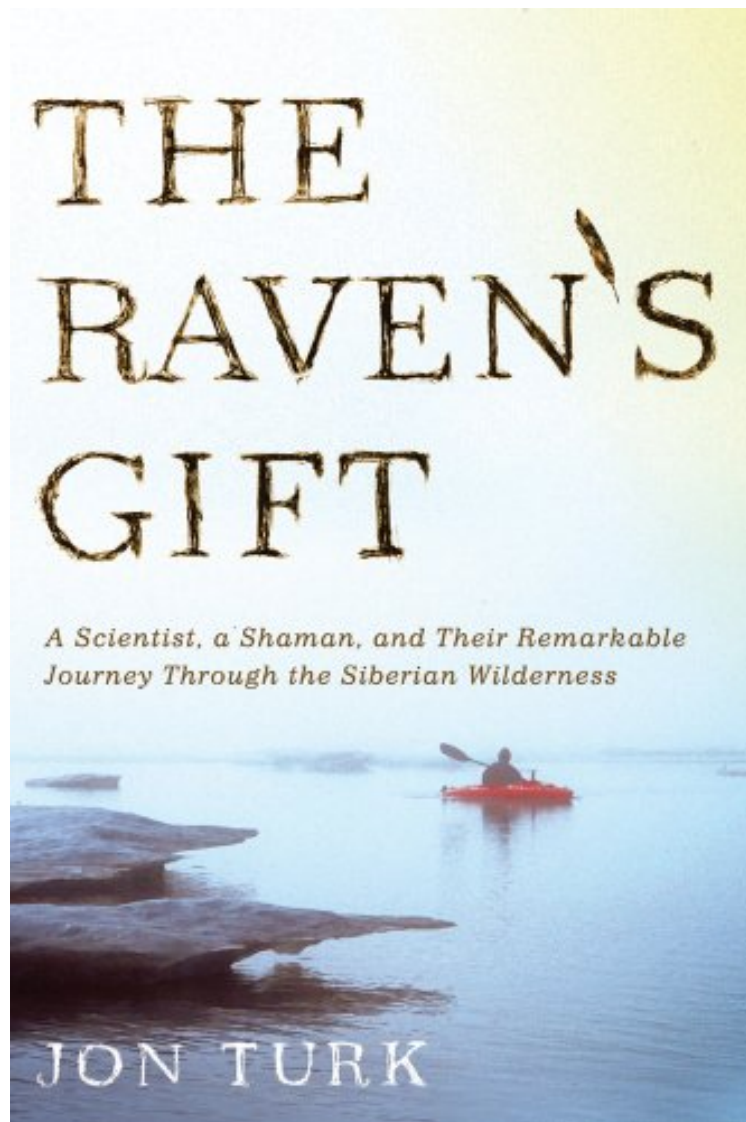


(Mobile book) The Raven's Gift: A Scientist, a Shaman, and Their Remarkable Journey Through the Siberian Wilderness

The Raven's Gift: A Scientist, a Shaman, and Their Remarkable Journey Through the Siberian Wilderness

Jon Turk

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Jon Turk : The Raven's Gift: A Scientist, a Shaman, and Their Remarkable Journey Through the Siberian Wilderness before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Raven's Gift: A Scientist, a Shaman, and Their Remarkable Journey Through the Siberian Wilderness:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Deeply satisfying adventure laced with existential themesBy Donna

J. Austin An amazing book that I will not soon forget. Turk paints a wonderful life of the people of Siberia. The detailed descriptions of their simple rough existence satiated my ever present desire to learn more about other cultures and people who live life closer to God than do the majority of us in this day and age. But he didn't stop there; woven into the story are much deeper existential themes that keep you questioning your understanding of this world, our purpose, and the hereafter. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Touching, Genuine Story of a Fading Culture and a Scientist-Turned-Believer By Dan Perry The Raven's Gift is the touching story of a man who enters a little-known culture and by listening and keeping an open mind, is able to learn and grow as a human being. Central to the story is the magical healing of Turk's pelvis, but I think a bigger theme is that in our left-brained Western culture, we've lost a lot of the connection with the planet that our right-brained ancestors once had. The book made me laugh and cry, but most of all it made me think. For example, in one passage Turk discusses how a \$5 million mansion doesn't offer much more comfort than a dark, dingy hut with a fireplace that the nomadic Koryak reindeer herders sleep in. Turk is a world-class adventurer and a great storyteller. The book is nonfiction but it read like a novel and I found it hard to put down. 10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. The Raven's Gift By Ronald L. Mccollum Jon Turk has written another wonderful book in The Raven's Gift! Part adventure travel, part spiritual quest, part healing journey (physical, spiritual, emotional), part anthropological study.....all wrapped up in real friendship and love, The Raven's Gift is a delight. Through his story of travels throughout North America and the Siberian tundra, Jon educates us in the cultural ways of the remaining native Koryak, explores the physical limits of the human body, and especially challenges us to be open to new/old ways of thinking and being-----in our mind, body, and spirit.,

