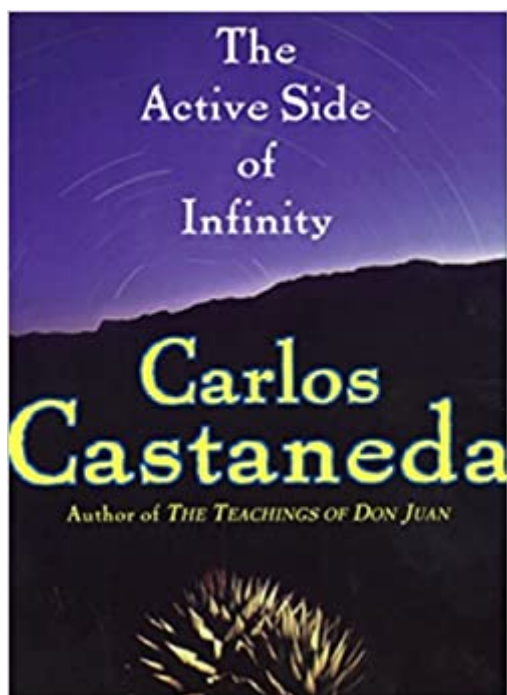


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The Active Side Of Infinity



Synopsis

"Ordinarily, events that change our path are impersonal affairs, and yet extremely personal. My teacher, don Juan Matsus, said this is guiding me as his apprentice to collect what I considered to be the memorable events of my life. Don Juan described the total goal of the shamanistic knowledge that he handled as the preparation for facing the definitive journey: the journey that every human being has to take at the end of his life. He said that what modern man referred to vaguely as life after death was, for those shamans, a concrete region filled to capacity with practical affairs of a different order than the practical affairs of daily life, yet bearing a similar functional practicality. Don Juan considered that to collect the memorable in their lives was, for shamans, the preparation for their entrance into that concrete region, which they called the active side of infinity." In this book written immediately before his death, anthropologist and shaman Carlos Castaneda gives us his most autobiographical and intimately revealing work ever, the fruit of a lifetime of experience and perhaps the most moving volume in his oeuvre.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Although he died last April, Castaneda, dubbed "the Godfather of the New Age" by some, speaks, as seems only fitting for a man who called himself a sorcerer, from beyond the beyond. Castaneda undertook this somewhat autobiographical record of memories and experiences during his famous apprenticeship to don Juan, the Yaqui Indian who tutored him in the ways of shamanism. According to Castaneda, don Juan asked him to remember the most significant events of his life and to

describe them in great detail as a means to recoup psychic energy and to understand the forces of "infinity" that had led him to the path of the "warrior-traveler." Castaneda uses those personal events to illustrate aspects of Yaqui mysticism, restating the fundamental themes of his work in a more accessible manner than some of his other writings. Gone are the tales, typical of his earlier books (*A Journey to Ixtlan*; *The Teachings of Don Juan*; etc.), of humans who transformed themselves into eagles and wolves, hallucinogenic adventures on peyote and superhuman physical challenges. Instead, readers get accounts of the visionary's lonely but privileged childhood on a hacienda in an unnamed Latin American country, as well as endearing memories of his life as a bumbling and rather neurotic anthropology graduate student at UCLA. "The active side of infinity" is an intelligent energy that intentionally guides the warrior-traveler. Reading Castaneda's account of don Juan's preparation for the "definitive journey" of death will likely be a poignant experience for Castaneda's fans, who may see the writing of the book as the author's preparation for his own departure.

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Castaneda, who died in April, here sums up important events in his life that prepared him for the final journey. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Great book that covers one of the most interesting aspect of Don Juan's teaching. The information about inorganic beings was most interesting to me.

If you only buy one Carlos Castaneda book - this is it. . .course you may need to read all the previous one's to grok it?!

Having read all CC's books over the years, I was pleased to learn of this one recently. I enjoyed it perhaps the best of all his works. It is considerably less cryptic than some of his earlier books. Carlos is an engaging story teller and *The Active Side of Infinity* is no exception. Here, though, he is not concerned with erasing his personal history, so he presents a lucid re-accounting of his most momentous experiences with Don Juan. I was especially impressed with his description of the "foreign installation" which lock the average man into his endless cycle of self reflection.

See the other positive comments on Castaneda, his work is a tour d' force the critics are all envious

This a replacement book as I have had this book for years. Lost mine in a recent boating incident. An excellent read for people who are trying to grow spiritually.

FLUID, CANDID, INTERESTING, SMOOTH AND AT THE SAME TIME THOUGHT PROVOKING WRITING. CASTAÑEDA STARTS BUILDING HIS WEB IN AN ALMOST CHILDISH, UNSUSPECTING, DELICATE, SILKY WAY, AND WHEN HE HAS YOUR TOTAL, UNDIVIDED ATTENTION HE DROPS BOMBS LIKE : "SURROUNDING INFINITY", "DARK SEA OF AWARENESS", "CONGLOMERATES OF ENERGY FIELDS", "INNER SILENCE" AND ON, AND ON. I READ THIS BOOK IN TWO SITTINGS.

You probably want to read Dragan's review first, this is like an addendum to it. Dragan, Without a doubt, you understood the central theme of this book and further more, the 'theme of themes' for human beings in this world since we were 'enslaved'. As an avid reader of Patanjali's Sutras, the Baghavat Gita and of course the Bible (Gospels and Old testament)... they all have the same central theme... Subjugation of human beings in a VERY SUBTLE WAY... hindu, budist and vedic scriptures will describe it as the 'bondage' of the mind and body and its experiences and the ultimate need to 'attain liberation'... "Mind is the root of bondage and liberation, of good and evil, of sin and holiness." (Patanjali's Sutra 71) "Clearly, the practitioners of the yogic system, just like their cousins from the shamanic system know that if you can control the mind (of a inferior being), you can control his world... you can control everything. The christian gospels are very clear on this subject: "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?" John 8:33 "You are of your father the devil, and YOU WANT to do the desires of your father." John 8:44 "if the son sets you free, you will be free indeed" John 8:36 This 'message' is everywhere, look at the movie the matrix... Neo had to 'die' first and be born again in the real world then he gained consciousness... the avatar movie has the same central theme, he 'enters' the body of a local to gain consciousness... and so tons of things through history of human kind. could it be that the prophecies of Psalm are becoming true? 'I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter truths of old' - Psalm 78:1 What better truth that to tell human beings that they are not really free? Movies, books, sculptures, ancient paintings... this has been said and talked about for a long time but now the average human is paying attention...

good job

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