



## ***A Moment to Report a Book on September 15, 2019***

A Moment Ministries Publication from Summer Headquarters 2412 N Herron Rd NW  
Lakebay WA

It's September 15, our 68<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. A "mystic moment"... This picture appeared on my page where I thought I was starting a book report page on *"Meister Eckhart: A Mystic Warrior for our Time"* by Matthew Fox.

I tried to guess how many on my lists would know of Meister Eckhart or Matthew Fox. Not many. But I plow ahead.

**First, about Matthew Fox.** I have a prejudice in favor of Catholic scholars who have been excommunicated, as Matthew Fox was in 1989. Imagine how then-Cardinal Ratzinger (soon to be Pope Benedict) thought when Fox said: *"Most churches are sexist, anthropocentric, undemocratic, and worst of all, boring."* (Quote from "New Age" Interview, March-April 1989)

Fox speaks for many church critics (as well as some insiders: *"Religion, by not focusing on the cosmos and by limiting itself to the private soul of the individual, has gotten more introspective, guilt-ridden, neurotic, and puny."*) (Ibid.)

**Second, about Mystics.** Many think of mystics as fuzzy-minded souls with strange ideas about religion. Fox is a trustworthy voice regarding mysticism. *"Matthew Fox is among the great theologians, mystics and intellectuals of our time..."* (Theodore Richards)

*"For Fox, mysticism is a human, not a religious, path, and through Christianity, Buddhism, Judaism, Islam, or any other tradition (perhaps even science) we come to a common underground river of wisdom."* (Abrams and Primack, *The View from the Center of the Universe*).

**Third, about Meister Eckhardt.** He was born in 1260, educated and worked as a Dominican, the most noted and popular preacher of his day, and condemned by church hierarchy [always a hopeful sign in my judgment]. *"We need to be lovers of the world more than ever... More grateful for existence, for the nourishing and beautiful Earth, for her marvelous creatures, for her suffering... More struck by reverence and respect for the miracle of our being here, the gift of existence in this amazing universe with its 13.8-billion-year history --- 'isness is God,' say Eckhardt."* (xxv)

Each chapter has Eckhart in conversation with some names you know and many you don't know. He expands on the idea of "Cosmic Christ" which sounds like a Christian-centered name for the universal source of all human experience. Is there a "Cosmic Buddha" for instance?

I was interested to see the names of Marcus Borg and Dominic Crossan, both of whom we have met and heard and read over the past 30 years. I also went back through reading notes from past Fox books. I also have notes from a series I led on Matthew Fox almost 40 years ago. So much of what was front edge then is appearing more widely today. The pages I read posted by *Progressive Christianity* often echo Matthew Fox's *"Creation Spirituality."* I thought there might be some on my list that could be interested in this book. It's not often that someone from the past speaks so meaningful for the future as he does for right now.

*Art Morgan, September 15, 2019*

\**Meister Eckhart – A Mystic Warrior for our Time*, by Matthew Fox, 2014