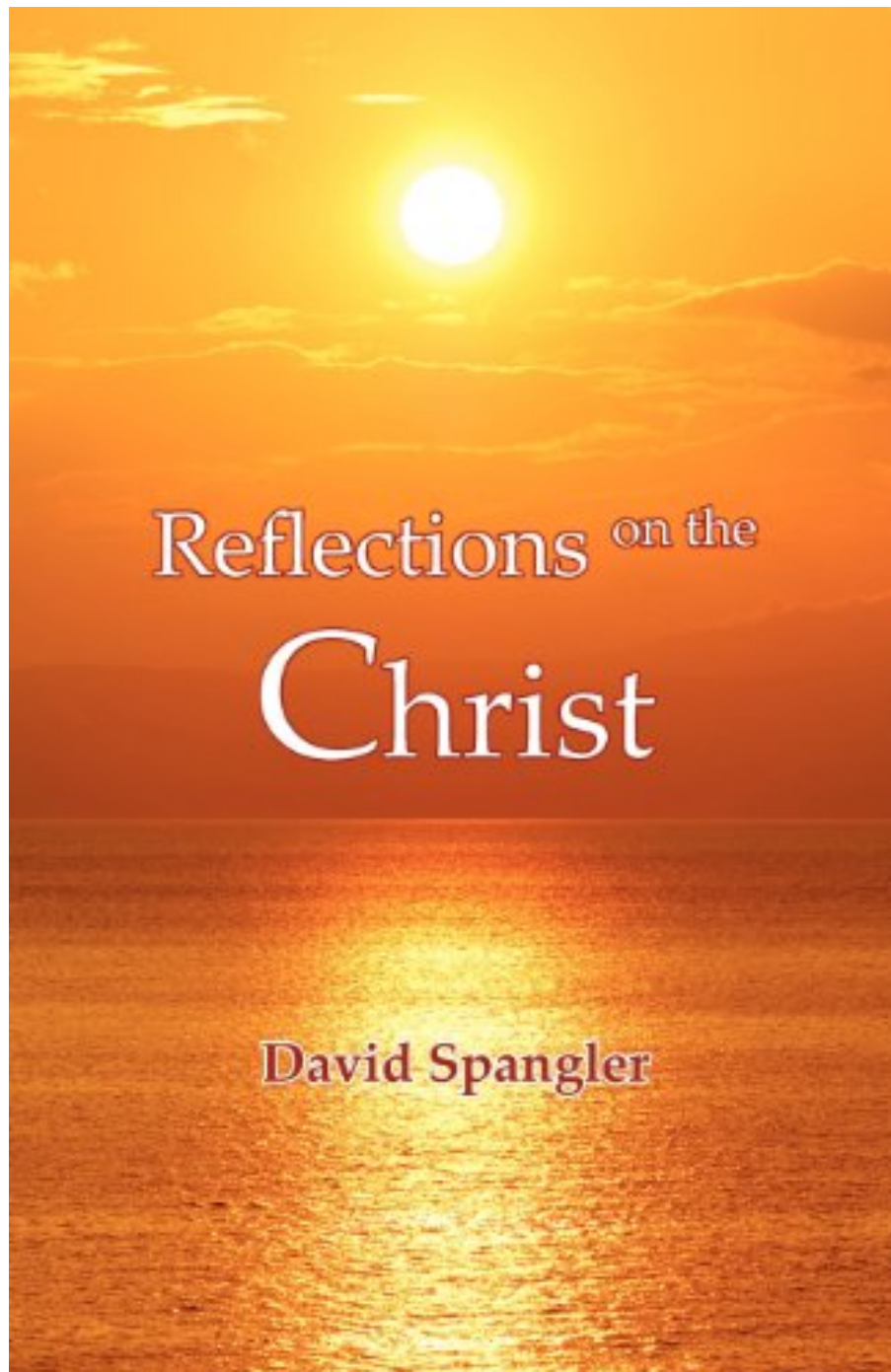


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REFLECTIONS ON THE CHRIST BY DAVID SPANGLER PDF

This classic book, first published in 1978, shows some of the beginnings of the spiritual work of David Spangler while co-director of the Findhorn Community and shortly thereafter. It contains a new preface and one new chapter written in 2012. May it be a blessing to you.

