

RICHARD SHINING
THUNDER FRANCIS

Luminous Ecstasies and Passions

Journeys Into Afterlife

Luminous Ecstasies And Passions

Cynthia Robinson



Luminous Ecstasies And Passions:

Luminous Ecstasies and Passions Love Ministries, Inc., 2001-01-16 Richard Shining Thunder Francis was born March 1 1952 When he was four his family converted to the Jehovah s Witness cult and he now describes this as the most important and educational event in my life He says Being a Witness until I was in my early twenties taught me many crucial core lessons about religion and psychology It is helpful to observe people operating erroneously in order more directly to clarify by contrast a better way of life When he was about twenty Francis experienced a series of rapid dynamic radical shifts into an entirely new area of consciousness In this state he felt suffused by a Love so bottomless so tranquil so compassionate and so omnipresent that it changed his life forever After this illumination he came to reject the image of God as jealous violent psychotic or angry He turned away from the ancient vision of God as a tribal war god who belonged only to his chosen people Francis rejected the idea of Armageddon the belief that God very soon is going to massacre the entire human race except those who have joined the cult No more anti human doctrine can be imagined Jehovah will make Hitler s concentration camps look like Sunday picnics in the park notes Francis He came to believe by contrast that God was Love itself and that Love was God Out of love and compassion for others he wrote down his experiences and thoughts in a book Jehovah Lives in Brooklyn Jehovah s Witnesses as a Model of Fundamentalism His wish that his book can help others avoid the black hole of falling into a mind controlling minority religion where they will waste much time and energy and lose other valuable and precious components of their lives Joining such a group is dangerous to your mind says Francis In the longer term it can destroy your most prized friendships and tear apart even your family I ve seen it happen over and over again Francis does not hate Jehovah s Witnesses nor does he take a common route of trying to beat them to death with the Bible He is unconcerned with disproving their technical dogmas and proving alternatives Instead he takes an overall psychosocial view of the cult analyzing how behavioral and psychological changes transform one from a functional independent man or woman into a servant to an international publishing empire all in the name of God Jehovah s Witnesses distribute many books and magazines recycling their dogma and propaganda as part of their worship He reveals many secrets known only to members For example he notes that the Witnesses are so zealous in their sales work because they really believe that God will kill them and their families if they do not sell the books and magazines written and published by the JW Organization This is only one example of stunning revelations He also describes how Jehovah s Witness converts come to believe in a world similar to that of the Middle Ages where psychological and other problems are literally believed to be caused by evil spirits He discusses the place of such rabid superstitions among the Witnesses and details his own liberation from such radical misperceptions Unlike other authors Francis has no alternative religion to which he wishes desperately to convert his readers Francis himself belongs to no organized religion He says The alternative to the cult psychology of these groups is not found in the frying pan into the fire strategy of joining another cult or restrictive religion The alternative that really works is freedom This is simple

It is just learning to live a good life a life of compassion service friendship and good works It is the real and regular practice of Love that can liberate people It is spirituality Spirituality is what you do on the inside while religion is merely what you do on the outside Spirituality Francis believes is not just the memorization of texts Scriptures doctrines or dogmas Spirituality is Love in action Francis says Spirituality is service to the needy kindness extended to others It is also genuine friendship a rare and precious component of life This is not found among the Witnesses for they will recognize as friend only those who closely and meticulously conform to the rules of the Organization They have taken this idea so far that they now regard independent thinking as dangerous and possibly even sinful The Way of Love says Francis does not follow the ideas of legalism that if you only obey mechanical laws and embrace certain intellectual ideas you will somehow automatically find salvation Salvation is actually quite a bit simpler than all that The Way of Love states that the real value of any person s life is found in the quantity and quality of the Love which she has expressed The idea that you can create or earn Love contradicts that it is a free gift given willingly by a loving God We are saved not because of what we do or who we are but because God has chosen to save us to love us unconditionally So Love is also salvation Finding Love is finding grace a condition of stainless and pristine being By contrast Francis points out The Witnesses feel that they must wrest salvation from the hands of a miserly and unwilling god Their god tolerates people but does not actively love them He does not rejoice in their presence His royal dignity prohibits that That is one of the sad consequences of viewing your god as a literal king rather than choosing to embrace God as intimate friend Leaving a restrictive and controlling religion is never easy Francis now works as an exit counselor which means that it is one of his specialties to aid people to recover from the cult experience which always leaves deep but not necessarily harmful scars The healing begins by a shift in perspective he says Instead of seeing yourself as having lost friends and social stability try to see the larger and more realistic perspective You have actually rejoined the human race You have gained countless potential friends and no longer have to interrogate yourself or them to determine whether or not they are acceptable Instead for the first time you have a joyful opportunity to open wide your heart and arms and to embrace ordinary people yes including people even of other faiths To the average person this is quite ordinary But to the ex Jehovah s Witness making a friend from an ordinary neighbor is an astonishing mind rocking feat For JW internal society is meticulously structured to be totally isolated and insulated from all non JW contacts as it is taught that contact with ordinary people will contaminate corrupt or spoil the believer s purity Actually too much contact with normal people inevitably results in the Witness exit from the Organization as it results in a normalization process The leaders seem terrified of bad association which they define as anyone particularly any educated person who is outside the Organization They continuously bombard members with horror stories and veiled threats of Jehovah s vengeance against evil doers including any member who has the audacity to have non JW friends or associates They view the world as one views a population infected with plague as disgusting doomed and dangerous nbs