Jon Turk has kayaked around Cape Horn, traversed the Northwest Passage and paddled across the Pacific Rim. But, the strangest trip he ever took was the journey he made as a man of science into the realm of the spiritual. In 2000, in the remote Siberian village of Vyvenka, Jon Turk met an elderly woman named Moolynaut, a Koryak shaman, and learned about her voyages to the spirit world. A year later, Moolynaut entreated the spirit of a great, black raven to help mend his pelvis, which had been previously fractured in a mountaineering accident. When the healing was complete, Turk was able to walk without pain. Turk, a scientist, could find no rational explanation for the healing and the experience changed his life, irrevocably altering his view of the connectivity between the natural and spiritual worlds. Searching for the spirit raven, he traversed the frozen tundra where Moolynaut was born, camping with bands of reindeer herders, and recording stories of their lives and spirituality. Framed by high adventure across the vast and forbidding Siberian landscape, The Raven's Gift is a life-altering vision of the ties between the natural and spiritual realms, informed by one man's awakening and guided by the ancient spirit bird with wide black wings and the power to heal.

From Publishers Weekly Thirty-odd years ago, adventurer and environmentalist Turk (Cold Oceans) watched his dog root around in newly thawed dirt and jump wildly in response to some primeval scent in the earth. In that moment, Turk had a clear vision that the margin between life and death depends on a tactile, sensory awareness of the environment that incorporates but also transcends logic. Although he gradually forgot this lesson, it came hurtling back to him one day in July 2000 when he met Moolynaut, a Siberian shaman who introduced him to the Other World and the ways it impinges on the Real World. In prose by turns ponderous and lively, Turk narrates his journey to Siberia, the people he meets, and his introduction to the mysterious Moolynaut, who seems, like Shakespeare's Prospero, to have created a storm that washes Turk and his companion onto the shore of her village. Eventually, Turk finds himself standing naked, balancing on one foot, holding his right hand behind his back and pointing straight in front of him with his left arm as Moolynaut heals his fractured pelvis. During these moments, Kutcha, the Raven Spirit, teaches Turk to see that the Other World and the Real World are united. In what could have been an intriguing memoir but instead is mundane and uninspiring, Turk unconvincingly rehearses many of the mantras of New Age spirituality magic—even as he offers a breathtaking glimpse of life in a small, forgotten Siberian village. (Jan.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist *Starred * Turk, a research chemist, gave up lab work decades ago for a life of writing and arduous wilderness expeditions. Not even a near-death experience in an avalanche, which left him with a metal plate holding his pelvis together, slowed him down. By the time he embarks on an Arctic kayaking adventure in 2000, however, he is in serious pain. He and his Russian friend have no intention of visiting the village of Vyvenka on the Siberian peninsula of Kamchatka, home of the Koryak people, but a sudden storm forces them ashore, where they learn that they've been expected by Moolynaut, a healer and shaman in her nineties. She not only frees Turk from physical pain but also guides him into the realm of the Arctic spirits. Turk writes with prowess, nerve, and precision, whether he is telling the tragic story of the suffering of the Koryak as Soviet and Russian regimes severed the ancient bond between the tribe and their reindeer or chronicling such perilous exploits as approaching Kutcha, the raven spirit, with the aid of hallucinogenic mushrooms. Balancing between "logic and magic," Turk attests to the innate powers of body, mind, and soul that are awakened when we immerse ourselves in "Wild Nature." --Donna Seaman "The northern lights have indeed seen

strange sights, but none quite compare to Jon Turk's adventures on the frozen tundra of Kamchatka. There he encounters a great-great-grandmother spiritual healer who mends his body of damage sustained in a long-ago skiing accident. The tension between his own logical scientific background and the mysterious shamanistic wisdom of his healer is at the heart of this wonderfully-told story of Koryak life and his own personal transformation.” ?Henry Pollack, author of A World Without Ice and Uncertain Science...Uncertain World