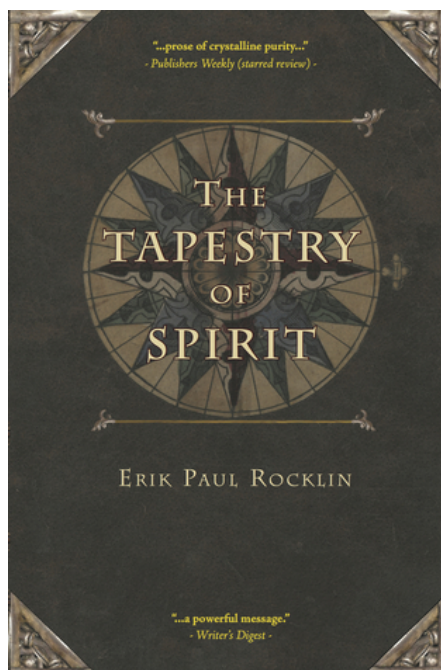




The Tapestry of Spirit

Erik Paul Rocklin

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“Your Destiny is not what you are to be, your Destiny is what you are, for your heart beats only in this moment.” - from The Tapestry of Spirit.

An enchanting, allegorical tale with insights of enduring relevance, The Tapestry of Spirit presents an artfully layered story of an orphan boy following a dream - a dream of a meeting in the East with a mystical figure known as the Mage. A seemingly coincidental encounter the day after the dream introduces the boy to an old man, summoned by the power of the boy's dream, to serve as his guide and protector during the journey. Along the way, some of the boy's encounters include a wise, elderly Sage, a blind Seer, a captive boy Monk, a grieving Mother, and a dying Father. And through these encounters, the boy learns of the power of dreams, the value of trust and belief, the vision of the heart, and the capacity of every individual to help in the healing of the World. As the boy journeys to seek the Mage, he comes to understand that in doing so, he also seeks his Destiny Thread, and ultimately, how it returns to the universal wisdom that is the Tapestry of Spirit.

The Tapestry of Spirit Details

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From Reader Review The Tapestry of Spirit for online ebook

Sheri Fresonke Harper says

A young man goes on a journey of discovery of his dreams and what they mean to him. Along the way he meets a wide cast of characters that influence his understanding of how a person fits within the Tapestry of Spirit. Good for young adults and older.

Eliza B says

I really enjoyed this book and its message. If all people held such convictions and values in their hearts, the world would be so much better!

Deborah Lloyd says

This book was gifted to me, and what a gift it was! A truly good allegorical story is one that you return to – over and over again – to discover the rich meanings in each event, person and thing. This universal story speaks to every person who sees their life as a journey, a journey of growth and eventual compassionate knowingness and peace. I cannot wait to read this gem of a book again (and again) to find even more treasures.

Karen B says

This reminded me of one of my favorite books The Celestine Prophecy. Unfortunately, it wasn't near as good. Still it was an okay read.

Roxanne S says

If you enjoy reads that stir your humanity, inspire hope and kindness toward others, and reflect the search for meaning and purpose in one's life, this won't disappoint.

I liked the feel of the writing. It had subtle nuances to it that made it feel like it was written a few centuries ago. It actually helped to creatively deliver the messages, the story, and the tone overall. I found the story to be pleasantly universal without being generic.

The pace of the book was just right for me. Fast enough for the surface story to stand on its own, but measured enough to allow my intellect to reflect along the way. This allowed me to read the story and think about its underlying meaning and messages at the same time.

I found myself wanting to read it several times. It is written such that the full meaning of things comes gradually, as the pieces of the story unfold. With each reading, I better understood the metaphors and symbols of the underlying story, giving me another level of appreciation for the writing.

Lisa Godina says

An orphaned boy has dreams. He dreams of meeting a Mage. He travels to the Marketplace and meets with a man called Elder. Elder agrees to travel with him as a guide to meet the Mage. Sounds simple enough but nothing is ever simple. This book invites you along with the journey but beware you may find yourself swept up in the currents of this book. If you're not careful you may find your own Destiny Thread.

Deborah says

I liked it but I just couldn't get into it? For a book this short it took me a long time to read it.

Valentina says

This is an allegorical story that is perfect for all lovers of authors like Paulo Coelho. It is a lovely tale of a boy on his way to finding who he really is and what really matters in life.

I am not particularly a huge fan of allegorical tales, but I do have to say this one was one that did leave me thinking, which is exactly the point. The plot is a clever, winding thing that really takes off at once, sending us on a journey with the protagonist, the boy. He is an interesting character, someone who could be pretty much anyone (which is the point) and who struggles with his head as he travels with his guide, the Elder, to the East where he's been promised he can meet the Mage. The conversations between the Elder and the boy are the crucial moments in this story. Each of them demands the reader's attention. They make us think and question our own lives.

There is a smoothness to the writing that makes the pages flow in a calming manner. The author keeps the pace even, almost setting a rhythm to the words that actually aids his story. The ending is a tad abrupt, but since it seems there'll be a follow-up story, this is fine.

If you enjoy Coelho's book, particularly *The Alchemist*, then this one is one for you.

Lisa says

Jp Layberry says

The Tapestry of Spirit, by Erik Paul Rocklin, is a profoundly thoughtful and dreamlike story that uses parables, within parables, to bring into focus a zen-like oneness with nature, the universe, and every creature who inhabits it – known, in the story, as “the Tapestry of Spirit.”