- Sales Rank: #2627131 in Books
- Published on: 2012-02-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.50" h x .38" w x 5.51" l, .47 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 164 pages

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The Luciferic Initiation

By Ashtar Command

This is the 2012 edition of David Spangler's classic "Reflections on the Christ", first published in 1978. The book contains speeches given by Spangler already in 1970-71 at Findhorn, a New Age community in Scotland. Spangler has edited one of his more controversial speeches, "Lucifer, Christ and God" and appended a new article, "A Retrospective on Lucifer, Christ and God". An article called "A letter to the Findhorn Community" has been dropped. Otherwise, it's pretty much the same book as back in 1978.

According to Wiki, Spangler's ideas are inspired by those of Alice Bailey. I never read Bailey (correction: I *tried* to read Bailey - so have you, and we're still not any wiser), but I have read Steiner and Barfield. The similarities between Dave and the Anthroposophists are striking, and I've jokingly called Spangler's message "Anthroposophy with a human face".

According to Spangler, humanity hasn't fallen into matter from a higher and loftier estate we should all aspire to re-enter. Rather, we are supposed to be here. Humans are expressions of Spirit attempting to come to grips with dense matter. We are on an evolutionary journey which takes us down, deeper and deeper into the material world. We are supposed to evolve stable egos and self-conscious personalities. Only in a later stage of evolution do we start moving upwards again, somehow both transcending and incorporating matter (this part of Spangler's message is somewhat unclear). However, our spiritual evolution has gone dangerously wrong, since most of us have forgotten our mission and identify with matter so completely that we no longer believe in the spirit-world. Both the Buddha and Christ came to remedy this situation. Christ was a spirit-entity who overshadowed the human Jesus. When Jesus was crucified, his energy patterns somehow merged with those of the planet Earth (which is a kind of living organism), making it possible for humanity to attain wholeness again and continue its journey. I don't know what Bailey said about these things, but this sure sounds like vintage Steiner.

According to Spangler, the Christ is really a kind of cosmic energy or life force. He is the power behind our

spiritual evolution. Lucifer plays a similar role. In Spangler's (controversial) vision, Lucifer isn't entirely evil, but rather a being which challenges man and prods him forward on his evolutionary quest, often by confronting him with his errors, deepest fears and anxieties. At one point, Spangler relates Lucifer to the Jungian Shadow, which must be incorporated rather than suppressed to make humans whole. "Satan" is simply the negative side of Lucifer, which becomes powerful when humans fail to confront their shadows. Satan feeds on the negative or "evil" energy patterns which are really the creations of human beings.

Spangler has often been fingered as the "founder" (sic) of the New Age movement. There is indeed much in this book which any new agey baby boomer can relate too: the Cosmic Christ, the Age of Aquarius, spiritual evolution, a positive view of matter, "evil" simply being misused energy or energy out of place, the idea that suffering is a learning experience, etc. Other ideas sound more occult, such as the talk about Atlantis and Lemuria, or Spangler's belief in the Kumaras, including Sanat Kumara. He is the "higher self" of the Earth, the planet's great "initiator" and somehow its real king and ruler. The "initiation" is a kind of fast-track evolution, in which millions of years of slow and steadfast growth are crammed into a few centuries. It's not entirely clear to me what Sanat Kumara will do, except that he will evolve humanity onto a new level. The whole idea sounds like a New Age version of postmillennialism. At one point, Spangler calls the Findhorn community "the Second Coming"!