Luminous Ecstasies and Passions Richard Shiningthunder Francis,2000-12-20

Luminous Ecstasies and Passions Love Ministries, Inc., 2001-01-16 Richard Shining Thunder Francis was born March 1 1952 When he was four his family converted to the Jehovah s Witness cult and he now describes this as the most important and educational event in my life He says Being a Witness until I was in my early twenties taught me many crucial core lessons about religion and psychology It is helpful to observe people operating erroneously in order more directly to clarify by contrast a better way of life When he was about twenty Francis experienced a series of rapid dynamic radical shifts into an entirely new area of consciousness In this state he felt suffused by a Love so bottomless so tranquil so compassionate and so omnipresent that it changed his life forever After this illumination he came to reject the image of God as jealous violent psychotic or angry He turned away from the ancient vision of God as a tribal war god who belonged only to his chosen people Francis rejected the idea of Armageddon the belief that God very soon is going to massacre the entire human race except those who have joined the cult No more anti human doctrine can be imagined Jehovah will make Hitler s concentration camps look like Sunday picnics in the park notes Francis He came to believe by contrast that God was Love itself and that Love was God Out of love and compassion for others he wrote down his experiences and thoughts in a book Jehovah Lives in Brooklyn Jehovah s Witnesses as a Model of Fundamentalism His wish that his book can help others avoid the black hole of falling into a mind controlling minority religion where they will waste much time and energy and lose other valuable and precious components of their lives Joining such a group is dangerous to your mind says Francis In the longer term it can destroy your most prized friendships and tear apart even your family I ve seen it happen over and over again Francis does not hate Jehovah s Witnesses nor does he take a common route of trying to beat them to death with the Bible He is unconcerned with disproving their technical dogmas and proving alternatives Instead he takes an overall psychosocial view of the cult analyzing how behavioral and psychological changes transform one from a functional independent man or woman into a servant to an international publishing empire all in the name of God Jehovah s Witnesses distribute many books and magazines recycling their dogma and propaganda as part of their worship He reveals many secrets known only to members For example he notes that the Witnesses are so zealous in their sales work because they really believe that God will kill them and their families if they do not sell the books and magazines written and published by the JW Organization This is only one example of stunning revelations He also describes how Jehovah s Witness converts come to believe in a world similar to that of the Middle Ages where psychological and other problems are literally believed to be caused by evil spirits He discusses the place of such rabid superstitions among the Witnesses and details his own liberation from such radical misperceptions Unlike other authors Francis has no alternative religion to which he wishes desperately to convert his readers Francis himself belongs to no organized religion He says The alternative to the cult psychology of these groups is not found in the frying pan into the fire strategy of joining another cult or restrictive religion The alternative that really works is freedom This is simple It is just learning to live a good life a life of compassion service friendship and good works It is the real and regular practice

