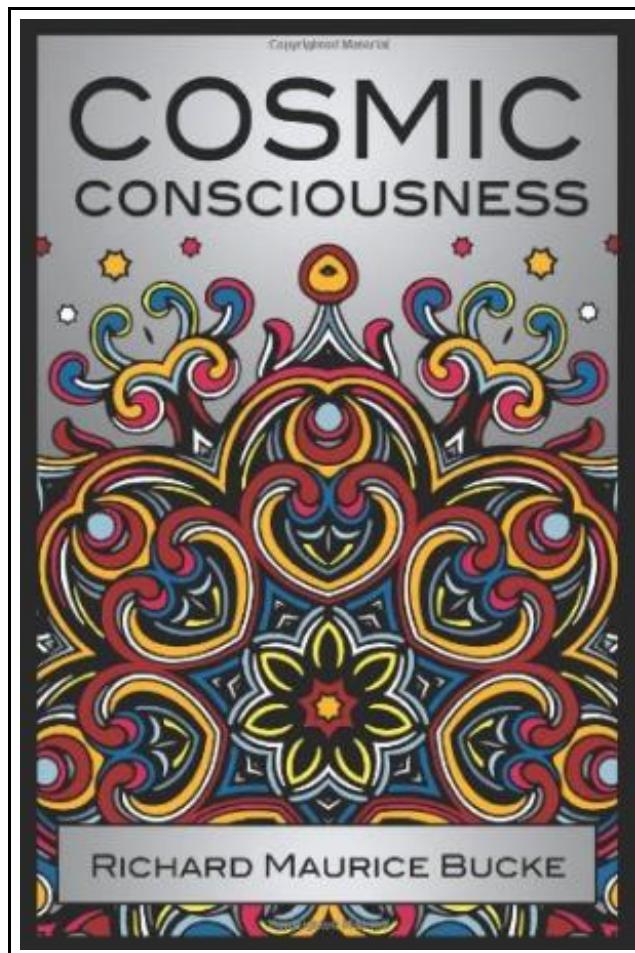


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White Crow Books, United Kingdom, 2011. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 224 x 152 mm. Language: English
Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Cosmic Consciousness: A Study in the Evolution of the Human Mind is Richard Bucke's theory that our mental states are evolving and that to date we have experienced three stages in the development of consciousness: the simple consciousness of animals, the self-consciousness of the vast majority of humans (reason, self awareness, imagination, etc.), and in some cases cosmic consciousness ; a mystical state of being beyond self consciousness and the next stage of human development. Bucke hypothesized that cosmic consciousness is slowly beginning to appear in humans and will eventually spread widely throughout the human race. He posited that certain notable individuals throughout history have demonstrated that they have attained cosmic consciousness . In the book he cites examples such as Jesus, Buddha, Mohammed, Dante, St Paul, Francis Bacon, William Blake, and his close friend Walt Whitman. Whitman, an American poet and journalist described cosmic consciousness as ineffable light, light rare, untellable, light beyond all signs, descriptions and languages. At the age of thirty-five Bucke found himself in this elevated mental state and he describes (in the third person) the manifestations leading up to it; 1. The person, suddenly, without warning, has a sense of being immersed in a flame, or rose-colored cloud, or perhaps rather a sense that the mind is itself filled with such a cloud of haze. 2. At the same instant he is, as it were, bathed in an emotion of joy, assurance, triumph, salvation. 3. Simultaneously or instantly following the above sense and emotional experiences there comes to the person an intellectual illumination quite impossible to describe. Like a flash there is presented to his consciousness a clear conception (a vision)...

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