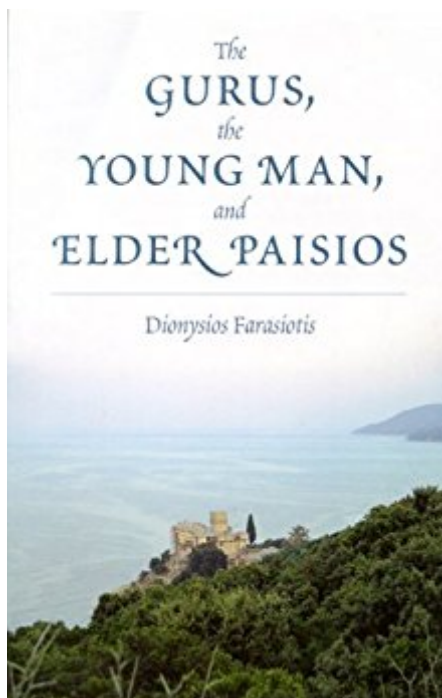


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The Gurus, The Young Man, And Elder Paisios



Synopsis

This powerful memoir tells the story of a Greek youth who, out of a desire to know the truth empirically, began to experiment in yoga, hypnotism, and various occult techniques. Eventually drawn back to the Faith of his forefathers Orthodox Christianity he visited the ancient monastic republic of Mount Athos in his native Greece, where he was brought to a knowledge of the Truth of Jesus Christ by the saintly Elder Paisios (1924 1994). Nevertheless, believing he had only found part of the truth on the Holy Mountain, he chose to give the same opportunity to Hindu yogis that he had given to Elder Paisios and other Orthodox monks. Thus, at the age of twenty-five, he embarked on a trip to India, where he undertook his search in the ashrams of three famous gurus, one of whom was worshipped as a god. His experiences in India, along with his subsequent encounters with Elder Paisios on Mount Athos, are recounted in the present book in vivid detail. Popular in Greece since its first publication there in 2001, *The Gurus, the Young Man, and Elder Paisios* is a page-turning narrative of both outward adventures and inward struggles. What stands out most in this book, however, is the radiant image of Elder Paisios, possessed of divine gifts, laboring in prayer for his fellow man, and overflowing with unconditional love. Through this, one sees the uncreated Source of the elder's love and of the author's spiritual transformation: the true God-man Jesus Christ, Who honors man's personal freedom while drawing him, through love, into everlasting union with Himself.

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Customer Reviews

Reading this book is not simply reading a book. In its form it may seem like a simple narrative about a young man's life, his falls and rises, his quest for spirituality. However going through the pages is experience. It is virtually living a life. There are very few books that grab you so much that you start to live them. My point is - it is not a cognitive experience. It directly touches the heart. It resonated so strongly for me because I have walked the same path in my life. I did not have the blessing to personally meet such real saints as father Paisios, but I live with them every day in my mind and heart. Having said all these words I am aware they may seem meaningless to many people who are not receptive yet to the matters discussed in the book. But when you are ready, I'm sure this book will come to you. To repeat myself - the biggest virtue of this book is that it is not simply a book, it is not just good fiction, it is not an exercise of mind. It is Life. You live it.

I just finished reading this book and I must say I learned a great deal from it. Some of what I learned I didn't want to learn. As mentioned by other reviewers, the author's experiences with evil were at times disturbing. There were times when I was reading that I wasn't sure I believed everything he described - could this have really happened? So, my suggestion is to be prepared. If you feel vulnerable about reading such things, you might want to wait until you are stronger or have a good spiritual father/mother to guide you. On the other hand, the goodness and holiness of Elder Paisios came through very powerfully as the author described their relationship. There were times that I wasn't sure I believed everything he described - could this have really happened? If you have not previously read of great spiritual love, mysticism and miracles in our times, be prepared to have your eyes (and heart) opened. In the end, I found myself believing that the author did indeed describe his real and actual experiences - the terrifying level of evil but the stronger and more beautiful level of Christ's love expressed in the Elder - and then experienced himself. (If you start reading and find it too hard to continue, please read the end. It will strengthen you.

This book had me on the edge of my seat as I journeyed with Dionysios through his spiritual

adventures in college, on the Holy Mountain (Athos), in India with highly respected gurus, and then back to the Holy Mountain. He is an extremely intelligent fellow and well educated fellow, but he longs for something deeper that cannot be provided from books and intellectual discussion. In this book, you will catch glimpses of the depth of darkness and delusion that the young man faces in his various spiritual experiments with attacks from demonic forces and people influenced by them. On the other side of the spectrum, he receives amazing experiences of the Divine Light of Christ in addition to many spiritual interactions of the senses. And that is where my warning comes in. Much like *The Way of a Pilgrim*, if someone is new to Orthodoxy, this may create an expectation that if they pray a little they too will experience the Light of Tabor, see miraculous events, and be able to experience the same things as this author. Those who cease to seek Christ and begin seeking experiences, or seek Christ in hope of some spiritual "high" will either end up frustrated and eventually abandon the faith or they will receive spiritual experiences that are not necessarily from Christ. The beautiful experiences of the author are a gift of grace from God, as are all of the experiences that we have during pure prayer (whether a sense of peace, tears, or something more sensational). Overall, I would still highly recommend this book. It is a good reminder of the depths and reality that we can enter into through Christ, and that we are not participating in a dead faith, but rather one that is very much alive and working beautiful wonders in the lives of people all over the world.

Wonderful inspiring book. Elder Paisios has now been canonized as a Saint! Praise God for the inspiration that the stories of people who have really given their lives to God and served Him in such wonderful ways. Thank God that there are still such wonderful examples of Christianity that affect the lives of people during their own lives as well as after their earthly lives. St. Paisios keeps me encouraged and desiring to draw nearer to Christ!

This is a review for the Kindle edition. This is a must read for all. It is a book for people with faith, it will strengthen it. It is a book for people of no faith, it will plant a seed in your heart and steer you in the right direction. It is also a book for the many that are practicing things that may be harmful to them, it will give you something to think about. The author had REAL experiences from two very different sides. One seemed dark (manipulation, control, possession) while the other was of light (love, joy, happiness, healing). He was very fortunate to have an elder such as the Holy Elder Paisios to save him many times. To transform his life and to give him first hand experiences in God's way. He stumbled many times as we all do. Some learn quickly others take some time. The

author it seemed stumbled much and took much time. We can read many books and theorize about all this stuff but to have a real experience such as the author did is truly life changing. Many people are not that fortunate. I myself have practiced many things and have come to my own conclusion do abandon them. I was born a Greek Christian Orthodox and have only recently begun to renew my faith. I read a book on the biography of Philotheos Zervakos from Pakia (Abbott of Logovarda in Paros) that lit a fire in my heart. I took a trip to the Holy Mount Athos but never found an elder that could help me with my problems or heal me of my wounds. I am sure they are there. I keep praying GOD will help me. I pray this book will help guide many and help save many and help heal many.

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