

Ascetic Culture: Renunciation and Worldly Engagement (International Studies in Sociology and Social Anthropology)



The collection of papers in *Ascetic Culture: Renunciation and Worldly Engagement* was entirely conceived and developed by K. Ishwaran, who died in June 1998. The original concept was to focus on Tradition and Innovation in Monastic Life in South Asia, a topic which combined two of Ishwaran's major interests: comparative studies of the monastic systems of South Asia, and criticism of Western anthropological and sociological assumptions of tradition and modernity being antithetical, especially with regard to traditional religions. Ishwaran saw this collection of papers as reinforcing the demise of universalistic projects, all encompassing grand master narratives and similar globally integrative, theoretical or empirical enterprises in social discourse flowing from the post-structural and post-modernist revolutions in the social sciences. Later he conceived of broadening this topic to be more liberally comparative, to include major religious traditions around the world. The new title was to be *Tradition and Modernity in Monastic orders in Contemporary Societies*. Finally, he broadened the theme to the present title of his collection. Taken together, the articles appearing in this book strongly support Ishwaran's theses. First, is the obvious point that eremitism and asceticism are far more complex than commonly understood in the scholarly world. If ever a general understanding of these interrelated phenomena is developed, careful examination not only how they are found in these cultures and traditions but also study of their particular manifestations in individual movements, places, cultures, social groups etc. must take place. The second thesis is clearly established by the range of these papers: ascetic traditions are not only inimical to modernity, they may be found at the heart of certain contemporary social and cultural developments. K. Ishwaran has rendered

the study of religion in particular and the social sciences in general an important service with this anthology. Contributors are John E. Cort, Alan Davies, Balkrishna G. Gokhale, Daniel Gold, Shaman Hatley, Sohail Inayatullah, Klaus K. Klostermaier, David Miller, S.A. Nigolian, Jordan Paper, and Earle H. Waugh.

Green Artists League GALvanizing Eco-Responsibility Subscribe via RSS HOME ABOUT ALCHEMICAL GARDEN ECOVENTIONS Help Cultivate The Alchemical Garden: An Edible Garden and Art Park at Newburyport's Rail Trail Posted by erin on April 25, 2011 3 comments The Alchemical Garden site February 2010 GAL is turning a desolate field of weeds into a visually compelling garden that will educate and engage the community for years to come. Located on a 160 x 25 site near the south entrance of Newburyports Clipper City Rail Trail, the Alchemical Garden is a richly layered evolving art and horticulture experience that is accessible on many different levels to the public. Alchemical Garden Plot plan Alchemical Garden is designed to become a model for a sustainable, interactive public garden through the use of symbiotic, low maintenance plantings and recycled materials. The ancient discipline of Alchemy marries art and science and is famously known for transforming a common material into gold. The Alchemical Garden will lead the community to transform on a number of levels : Alchemical Garden with Spring Wheat "Crop Circles" June, 2011 BUILD COMMUNITY: The Garden creates a gathering space for individuals to form a more intimate relationship with their community. The space is designed with visual features and seating areas to compel passers-by to pause, reflect, and have a multi-sensory interactive experience (sight, smell, touch, taste, smell) with the garden and the community. Read the rest of this entry Categories: Alchemical Garden, Articulture, Current Events, Projects. Tags: alchemy, art, bike, crucible, ecology, garden, green art, hedge, hyper-accumulating, industry, living structure, Newburyport, permaculture, rail, sculpture, soil remediation, trail, tree guilds.

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