



A Review of *Consider* by [David Brydges](#)

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I consider *Consider* Susan McCaslin's most brilliant book. Every poem contains her devotion and dedication to learning from the "wiser way." With intuitional sharpness Susan's poems cut to the core. There are no cognitive entrenchments, instead grand enlargements from an attuned imagination fired with boundless fuel.

Her soul draws on words as paintbrushes to paint a musical score from her source with cross-cultural flair, putting the cross and the man who died on it on a universal cross-platform. Historical quotes are juxtaposed then expanded against this contemporary story stripped to its base bone yet having a fullness that belies how many words are on the page. She has the art of saying much with so little, creating a dense well-crafted delicacy dance. Some poems have a haiku/koan style that quickly points to the point.

The overall holiness drawn from past mystics is grounded in our dilemmas today. I liked the Notes section at the end for those less educated about some mystic influences and sources that went into the book. The notes can be a jumping-off ground to explore further.

In terms of specific poems, I was impressed by how she cleverly designed "socialdistancingimpossible" without spaces (Cosmic Egg, poem 27). "If Yeshua Had a Bumble Profile" is witty (Cosmic Egg, Poem 30). Sophia's spirit in relation to Mary Magdalene comes through in the untitled last poem of "Cracking the Jesus Koans." And she has strongly interwoven sensual/spiritual nature and cosmic questions into "A Suite on Robin Blaser's Libretto for *The Last Supper*." Here she includes Robin Blaser's italicized lines as a way of honouring her former poetry mentor.

*blue-rooted herons standing
in the lake of our souls*

paths of water- words of wind

Because of the mystic generosity of this book, the truth is not hoarded or herded into any one guru's mouth to create a dogmatic belief system. As Rilke says, we must "love the questions." I would add we also have to "love the questings." Here Jesus has been given a modern, living voice. These poems are open-ended inquiries inviting readers into the *mysterium infinitum*.