



Tantric Quest: An Encounter with Absolute Love

Daniel Odier

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The author reveals his passionate experiences with a female Tantric master who taught him the suppressed practices of her ancient order.

In 1968 Daniel Odier left Europe for the Himalayas, searching for a master who could help him go where texts and intellectual searching could no longer take him. He wanted everything: the wisdom and spirituality gained from the life of an ascetic and the beauty, love, and sensuality of a life of passion. He found both in Shivaic Tantrism, the secret spiritual path that seeks to transcend ego and rediscover the divine by embracing the passions. In an isolated Himalayan forest Odier met Devi, a great yogini who would take him on a mystical journey like none he had ever imagined. At times taking him beyond the limits of sexual experience, at times threatening him with destruction, she taught him what it is to truly be alive and to know the divine nature of absolute love.

This is the personal memoir of one of France's most honored writers.

Tantrism is the only ancient philosophy to survive all historical upheavals, invasions, and influences to reach us intact by uninterrupted transmission from master to disciple, and the only one to retain the image of the Great Goddess as the ultimate source of power.

Tantric Quest: An Encounter with Absolute Love Details

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From Reader Review Tantric Quest: An Encounter with Absolute Love for online ebook

Georgina Kemm says

A beautiful book filled with honesty and vulnerability. I appreciated getting a glimpse of a man's journey into his sexuality and his deep heart.

Bruce says

Realized Curvatures.

Tristy says

Definitely more narrative and actual authentic, personal experience than you see in most books about Eastern mysticism, but still very full of the dense intellectualism that feels like a shield to me. Why aren't there more stories of the dirty, messy part of spiritual practice? Why is it always platitude after platitude? Everyone's spiritual journey is messy, yet rarely is that truth shared "after the enlightenment". I find this ESPECIALLY true with books about Eastern mysticism - perhaps because the "goal" is to "transcend ego". But there is no juice in a book full of spiritual doctrine with no personal connection. Can we not have both? And as I said, this book has more personal expression than I've seen in this genre, so I really appreciate that. Also, reading about a female guru was fascinating and I love learning more about the feminine aspect of Shivaic Tantrism. This book was lent to me by a wonderfully smart friend and I look forward to talking more about it with her!

Andrew says

This one needs some stylistic help. What is Odier trying to do here? Does he want to tell a story? Or does he want to present the teachings of his guru? By doing both, he does each poorly.

Travis Cottreau says

I've dabbled in meditation over the years and my wife is a meditation instructor. This was one of her required readings and I'd meant to read it for the sex parts mostly. It ended up being much more than I ever expected. The novelization of Tantra tends to cater to the lowest common denominator and this was certainly not that.

This book is brilliant. While there is a lot of exposition, where the meditation teacher is telling the student exactly what is expected, there are probably 10 or 12 lines (or more) that really punch you in the gut in a good way. The entire story is somewhat romantic (in a romantic adventure sort of way), with a Westerner, Odier, wandering in India looking for gurus to teach him new things. He sort of stumbles upon this Tantrica in the forest and wants desperately to learn from her.

Her lessons are meaningful, even for me sitting on a bus decades after the events, reading about it. Somehow, it isn't lost in translation. And meditation is an experiential thing and not just an intellectual thing. Somehow, Odier, manages to keep many lessons intact through this medium, which is no mean feat.

A great book for aspiring and even experienced meditators. I love this book and will probably read it again. There is so much in it, and I'm sure I've missed some things. Considering how impactful the items I caught were, there are probably more gems that slipped by me the first time.

Ben Tipper says

Pretty interesting. Helped me reconcile (how is that not a word) some of the struggles of living a spiritual life and how it relates to other stuff; mainly sex. I would probably recommend this one. It would be quite cool to meet a Devi.

Lance Greenfield says

Through the telling of the story of his own personal journey into tantra, Daniel Odier explains the depths and profound beauties of all of the relationships and energies involved, and yet, he manages to keep it simple.

This is an amazing book. It is short enough to read in one sitting, which I recommend, and it took me just over two hours to get through.

Almost by chance, Daniel encounters Devi, a female tantric master, in a remote Himalayan woodland. She takes him through a detailed exploration of his own spirituality using a series of very challenging, and sometimes dangerous, tasks and trials.

Shaivism is broken down into 36 tattvas. The first five are earth, water, air, ether and fire. Devi guides Daniel through making contact with every single one of the thirty-six along a very tough path.

Before it all starts, we witness the following conversation.

"What should I call you?"

"Sometimes I am called Kali, the destroyer, sometimes I am called Lalita, the playful one, sometimes I am called Kubjika, the potter, but I am always called Devi, the goddess. So call me Devi."

This is a sign of what is to come. As I said, it is a tough path to travel.

The sexual initiation is as intense, if not more so, than the rest of the path.

You can almost feel the depth and intensity of it all as you read.

Read this and feel the power.

Additional note - an after-thought

If my review inspires you to want to read this book, don't just add it to your to-read stack and leave it festering there. As I recall, it took me just over two hours to read, and it is mind-blowing.

I actually read it AFTER I had already had some tantric encounters with a Ukrainian shaman, not even realising that the word "tantric" came into it. She described what was happening using different terminology. What I went through with her was a mini journey, which was nothing when compared to Daniel Odier's journey as he describes it in this book. Nevertheless, my journey was life-changing.

I'd also had an experience with a shaman near the Rio Napo in the Ecuadorian (Amazon) jungle. That was different, but still amazing. Almost unbelievable, actually.

Giulia Cimarosti says

Very interesting book about the author's experience with his initiation to Tantrism.

I can understand why this practice is so misunderstood - it could not be accepted in a chauvinist society such as the one we live in.

Short, easy book but full of deep and intense content. Recommended!

Jaybird says

This is one of my absolute favorite books on the subject of Tantra. It tells the story of the author's journey to find a guru in India, and what he learned from her. In reading his story, we learn about the spiritual system of Kashmiri Shivaic Tantra.

Luis says

“El gran yoga es beber, comer, tocar, ver, caminar, dormir, orinar, defecar, escuchar, quedarse callado, hablar, soñar, amar... recorrer ciudades y paisajes, miradas y sonidos, belleza y fealdad, sin separarse nunca de lo divino que está en uno. Ningún yoga es superior a aquel que no teme sumergirse en la realidad.”

Meredith Apple says

I was more the story of his experience with Tantra than any scripture studies. However, it did give a personal experience to Tantra and made me curious to read more.

Neel S says

Great story demonstrating discipline in art and the rewards when followed.

John says

I battled with this book a lot, because a lot of it really spoke to me and a lot of it I really questioned. It is the author's story of how he became a practitioner of tantra. There is a lot of tantra that I really like: its rejection of dualism and embracing of the divine in everyone and its openness to joy. The interest in finding oneself is certainly in this book, and that did resonate. The assumption that this journey would turn out well to me seems facile, and I struggled with reading it because of this and the sense of smug evolved superiority that I occasionally took from the writing. I'm still working out how much of that was me gazing in the mirror and how much was actually in the book.

Notwithstanding my cautions, this is a good book for considering tantrism as a philosophy, and not the shag carpet sensationalistic take on "tantra" that pop culture would foist on us.

Gabriela Jung says

A book that is written with heart and can't be read without it.

Monika Müller says

This book is an authentic description of the encounter of an East-Indian yogini a French Swiss had years ago. I love this book of Daniel Odier most of all his books, because it is not brought with an intellectualism, what comes up in his later written books about Tantra.