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The Art of Everyday Ecstasy Margot Anand, 2015-02-18 Ecstasy is about waking up and finding that you are in love with life Most people think of ecstasy in terms of sexual ecstasy which Tantric sex expert

Margot Anand wrote about in her bestselling *The Art of Sexual Ecstasy* Now in *The Art of Everyday Ecstasy* Anand expands our definition of ecstasy and shows how we can harness its energy to help us live work and love more passionately joyfully and with true spiritual focus Our modern work obsessed stress filled culture what Anand calls the anti ecstatic conspiracy has dulled our spirits thrown us off balance and alienated us from meaningful everyday experiences In this inspirational journey toward finding the healing nature of ecstasy Anand explains how the two types of ecstatic experiences the moments of epiphany called Ecstatic Awakenings and EveryDay Ecstasy or the Ecstasy of Flow a connection to our power and inner wisdom can help us move beyond pain and doubt to reach our highest potential Based on the spiritual path of Tantra Anand shows how to use the natural energy system of our bodies the seven chakras as a map to ecstasy As she guides us through the chakras she explains how each one plays an important role in transforming energy into erotic passion healing empowerment compassion creativity insight and gratitude Blocked chakras manifest themselves in surprising ways wholeness can be achieved only when all of the chakras are open with energy flowing freely By transforming negative behavioral patterns into positive ones and strengthening ourselves physically emotionally and spiritually we can improve our health sex life career relationships and find profound meaning in everyday moments With personal anecdotes exercises meditations and rituals *The Art of Everyday Ecstasy* shows us how to bring ecstatic energy into the body mind heart and spirit to embrace every moment in our totality to respond bodily feel from the heart perceive with clarity and be fully present to others and to life

Plated Ecstasy, One Man's Culinary Passion Vincent DiLoreto, 2022-03-21 The mantra of dine wine and travel is the framework for this memoir Vincent DiLoreto had two professional careers retiring from the first after twenty years as an officer in military service and retiring from the second after another twenty years in the Aerospace and Defense industry where he ultimately served as president of a high tech company However after his retirement he transitioned to his soul searing unbridled passion for gourmet food and fine wine He pursued formal training as a chef and a sommelier Extensive world travel enriched his exposure to exotic cuisine and uncommon wine His wife of over fifty years Donna Lee has enthusiastically shared and contributed to his passion to dine wine and travel Share their lifetime adventure in *Plated Ecstasy*

Tender Ecstasy Janelle Taylor, 2011-10-24 At the mercy of a cruel kinsman a young woman is saved body and soul by her powerful Sioux captor in this romance by the New York Times bestselling author Each novel that Janelle Taylor writes is filled with heart pounding passion and romantic adventure Yet it is the compelling saga of the beautiful Alisha and her lover Gray Eagle and their descendants which continues to enthrall her readers the most In a wagon train deep in Sioux territory rose Rebecca Kenny the most ravishing woman Bright Arrow had ever seen Her soft perfect curves were an intoxicating blend of innocence and seduction that drove him mad with desire Though wisdom demanded that he slay the enticing creature along with all the other invaders fate commanded that he save Rebecca capture her torment her and soar with her to the dizzying heights of blazing ecstasy

