

Time Ripples: A Gift of Love

Robert H. Wellington

Balboa Press, 159 pages, (paperback) \$13.99, 9781504360340

(Reviewed: August 2017)

In *Time Ripples: A Gift of Love,* Robert Wellington blends New Age Christianity with Hindu ideology to reveal that love is the way to heaven.

Through poetry, brief essays and peaceful reflections, Wellington teaches that "a loving heart leaves an endless stream of good deeds in its wake, which forever ripples through time." The author promotes the bliss of a quiet mind, encouraging readers to slow down, experience the treasures around them—"cool breezes…children laughing, puppies playing"—and let love flow through them to others. Silent meditation, he believes, brings enlightenment where we realize our true essence is love, "the Christ that dwells within."

Although Wellington's theology speaks of God and Christ, he's not promoting the God of the Bible reaching down to save sin-sick humanity. Wellington sees man as innately pure and holy, with the essence of God written within. He identifies the Hindu Atman—"self" or "soul"—with the Christian teaching of the Holy Spirit living within a person. Rather than finding salvation through Christ, his version of redemption is "the process of becoming one with love."

Wellington's loose interpretation of scriptures, blending of religious ideas, and belief in humanity's innate goodness create more questions than answers. For example, he neglects to fully address the problem of evil. He seems to establish a new spiritual faith based solely on his own revelations, which may be offputting to some readers.

On a technical level, the overuse of nature cliché's ("rustling trees"; "joyous sunrise"; "windswept sand"; "mighty elk") and abstractions ("Reach for the sky and you shall touch it") dilutes his writing's effectiveness, and grammatical errors and repeated use of "beacon" for "beckon" and "though" for "through" lend a careless feel to his writing.

Wellington may lose Christian readers with controversial statements like "God longs to know Himself." But despite the book's shortcomings, New Age spiritualists will likely enjoy his optimistic belief that all humanity will one day reunite with God through acts of love.

Also available in hardcover and ebook.