The 1978 edition of "Reflections on the Christ" contained the rather unfortunate statement: "Maybe to enter the New Age, we all need to take a Luciferic Initiation". This quote (sometimes in suitably enhanced versions) has been used for good effect by both Christian fundamentalists and anti-New World Order conspiracy theorists. Poor Dave has been cast in the role of the Anti-Christ or worse. Some conspiracy websites claim that he is employed by the United Nations! Imagine that. As already noted, Spangler has responded to the furor by simply expunging all references to the Luciferic Initiation from the 2012 edition. I'm not sure if that helps. Search for "David Spangler Luciferic Initiation" on the web and see what happens...

In contrast to "Subtle Worlds" (reviewed by me elsewhere), this book sounds more dogmatically esoteric. I mean, Lemuria? Sanat Kumara? Please. Still, "Reflections on the Christ" could be of interest to those interested in the more hidden history of the New Age, far away from Carlos Castaneda, Shirley MacLaine or the crystal craze. For that reason, I give it four stars.

Luciferic Initiation, anyone?

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

ONE OF SPANGLER'S MOST INFLUENTIAL WORKS

By Steven H Propp

David Spangler (born 1945) is an American spiritual philosopher, channel, and self-described "practical mystic," who founded the education program at Findhorn in northern Scotland. He has written many books that were highly influential within the New Age movement, such as Revelation: The Birth of a New Age, The Call, A Pilgrim in Aquarius, The Laws of Manifestation: A Consciousness Classic, etc.

Here are some quotations from this 1978 book:

"The Christ represents the supreme educative force in creation." (Pg. 3)

"The true birth of the Christ was not the birth of Jesus. Jesus was an individual who himself had to recapitulate certain stages. He built upon the pattern the Buddha had established... he himself had to become awakened. He had to in his consciousness touch this Christ pattern." (Pg. 6)

"Christ is a consciousness, an attitude, an orientation towards oneself and one's universe; he is not a dogma, a

set of laws of a teaching." (Pg. 30)

"The New Age is not a teaching but an action of revelation drawing upon the same seed source as does the Church, and this same revelation is stirring within the churches as new thought and direction and awareness are born." (Pg. 31)

"It is important to see that Lucifer, as I am using this term, describes an angel, a being, a great and mighty planetary consciousness. It does not describe that thought-form of Satan who seeks to lead man down the path of sin and wrongdoing. This is a human creation... Man is his own Satan just as man is his own salvation." (Pg. 38-39)

I would like to say in preface that I am not a channel or a medium. It is not through any kind of trance that I receive that which I receive when it comes in this form." (Pg. 77)

"This particular quotation caused considerable confusion when people heard it on tape (that incidentally is one of the reasons why the tapes of those transmissions were withdrawn from circulation, because they were causing more confusion than clarity and it was felt better for people to have it through the written word)." (Pg. 82)

"The Christ is universal. It is a quality and a motive within each person." (Pg. 101)

"I began my public career ten years ago under the glamour of certain sensitives suggesting that I was the Christ, the Second Coming. There is a lot of loose talk about people being avatars without a real understanding of what this entails, and I was the subject of such talk... They did not want me to embody THE CHRIST; they wanted me to embody THEIR Christ... I was shy and somewhat formal anyway; I have always been impersonal in my dealings with people..." (Pg. 104)

3 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

Dangerous, Diabolical preachings of a sociopath....beware!

By Loose Goose

Utter garbage. Consider this quote

Consider this quote by Spangler. Endorsed by the UN, no less:

This quote says it all:

"Lucifer comes to give to us the final gift of wholeness. If we accept it, then he is free and we are free. This is the Luciferic initiation. It is one that many people now, and in the days ahead, will be facing, for it is an initiation into the New Age . . . No one will enter the New? World Order unless he? or she will make a pledge to worship Lucifer. No one will enter the New Age unless they will take a Luciferian initiation." (Quoted from "Reflections on the Christ," 1978 ed., Chapter IV, pgs 44-45)

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