Stolen Ecstasy Janelle Taylor, 2011-10-24 Follow the wind Forever

Ecstasy Whispered kisses Readers everywhere look to Janelle Taylor for the very best in historical romance And Stolen Ecstasy continues her beloved Savage Ecstasy series with one of her greatest love stories ever that of Gray Eagle s son Bright Arrow and his beautiful white captive Rebecca Stolen Ecstasy Seven years had passed since the Oglala Sioux had banished Bright Arrow for loving the magnificent captive Rebecca Kenny And though his passion for her still blazed as brightly as the evening star it was torture for the son of Gray Eagle to be apart from his people He yearned to ride free in the wind and to sink his knife into the hunt with the other braves Now Bright Arrow had to make his choice again between his desire for a white woman and his honor as an Indian *The Passions* P. M. S. Hacker,2017-12-18 A survey of astonishing breadth and penetration No cognitive neuroscientist should ever conduct an experiment in the domain of the emotions without reading this book twice Parashkev Nachev Institute of Neurology UCL There is not a slack moment in the whole of this impressive work With his remarkable facility for making fine distinctions and his commitment to lucidity Peter Hacker has subtly characterized those emotions such as pride shame envy jealousy love or sympathy which make up our all too human nature This is an important book for philosophers but since most of its illustrative material comes from an astonishing range of British and European literature it is required reading also for literary scholars or indeed for anyone with an interest in understanding who and what we are David Ellis University of Kent Human beings are all subject to boundless flights of joy and delight to flashes of anger and fear to pangs of sadness and grief We express our emotions in what we do how we act and what we say and we can share our emotions with others and respond sympathetically to their feelings Emotions are an intrinsic part of the human condition and any study of human nature must investigate them In this third volume of a major study in philosophical anthropology which has spanned nearly a decade one of the most preeminent living philosophers examines and reflects upon the nature of the emotions advancing the view that novelists playwrights and poets rather than psychologists and cognitive neuroscientists elaborate the most refined descriptions of their role in human life In the book s early chapters the author analyses the emotions by situating them in relation to other human passions such as affections appetites attitudes and agitations While presenting a detailed connective analysis of the emotions Hacker challenges traditional ideas about them and criticizes misconceptions held by philosophers psychologists and cognitive neuroscientists With the help of abundant examples and illustrative quotations from the Western literary canon later sections investigate describe and disentangle the individual emotions pride arrogance and humility shame embarrassment and guilt envy and jealousy and anger The book concludes with an analysis of love sympathy and empathy as sources of absolute value and the roots of morality A masterful contribution this study of the passions is essential reading for philosophers of mind psychologists cognitive neuroscientists students of Western literature and general readers interested in understanding the nature of the emotions and their place in our lives *The Myth of Romantic Love and Other Essays* Michael Novak,2017-07-28 Written by noted Catholic philosopher Michael Novak the selections in *The Myth of Romantic Love and*

Other Essays highlight the arc of his intellectual career Collectively demonstrating the fundamental unity of Novak s work the sixteen essays in this book span a broad range of political economic and social topics The selections offer clarity of thinking for the sake of concrete ends For example The Myth of Romantic Love the chapter from which the title of this work is drawn sharply distinguishes the love that popular culture portrays from the true Christian vision of love And The Family out of Favor argues if things go well with the family life is worth living when the family falters life falls apart Thus true Christian love manifest in marriage and family life is a greater resource for civilized society than any other institution Although this collection shows that Novak s viewpoints did evolve over time he remains a thinker that is clearly rooted in the ancient and medieval Catholic tradition From his discussions of gender relations to economics culture and politics his perspective honors the primacy of man and his immediate experience and thereby ultimately glorifies the Creator Novak s writing will infuriate some readers and inspire many others but both comrades in arms and intellectual opponents will find the clarity and intensity of his writings undeniable

The Agony of Ecstasy Olivia Gordon,2006-06-19 A story of a young person s experience of the drug ecstasy and how she emerged from her dark night into a new life After a description of the highs the author gives an account of her first euphoric trip a flashback to childhood a sensation of the whole of life flashing before her and the depression that followed

The Ecstasy of Surrender Judith Orloff,2014 New York Times bestselling author of Emotional Freedom provides an exciting new plan for reducing stress manifesting material and psychological wealth and experiencing perpetual joy

Sparks of Ecstasy Pasquale De Marco,2025-03-18 In a world where passion often takes a backseat to practicality this book serves as a clarion call to rekindle the fire within Through its pages you ll embark on a transformative journey of self discovery unearthing the passions that lie dormant waiting to be awakened Within these chapters you ll find a wealth of wisdom inspiration and practical guidance to help you reconnect with your true self and live a life filled with purpose meaning and fulfillment You ll learn how to Identify and overcome the obstacles that prevent you from pursuing your passions Cultivate self awareness and uncover your hidden desires and aspirations Develop the courage to take risks and step outside your comfort zone Nurture your passions and turn them into a driving force in your life Find balance and harmony between your passions and other aspects of your life This book is more than just a guide it s a companion on your journey towards a life ignited by passion Through its insights and exercises you ll gain a deeper understanding of yourself your passions and the path that lies ahead You ll discover that passion is not something to be found but rather something to be cultivated nurtured and celebrated Whether you re seeking to reignite a passion that has dimmed uncover a new passion that sets your soul ablaze or simply live a more passionate and fulfilling life this book will be your trusted guide It s time to embrace the transformative power of passion and unleash the extraordinary life that awaits you If you like this book write a review

