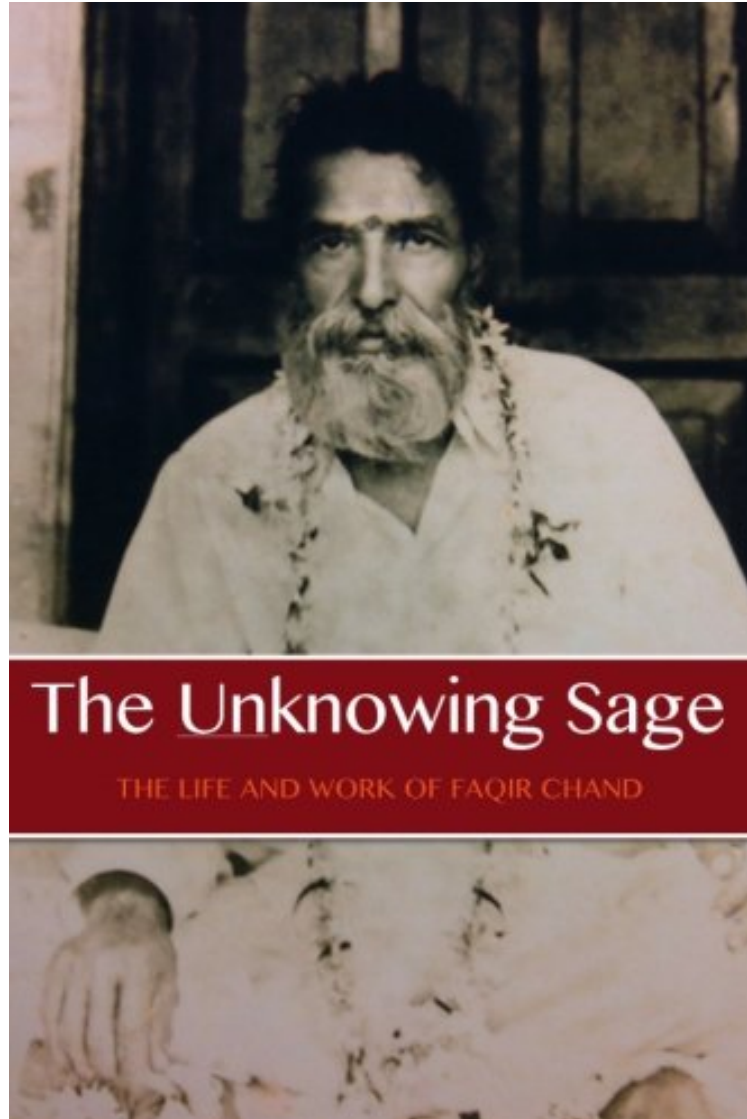


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## The Unknowing Sage: The Life and Work of Faqir Chand

*David Christopher Lane*

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**David Christopher Lane : The Unknowing Sage: The Life and Work of Faqir Chand** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Unknowing Sage: The Life and Work of Faqir Chand:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy hysonGood10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Hindu Socrates?By Ashtar CommandThe Unknowing Sage is an interesting little book about Faqir Chand, a

Hindu guru within the Radhasoami tradition. The book contains interviews conducted with Faqir by David Christopher Lane, a former devotee of this particular tradition, and Mark Juergensmeyer, a scholar of comparative religion. Apparently, many Hindu gurus (including Radhasoami ditto) claim to have the miraculous power of appearing to their devotees in response to prayer, while physically remaining in another location. Faqir has also appeared in this fashion to people who worshipped him. In contrast to most other gurus, however, Faqir claims that these apparitions are all illusory. They are projections of the devotee's own mind, the result of the devotee's own faith and love in the Divine. Faqir also points out that many holy men died terrible deaths, or had family problems and other foibles while living. They were influenced by the law of karma, just as everyone else. Faqir himself doesn't claim to have absolute power to work miracles, regards his disciples as his gurus, and talks openly about his spiritual failings as a young man and seeker. He apparently rejects the central tenet of the Radhasoami tradition (the mystical visions of the divine Light and Sound), claiming that the really important thing is the Self which experiences these phenomena. The Self, in turn, is just a small bubble of consciousness, which is infinite and hence impossible to know in its entirety. Since nobody, not even religious leaders and teachers, can know the whole Truth, the best path is to admit unknowingness, stay humble and accept whatever karmic consequences comes one's way. Faqir doesn't even claim to know what will happen to him after his physical death. However, he concedes that most people can't meditate on the formless, and therefore should choose a divine form and worship it as a technique to eventually reach the unfathomable. Mark Juergensmeyer compares Faqir Chand's message to Mahayana Buddhism and to the Tibetan Book of the Dead. By contrast, Lane has a tendency to put a sceptic-agnostic spin on the old man's message. Personally, I suspect that Faqir's message is really perfectly compatible with certain strands within Hinduism. Advaita? Even his radical critique of cheating, corrupted gurus strikes me as less revolutionary than it might seem at first glance. His \*real\* message is one of fatalistic quietism and humbleness, not militant anti-guru activism. I think Socrates was more annoying! That being said, *The Unknowing Sage* is an interesting study and I therefore give it five stars. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. **THE HUMBLEST MASTER I HAVE EVER READ ABOUT** By truestara Good story if not that well written and a lot of typos so the editing could have been better. But the **STORY** is why I bought this book and the Master that abstained from taking **PERSONAL CREDIT** is a thing I truly admire. In a world of 'Masters' declaring **THEY** are the **ONLY** way, that we cannot have enlightenment without them, they **THEY** hook us up to the Light and sound--and they **ALONE**---This Masters disclaimers was **IS STILL** a breath of fresh air. Worth the poorly written stuff to get to read about him. would highly recommend this book to anyone facing a Master who fosters reliance and says **HE** gets you to the Light and Sound. It isn't the Master0--IT is the spirit that your **LOVE** fosters for him that gets you there. **HUGE** difference! He denied any and all incidents of people being saved, him appearing to them with guidance or life saving feats--saying it was **SPIRIT** taking his **FORM** and how **IT** works with us--**BECAUSE WE TRUST AND LOVE HIM AS A MASTER**. Amazing to read! **YAY!** Wish he was still around! Wish **MY** Master **STILL** felt this way--he used to in the 1980's but now thinks it is all **HIM** personally. Too bad.aloha

Faqir Chand (1886-1981) was a remarkable Indian sage who spent over seventy-five years practicing an ancient meditation technique, popularly known today as surat shabd yoga, which attempts to induce a consciously controlled near-death experience. This book contains Faqir Chand's unique autobiography which was dictated shortly before his death in Urdu and translated during his lifetime into English at the personal request of Professor David Christopher Lane. It also includes a seasoned selection of Faqir Chand's radical teachings as well as several introductory essays and pertinent interviews.