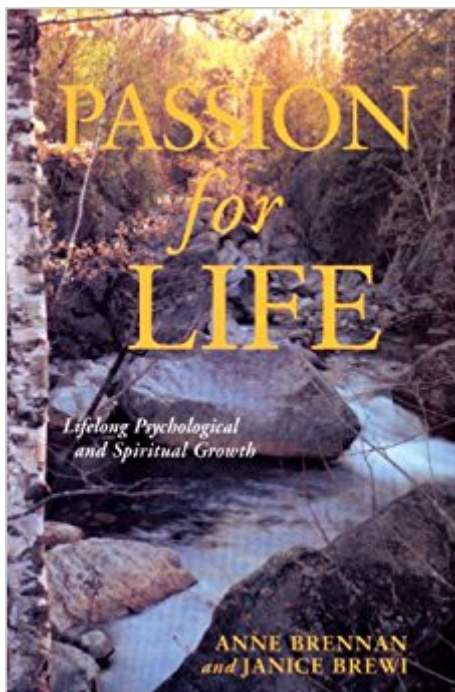


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# Passion For Life



## Synopsis

This book takes seriously our increased life span along with its challenges to live fully, to grow, to develop unexplored parts of ourselves, to find creative ways of being vitally involved in our own inner and outer lives. With an emphasis on anecdotes drawn from famous as well as not-so-famous people, *Passion for Life* weaves inspiration with motivation for uncovering and freeing ongoing individual growth. Since each decade presents new awakenings, Brennan and Brewi demonstrate how life's greatest accomplishments and achievements can come in the second half of life.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Truly a gem of enlightenment, insight, and inspiration....Throughout these beautiful flowing lyrics, [the authors] weave the beauty of poetry, the wisdom of scripture, the knowledge of science, the depth of psychology, and the emotions of the heart into a powerful, meaningful, hopeful, gentle, loving mosaic, to which each reader can connect and be enriched.....This creative work is soft and smooth, and slides down easily, with inspiring thoughts of creative growth through adversity, perseverance, faith, and love." — Joanna Horn, APCNY, December 2000

Baby-Boomers and their parent generation: what to do after you get your set of Myers-Briggs letters? How do I GROW from here? What's it got to do with my Spiritual Life? This book is for us! The best picture of transformation as it has challenged older adults - some famous, some ordinary. The stories are vivid and poetic illustrations of real people moving through the changes that come in their lives, and finding authentic ways of incorporating generativity-continuing to contribute and give

life to the persons and situations and world around them. The authors know Jungian psychology well; their understanding of how the unconscious influences us and our potential growth is most helpful, and allays fears. Drs. Brennan and Brewi make the connections for soulmaking, and stir the reader's imagination to probe her/his own center of being.

This is a spirit filled book to keep by your side for a long life. Its a deceptively easy read that hits in a deep place. Stories make its insights real, powerful, practical. Over 40..50..60..70..? look no further if your enthusiasm for life and newness are flagging, Brennan and Brewi are right where its at. Don't miss this one!

Is there not a conflict of interest when someone who is directly and/or indirectly profiting from a book publishes a glowing (but non-informational) review of the same book? The review dated July 13, 1999 and entitled, "The most hopeful thing ever on being an older adult!" (see below) includes an E-mail address--pmcdonne@ehs.org--which belongs to Sr. Pat McDonnell, CSJ, who is acknowledged as a contributor in the Introduction of this book. She is in the same community of sisters as the authors!

This book is a rehash of the Gnosticism of Carl Jung (an early 20th-century psychology theorist (who was heavily dependent on the Occult, Alchemy, Astrology, Gnosticism, etc.) by two Catholic nuns who are neither psychologists nor theologians. They have "chosen Carl Jung's psychology because it is about the second half of life," and that is the limits of insight and scholarship that pervades this publication. It is a psychology that negates mainstream modern psychology and is not accepted by any modern scientific or medical field. