

[Read] ⇒ Autism and the God Connection Author William Stillman – Soccerjerseys-wholesale.co

Posted on 12 March 2018 By William Stillman

Everyone Who Seeks A Compassionate And Wise Life Will Benefit From This Wonderful, Insightful, And Beautiful Book Gary Zukav, Author Of The Seat Of The Soul One In US Children Have An Autism Spectrum Disorder, And With Countless Parenting Books Helping Families Care For Children With Special Needs, Autism And The God Connection Is The Crucial, Spiritual Look At Understanding A Child With Autism Helping Parents Realize Their Child S Unique Spirit And Reaffirm That Every One Of Us Is A Blessing, This Is An Inspirational Resource To Discovering The Intellect, Beauty, And Complexities Of Children With Autism Through Countless Interviews, William Stillman Documents Extraordinary Examples Of Spiritual Giftedness, And Boldly Challenges Our Traditionally Held Beliefs About People With Disabilities Readers Will Discover Hope, Comfort, Inspiration, And Love Through These Affirming Anecdotes Of Ordinary Families I had really high hopes for this book I was extremely disappointed It is really, really lame. I liked Autism and the God Connection Reading the experiences the author wrote about I feel like my eyes were opened to the real possibility that special needs children do have a God connection In my quest to learn what I can about children on the autism spectrum, I believe this is a good book to read Here is a quote from a 15 year old autistic God gives us the choice of what we want to experience These choices direct our lives My choice was to lead people home to their source It requires my keeping my own connection and that requires a broken body It is the beauty of it a whole soul is

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a broken body a broken soul is a complete body To find divinity in a whole body is a very difficult thing Suffering is God s way of freeing the soul. Though it may sound intriguing, this book simply makes wild spiritual claims about people with autism Not helpful for helping people with autism, or advocating for their rights. The author takes a very dualistic stand, claiming that our physical bodies are shells for our immortal spirits, which is neither a Christian belief nor helpful to people with disabilities at all I m surprised how stark his body spirit dualism was given that he claims to want to help people with differences or disabilities Once it becomes clear that the God referenced in the title is not explicitly the Christian God, it s a bit easier to understand Stillman s spiritual amalgamation still, I think that should have been stated a bit clearly at the beginning Of course, Stillman does reveal his ignorance of Christian history by describing a blond haired, blue eyed boy as resembling Jesus SMH. Some of his wording is quite awkward and his direct addresses to the reader are distracting I m not sure how this book is considered groundbreaking when all it is is a collection of others experiences and some of them a stretch to be called spiritual beyond what a nonautistic person might experience as spiritual anyway It seems like what Stillman did was find autistic people who also happened to have had similar experiences, some of which might be able to be written off as coincidences and then said there was a connection between the two But correlation is sometimes just that two unrelated things that occur at the same time this book is no evidence for a special spirituality of autistic people than the individual experiences are. I do not deny the experiences detailed in this book, of course and can even relate to many of them I just think it s less groundbreaking as it is sloppy generalizing to draw a stronger connection between autism and spirituality than neurotypical experiences and spirituality And I very much dislike Stillman s idea that the physical body is a home for the soul until the soul is done using it he actually says that in the book it has devastating consequences for those with physical disabilities and for the physical world in general If the physical body is just a shell that the soul will slough off after death, why bother taking care of the planet Why bother putting forth the extra effort physical disability demands if it is only the soul that is valuable and it is just using the body until it decides it s done

Set

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A Prisoner of Birth

This author is not shy about mixing New Age spirituality in with his advocacy for open minded assessment and compassionate treatment of children with autism or Asperger s Syndrome God is referred to in the title but neither Christian fundamentalists nor traditional academic behaviourists will recognize established cultural God bearings in Stillman s accounts and propositions Religionist will complain about the work s lack of any doctrinal basis and academics will decry its lack of sound scientific basis No doubt it is a fact that in the 21st century the ultimate truth about God, soul and spirituality is in the process of being liberated from the shackles of religion and Stillman is one of many at the forefront of that process Many would privately agree that science can provide few answers about the paranormal and extrasensory. The book has a profusion of personal anecdotes sourced from Stillman s clients and their parents and caregivers Stillman, who has Asperger s himself, makes the book also quite self biographical relating his own experiences and beliefs I found many sections of the book worthwhile and even fascinating I did not like its scattergun methodology There is little flow or logical order to its composition The chapters could be read in reverse order without altering the reader s participation in the author s quite valid and genuine arguments. A wide spectrum of extrasensory and paranormal phenomena, theories and beliefs are presented in the book clairvoyance, clairaudience, otherworldly experiences, reincarnation, visitations by spooks, the presence of ethereal guides and angels etc The giftedness and generosity of the mentally and behaviourally challenged are concepts strongly presented These individuals may lack some normal human abilities but are endowed with special divine abilities and characteristics They have a lot to teach normals I know that most parents of a Down Syndrome child would readily agree with that. Michael, a fifteen year old autistic provided these profound insights All the physical is but an illusion created by the soul yet it controls the soul for its duration on earth Suffering is God s way of freeing the soul It is why the greatest goodness is seen there Goodness always shows itself among suffering, yet we focus on the bad aspects of it and ignore the beauty of it Rare is the time when the beauty rises above it Nine eleven September 11, 2001 was such a time p 217 When I read on page 11 about the child with

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Asperger's Syndrome asking God to forgive Osama bin Laden on the night of September 11, 2001, William Stillman had me

The subtitle is informative, as the book is a collection of anecdotes on the spiritual gifts of people with autism. The purpose of sharing these anecdotes is to encourage the people in the life of a person with autism to presume intellect, to presume spirit, in the same way they presume intellect for someone with cerebral palsy or epilepsy. Some of the recently developed technologies for helping people with autism to communicate: touch keyboards, Facilitated Communication, etc. make the idea of presuming intellect much plausible than it used to be. This is not a science book, as there is no scientific explanation offered for the surge in autism spectrum diagnoses, and no scientific explanation offered for any connection between autism and spiritual gifts. The works of psychics such as Sylvia Browne and John Edwards are used to explain these phenomena, as well as the books of writers on the cusp of science and spirituality like Raymond Moody and Dean Hamer. If you're not into these kinds of writings, you may not like this book. But in the middle of all my harumphing, Stillman had me again on page 167, with the story of Elena, a girl with low functioning autism, who opens the hearts of people with her actions. Michael, a young man with autism, puts the exclamation point at the end of the book when he writes, "Suffering is God's way of freeing the soul." I grasp that this book has been a great comfort to individuals with autism, and to the families and caregivers of people with autism. The reason I don't give this book five stars is because Stillman references a number of different spiritual traditions: New Age, Christian, Hindu, and doesn't see any differences or inconsistencies between them. I am sadly disappointed by this read. The title in itself makes one believe that the book might be about God's relationship with our ASD children, perhaps even insight about how we can advocate for autistic children in a godly way. However, I couldn't determine whose god the author is trying to describe. The summary seems to be that autistic children have a deeper connection to the spiritual world and that a god has sent them here to teach us. I don't necessarily disagree, however, there are no biblical truths presented, no scripture to hold up to and validate the author's themes. In fact, there are so many mystical, supernatural references that I

questioned which god connection the author might be referring to. It seemed odd and misleading that in a book claiming autistic children have a deep connection with godYahweh He is God there is no other besides Him duet 4 35 has no voice. There are so many anecdotes wonderful stories about wonderful children, yes but the author clearly states that most of the names places are pseudonyms and I had a hard time connecting with these mini fragments. The writing itself seemed cluttered and disorganized. I appreciate the passion the author had in collecting his wealth of references, but he left out the most important reference the Bible when referencing God. ASD children have a valuable identity in Christ, however the author did not make this point. This is a book that every family should read, whether you have a child diagnosed with autism or not because at the rate of diagnosis, we will ALL be involved with autism eventually in some way. Let's get comfortable with it right now. And that is the goal of this book, I believe, to get everyone at a comfort level with these incredible children. Here is the message I get from this author over and over from his various books on autism: this is NOT a condition that calls for a cure, this is an opportunity that allows us to become better, spiritual people BECAUSE we are blessed enough to have an autistic in our midst, whoever that may be your child, your neighbor, your student, your niece, nephew, cousin, grandchild, WHOMEVER. Count your blessings, and then get a calculator, cause you'll need one the blessing count gets that high. Meh. As someone who has made more than a casual study of autism and related disorders, and also someone who has more than a passing interest in religion and spirituality, I thought I would find this interesting than I did. If you are very scientifically minded, this will probably bug you a lot. It relies almost exclusively on anecdotal evidence, though none of it specifically contradicts science, and some reliable studies and research is quoted and referenced. Look, receiving an autism diagnosis is hard. For many families, it changes their entire future, and not in a positive way. If there is something that can help people cope with that prognosis, I'm all for it. And this book, this God Connection concept, could help somebody. It could probably help a lot of somebodies. Because it makes no attempts at pseudo science, it isn't passing misinformation around, and can't really do any harm. Bottom line. If you think

this could help someone you know, it probably will. If you don't think it's helpful or something you'd enjoy, then you're probably right.