Imagining the Passion in a Multiconfessional Castile Cynthia Robinson,2013 An interdisciplinary reassessment of the creation and reception of religious imagery and of its place in the devotional practices

of Castilian Christians situated against the broader panorama of Spanish culture in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries

Provided by publisher *Ecstasy, A Study of Happiness* Louis Couperus, 2019-11-26 In *Ecstasy A Study of Happiness* Louis Couperus intricately explores the philosophical and emotional dimensions of happiness weaving a rich tapestry of narrative that intertwines lyrical prose with profound psychological insights Set against a backdrop of lush landscapes and the complexities of human relationships Couperus invites readers to ponder the interplay between ecstasy and everyday life His style reflects the psychological realism characteristic of late 19th century literature while simultaneously incorporating Impressionist elements that evoke a sensory experience of the world around his characters Through vivid imagery and reflective musings he delves into the elusiveness of happiness making it not only a theme but a driving force of the narrative Born in 1863 in The Hague Louis Couperus was steeped in the rich literary heritage of the Netherlands where he was influenced by the Symbolist movement and the philosophical inquiries of his time His own experiences with emotional turbulence and societal expectations permeate his works driving him to investigate the paradoxes of joy and sorrow This blend of personal insight and cultural critique deeply informs the narrative voice in *Ecstasy* revealing Couperus's commitment to examining the human condition I wholeheartedly recommend *Ecstasy A Study of Happiness* to readers who seek a thoughtful examination of the nature of happiness amidst life's transient pleasures Couperus's masterful storytelling and philosophical depth provide a unique lens through which to reflect on one's own experiences of ecstasy and fulfillment This profound work invites contemplation making it a compelling addition to the canon of literary explorations of the human psyche

Diamond Heart: The Freedom to Be A. H. Almaas, 2000-09-05 Founder and spiritual teacher A H Almaas continues his study of the Diamond Approach to uncovering the many facets of our human potential We live in a world of mystery wonder and beauty But most of us seldom participate in this real world being focused rather on the parts that are mostly strife suffering or meaninglessness The situation is basically due to our not realizing and living our full human potential This potential can be actualized by the realization and development of human essence The human essence is the part of us that is innate and real and which can participate in the real world Comprised of transcriptions of A H Almaas talks to inner work groups in Colorado and California *The Freedom to Be* is the second installment in a five volume series on the Diamond Approach

Whispers of Ecstasy Pasquale De Marco, 2025-07-13 Embark on a transformative journey into the realm of love and longing where passion and desire intertwine and souls unite in an eternal dance of ecstasy In this thought provoking exploration of love's many facets we delve into the nature of desire unveiling its enigmatic allure and untamed power We explore the depths of intimacy revealing the profound connection and vulnerability that two hearts can share And we navigate the tumultuous storms of love examining the challenges that test the resilience of even the strongest bonds Through a series of insightful essays we draw inspiration from literature philosophy art and music seeking to gain a deeper understanding of this universal human experience We unravel the complexities of love's many manifestations from the heady

rush of new romance to the enduring comfort of a lifelong partnership Celebrate the joy of shared laughter the ecstasy of shared dreams and the enduring legacy of love s enduring embrace Delve into the mysteries of desire unveiling its hidden depths and exploring the dance of attraction that draws two souls together Discover the power of vulnerability embracing the strength that lies in emotional transparency And learn the art of forgiveness healing the wounds of the past and opening the door to new beginnings Whether you are a seasoned explorer of love s labyrinth or a newcomer to its enchanting embrace this book promises to illuminate the shadows and reveal the beauty that lies at the heart of this most profound of human emotions Prepare to embark on a transformative journey as we delve into the whispers of ecstasy and unravel the mysteries of love and longing This book is an invitation to explore the myriad facets of love and longing to discover the depths of your own heart and to embrace the transformative power of this universal human experience If you like this book write a review