A young boy who's living in a world where mystics are “... branded as blasphemous heretics ...” has a prophetic dream, and follows it on a life-changing journey with a wise elder as his guide. He searches for wisdom and clarity of spirit, as he journeys to meet a wise Mage who will answer all of his questions

regarding the thread of his destiny, and the way it fits into the Tapestry of Spirit.

Along the way, the boy finds many answers, and takes many steps towards wisdom. For example, after struggling to cross a river (balancing precariously on stepping stones and nearly falling many times), he watches the elder traverse the same course with calm and ease, and is amazed. Why did he not flail his arms, struggling for balance with each step as he tried to cross? For the boy, the elder's answer illuminates, not only his crossing, but a new way of viewing his journey, and his life.

"Every grand journey to a desired destination usually begins with the destination in mind . . . but there is as much to be desired and learned from during the smaller journeys . . . To place your attention solely on crossing a distance will deny you the joy of taking the steps . . . For the joy is not in being on this side or that, it is in each step of the journey across."

The boy learns to see the beauty in the water, and the sunlight reflecting on its surface?to appreciate each step on its own rather than stumbling blindly over each one on his way to his destination?and, in doing so, takes a step closer to wisdom, and understanding the Tapestry of the Spirit.

There are a number of encounters of this nature, during which lessons are learned, but the author manages, somehow, not to sound preachy or high-handed. There is a tranquillity and serenity to the writing style; and the quiet pacing of the narrative flow carries the reader along with it. This is a book that could easily have crossed the line from soothing to boring, and yet never does. There are enough unusual happenings, coincidences, and epiphanies to keep one interested?just very relaxed.

In classic parable style, the characters are not named, referred to throughout as simply "the boy" and "the elder." With this choice, the author draws the reader more deeply into the story, seeing the philosophical musings more clearly without the distraction of a more specifically personalized protagonist.

While there are a few places where the somewhat old-fashioned, old-world feel of the narrative language gets in the way of sentence structure, and there are a few typographical issues that detract slightly from the seeming professionalism, *The Tapestry of Spirit* remains a truly original, and comforting, piece of literature, which seems to pass spiritual enlightenment to its readers almost by happenstance.

If you are all about action, violence and sex, then this novel is not for you. But if you are at all interested in spirituality, self-examination, or philosophy; or even just enjoy spending an evening with a nice relaxing story after a stressful day at work, I highly recommend this novel. It doesn't just pass the time, it makes one appreciate it.

Amanda Richards says

I won a signed copy of this title through the "First Reads" Giveaways (Seriously people, how awesome is First Reads?! I love it!). Mr. Rocklin personalized my signed copy by writing "*For Amanda, I hope this book resonates with you! Best regards, Erik Nov. 12*"

A beautiful allegorical tale of compassion and understanding.

We follow an unnamed boy from dreaming of meeting a Mage through following his dream to meet "The Elder" to going on a journey to find *The Tapestry of Spirit* that will change his life forever.

Along the way he helps a grieving mother and a dying father find comfort and is in return comforted himself. He faces many trials and tribulations along the way and must determine if he will continue on the journey.

The writing was beautiful and you get the sense that the author cares not only about the story or the philosophy he is writing about, but also the reader. He clearly wishes to help you understand what the Tapestry of Spirit is and how you can find it in your own life.

It is a feel good book and inspiring and I would say that it should be on everyone's *To Be Read* list.

So thank you Mr. Rocklin, this book did resonate with me.

Jill says

An Elder guides a boy to the east where he can meet the Mage. Along the way, their conversation revolves around critical encounters that makes the boy question life and the paths that all wanderers share.

Better descriptions would add depth to the story.

Compulsion Reads says

The Tapestry of Spirit is a beautiful and rare story wrought with soul and deep wisdom. Erik Paul Rocklin introduces us to an unnamed young man who dreams of better understanding himself and his purpose in the world. A gentle guide, the Elder, take the boy on a journey East to meet a mystical Mage. Along the way, the Elder teaches the boy about the Tapestry of Spirit and how we each must follow our Destiny Thread to live truthfully in the world. Challenges along the way are each lessons that deepen the boy's understanding of the Tapestry of Spirit and his faith in his own path.

Rocklin's story follows in the footsteps of Paulo Coelho's *The Alchemist*, painting a thin veneer of story over spiritual lessons that both the reader and the book's unnamed protagonist are prompted to learn together. Several wise characters appear along the way to provide deeper lessons when necessary, and the physical act of the boy's journey represents a personal and spiritual journey that the reader is invited to take.

The Tapestry of Spirit was a deeply moving story that reached in and gently tugged on my soul, asking me to consider my own life's path. Those looking for action, hot romance, or the trappings of a traditional story arc will be disappointed. This book is a deep and slow read that will appeal to those who are ready to open their hearts and receive the positive and spiritual lessons that the story teaches of oneness with the world and our shared purpose to banish fear and greed and to try and connect with each other. The Tapestry of Spirit teaches that we are all threads in a shared tapestry. It could change our world if we all adopted this simple perspective and looked at those around us not as strangers but as fellow travelers all journeying toward our destiny

(This book was provided to Compulsion Reads for review by the author.)
