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Wobbling Home: A Spiritual Walk With Parkinson's

Wobbling Home

A Spiritual Walk
with Parkinson's



Jim Atwell



Synopsis

Upstate New York farmer and philosopher Jim Atwell has been living the dream life in Fly Creek since his retirement in 1993. His award-winning weekly newspaper columns about rural life and his past as a teaching monk, professor, and college administrator led to his successful first book, "From Fly Creek: Celebrating Life in Leatherstocking Country" (North Country Books, 2005). But his life took a dramatic turn in 2007 when he was forced to deal with a neurological disease diagnosed first as Parkinson's, then as Parkinson's Plus, and most recently as Parkinson's: unknown. He has been told by his doctor that a positive diagnosis of this odd family of diseases is best done by autopsy—a strategy that Jim stoutly rejects. This second collection of columns, "Wobbling Home," is a deeply insightful meditation on his illness, his Christian faith, and his journey's end. Raised a Roman Catholic, Jim has been a Quaker for forty years. Viewing his life as a "Parkie" through the lens of Quakerism, he sees the disease as emanating from the same loving Source that gives him life—a Source which also manipulates his body and brain at random times and in mysterious ways. He shares not only his own thoughts and reactions, but also those of his loving wife Anne and other Parkies and their spouses as well. Interspersed with tales of daily life and ritual in one of New York's most bucolic small towns, Jim's writings are shot through with the warm humor that is a mark of his personality and his masterful style.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have just ordered Atwell's book, the second one I will own and know I will treasure. I am a far-flung fan of his columns in the Cooperstown Crier. He is a local treasure himself and I look forward to sitting back by the fire and reading more of his wit and wisdom. Gail Benjafield

This book is full of laugh out loud humor and written with great style. It also teaches the seriousness and how one must live with Parkinson's. I am looking forward to reading this author's other book which I have purchased.

Jim's chapters on his personal experience of living with Parkinson's, of what it's like to lose control of what seems to be me, my body, I found most compelling. Perhaps Ignatius' of Loyola's prayer, Suscipe, is very real for Jim. Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will, All I have and call my own. You have given all to me. To you, Lord, I return it. Everything is yours; do with it what you will. Give me only your love and your grace, that is enough for me. I have given copies of the book to "Parkinsonians" I think it provides great comfort.

I profited immensely from "Wobbling Home." Atwell's thoughts were/are profound and his writing style both sensitive and masterful. His reflections helped my family deal with a loved one who suffered under a form of Parkinson's disease. Writing this book must have been difficult for the author. My family is fortunate to have known this man, if only through his writing, that is so open and candid regarding his own illness. This is a short yet profound book. Thank you.

I can add my own most sincere "review" - how I view this little autobiographical book. Jim Atwell wrote the most authentic and inspiring little/BIG book of what it means to live with Parkinson's - and still remain remarkably active, real, hopeful and inspiring. This book is also acknowledged by doctors and professionals for being a "medical guide" book. There is lots of humor in it, as well - the author's lovable trademark. Now, methinks, this says it almost all.

Jim Atwell's written word is always inspiring, insightful, HUMOROUS, educational, and heartfelt based

on his LOVE OF LIFE! I have had the double pleasure of hearing Jim preach a sermon with all the parts moving in delightful directions. Every caregiver, every person interacting in the medical and surgical realm should read Jim Atwell's "Wobbling Home." Encouragement, courage, support and laughter is what we all need. Jim gives us all this in 190 pages! Thanks, Jim

This is a deeply touching and informative book that brings the reader into the world of Parkinson's disease. As someone who has loved ones affected by this disease, the book showed me what their lives are like and what the future holds.

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