Defiant Ecstasy Janelle Taylor, 2011-10-24 An imprisoned Englishwoman awaits to be rescued by a sexy Sioux warrior in this romance novel by the New York Times bestselling author of *Savage Ecstasy* The longer Alisha Williams remained at Fort Pierre the more she hoped her lover would rescue her from the taunts and tirades of the white pioneers They would never let her forget she had been the mistress of the infamous fierce warrior Gray Eagle As if the auburn haired beauty could forget Each night Alisha sweetly remembered Gray Eagle s bold caresses burning kisses his blazing passion Each day she scanned the vast horizon in hopes her Oglala brave would recapture her Then one day Alisha saw hundreds of Indian warriors riding to the gates of Fort Pierre and at their head was the fierce Gray Eagle Though her most fervent prayers had been answered Alisha s heart skipped a beat Would Gray Eagle destroy her or make her destiny his own Praise for *Defiant Ecstasy* I thought Taylor s ability to keep the conflict action and mystery going into this second book was brilliant And very difficult to do An adventure you will not want to miss This is a compelling story I could not put down Regan Walker author of *The Donet Trilogy*

Radical Passion Andrew Harvey, 2012-10-23 This culmination of award winning author Andrew Harvey s life s work bridges the great divide between spiritual resignation and engaged spiritual activism A manifesto for the transformation of the world through the fusion of deep mystical peace with the clarity of radical wisdom it is a wake up call to put love and compassion to urgent focused action According to Harvey we are in a massive global crisis reflected by a mass media addicted to violence and trivialization at a moment when what the world actually needs is profound inspiration a return to the heart centered way of the Divine Feminine the words of the mystics throughout the ages and the cultivation of the nonviolent philosophies of Gandhi Nelson Mandela Aung San Suu Kyi and the Dalai Lama Harvey s concepts of radical passion and sacred activism fly in the face of restraint of pessimism of denial of all that is inhumane fusing the mystic s passion for God with the activist s passion for justice and for healing the division between heaven and earth heart and will body and soul prayer and action Sacred activism asks that we engage deeply on a personal spiritual and political level so as to become a fully empowered fully active and contemplative humanity that can turn tragedy into grace and desolation into

the opportunity to build and co create a new world Unlike many spiritual books Radical Passion does not veil the dark with artificial hope It explores the catastrophes of our current times and celebrates the ecstatic hope and divinity that is possible right now and in the future

Existential-Phenomenological Perspectives in Psychology Ronald S. Valle, Steen Halling, 2013-03-08 When I began to study psychology a half century ago it was defined as the study of behavior and experience By the time I completed my doctorate shortly after the end of World War II the last two words were fading rapidly In one of my first graduate classes a course in statistics the professor announced on the first day Whatever exists exists in some number We dutifully wrote that into our notes and did not pause to recognize that thereby all that makes life meaningful was being consigned to oblivion This bland restructuring perhaps more accurately destruction of the world was typical of its time 1940 The influence of a narrow scientific attitude was already spreading throughout the learned disciplines In the next two decades it would invade and tyrannize the social sciences education and even philosophy To be sure quantification is a powerful tool selectively employed but too often it has been made into an executioner's axe to deny actuality to all that does not yield to its procrustean demands

Sensible Ecstasy Amy Hollywood, 2010-01-15 Sensible Ecstasy investigates the attraction to excessive forms of mysticism among twentieth century French intellectuals and demonstrates the work that the figure of the mystic does for these thinkers With special attention to Georges Bataille Simone de Beauvoir Jacques Lacan and Luce Irigaray Amy Hollywood asks why resolutely secular even anti Christian intellectuals are drawn to affective bodily and widely denigrated forms of mysticism What is particular to these thinkers Hollywood reveals is their attention to forms of mysticism associated with women They regard mystics such as Angela of Foligno Hadewijch and Teresa of Avila not as emotionally excessive or escapist but as unique in their ability to think outside of the restrictive oppositions that continue to afflict our understanding of subjectivity the body and sexual difference Mystics such as these like their twentieth century descendants bridge the gaps between action and contemplation emotion and reason and body and soul offering new ways of thinking about language and the limits of representation

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Luminous Ecstasies And Passions Introduction

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