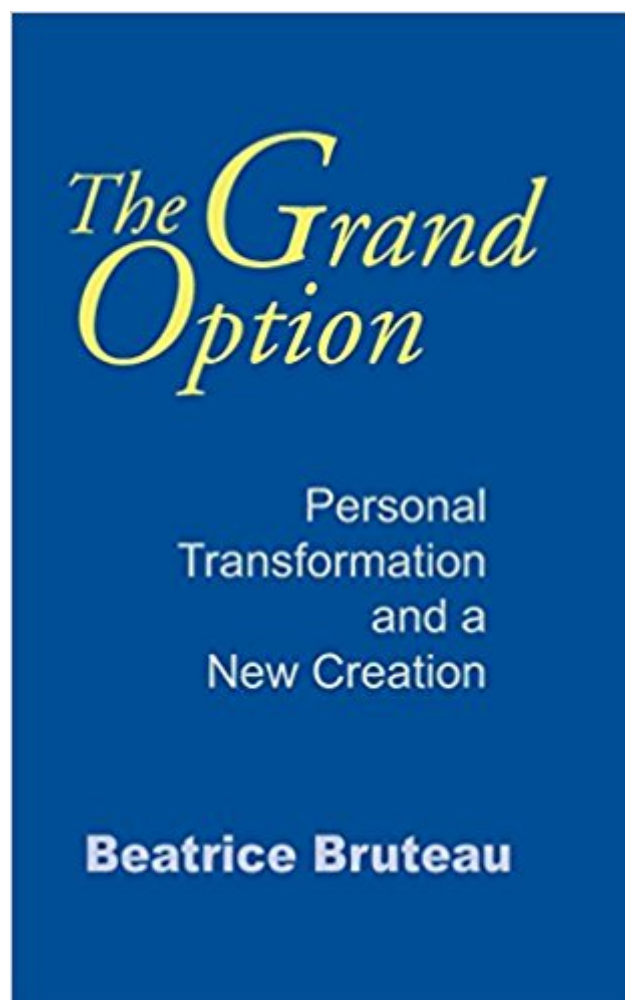




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The Grand Option: Personal Transformation And A New Creation (Gethsemani Studies In Psychological And Religious Anthropology)





Synopsis

Building on the foundations of Teilhard de Chardin, this dynamic work elegantly explores the ongoing challenges of the next leap in human development. “I know of scarcely anybody,” Bede Griffiths has said, “who goes to the heart of reality as profoundly as Beatrice Bruteau does.” Here Bruteau develops a Trinitarian anthropology with the potential for healing our conflict-ridden planet by transforming us from riven and conflicting individuals, into open, sharing persons of the New Creation. In transcendent freedom, a profound communion consciousness gives birth to global, wholistic community. Bruteau’s integral vision is as compelling as it is concrete. In this work of philosophical, theological, and psychological anthropology, she presents a cogent spiritual praxis that possesses the power to initiate a psychic revolution. “A new way of seeing,” Teilhard has exclaimed, “combined with a new way of acting—that is what we need.” This is precisely what Beatrice Bruteau offers in *The Grand Option*.

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Customer Reviews

“Every now and then there arises a prophet in our midst marked by a voice that is distinctly new and totally different than the familiar. The Jesuit scientist Pierre Teilhard de Chardin was one such voice and Beatrice Bruteau, a disciple of Teilhard, is another. In this collection of essays written over a period of twenty years, Bruteau offers us a luminous vision of a new social order in an

evolutionary world. This is a profound book, written by a scholar of wisdom. It is a book that can appeal to a wide variety of people—academics and nonacademics alike—because of its depth and breadth. [A]ll those who read *The Grand Option* will not only be lured by Bruteau's vision and insight but will return time and again to this book, for it is itself an evolution in thought.

—*Spiritual Life*

“A book as luminous as it is deep, *The Grand Option* presents us with a global spirituality for the future. Reading it, one cannot help but be seized by the wish that every person on the planet would take Dr. Bruteau's profound vision to heart.”

—Sue Monk Kidd, author of *The Dance of the Dissident Daughter* and *When the Heart Waits*

“Written with great lucidity and ease, this book brings together a rich harvest of intellectual reflection, lived experience, and contemplative insights gathered over many years. It is a book of great vision and inspiration, inviting us to enter into deep engagement with the "grand option" of creating a future linked to a new image of humanity animated through and through by the living spirit of love, both human and divine. A great contribution to contemporary thinking in religious anthropology.”

—Ursula M. King, Director, Centre for Comparative Studies in Religion and Gender, University of Bristol

“Building on the work of Teilhard de Chardin, *The Grand Option* masterfully provides the pathway to a new social order based on universal inclusiveness and the unique value of each individual. A modern classic of practical spirituality for the twenty-first century.”

—Rabbi Lewis D. Solomon, Washington, D.C.

Beatrice Bruteau (1930–2014) was a pioneer in the integrated study of science, spirituality, philosophy, and religion. She was the founder of Schola Contemplationis and the Fellowship of the Holy Trinity, and an author of numerous books, including *Radical Optimism*, *What We Can Learn from the East*, *The Easter Mysteries*, and *God's Ecstasy*.

A brilliant book. I tend to underline my books for future reference. This book is well marked. Challenging and insightful this book stimulated my thinking, stirred my heart, and expanded my faith. I am a philosophy, English, theology type and found this book satisfying from all perspectives. Will be looking for more from this author. Warning. Not a light read!

Book came as advertised and on time as specified.

have not finished the book yet.

Beatrice Bruteau tells us about a possible new social order based on the change from the current domination paradigm to a future communion paradigm. In the domination paradigm, individuals are more like objects identified by a number of attributes with which they tend to identify themselves and which make them different from other individuals. In the communion paradigm, persons are made in the image of the Trinity. They are indescribable subjects, who continuously give and share their life with others and live by the life of the whole. As far as I am concerned, I think that the most enlightening idea she puts forward in order to help us understand this fundamental change is the shift from the particle metaphor to the field metaphor. In the domination paradigm, she compares individuals to particles that tend to live an autonomous type of life, where they fight or ignore one another, or sometimes associate, but always remain external to each other. In the communion paradigm, she compares persons to fields, in the sense of interacting patterns of energy. This image makes it easier to understand the mutual indwelling of persons, which she claims to be the basis of the new communion paradigm. When you add to this, the fact that she identifies this radiated energy with pure unmotivated creative love, you have a lot to meditate in order to tune your own mind to this radically new way of thinking ourselves and our world.

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