

# The Naked Mystic

James RQ Clark

Metanoia Press

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# Dedication

For Jesus the Lion, the Amen who knows and tells the truth.

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*Who told you that you were naked?  
(Genesis 3:11)*

# Prologue

I have believed  
and people said  
that I was a fool.

Now, somehow,  
I know and find  
that they were right.

# Part 1: Assembly

*And as he sat at dinner in Levi's house, many tax-collectors and sinners were also sitting with Jesus and his disciples—for there were many who followed him. When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax-collectors, they said to his disciples, 'Why does he eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' When Jesus heard this, he said to them, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.'*

*Mark 2:15-17*

*When did you become a Christian?* he asked.

*In my early twenties,* I said. *That Night.*

It was a little like remembering a first kiss, except for the fact that it isn't really like that at all. Any analogy fades into insignificance here. It's trying to catch dragons with a butterfly net.

He was smiling.

*Actually, that's not quite right,* I corrected myself.

*Oh?* he asked.

*It happened later. After That Night,* I said.

My mind drifted back.

*When I joined a church.*

He nodded before asking, *And how long did it take before you realised that becoming anything was not going to help?*

I didn't have a ready-made answer to that one.

*A long time,* I said, after a long pause.

*Too long.*

# Acknowledgements

It seems to be standard practice among writers to acknowledge that there are too many people to acknowledge in a few hundred words. I'd like to add my name to that list and say that I think it's true. It's impossible to remember all those who, in some way, contributed to the story contained in these pages.

My thanks to all of them.

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# About James R.Q. Clark

James RQ Clark is a former teacher and Anglican priest.

Born of a French-Mauritian mother and an English father who spent his working life roaming through Africa, the Middle and Far-East, James attended a Catholic Boarding school in the UK.

After a life-changing encounter with God in the early '80s and a stint in a British Charismatic Evangelical House Church, he reconnected with his Catholic roots and studied for his Theology degree at a Catholic college of the University of Surrey.

A journey through teaching and school chaplaincy led to his ordination in the Anglican Church of New Zealand in 2012.

These days he is settled in an old house, in an old town in Dorset, South-West England.

He walks his dogs, swims in the rivers, thinks, writes, and occasionally sees people for transpersonal counselling and spiritual direction ([www.jamesrqclark.com](http://www.jamesrqclark.com)).

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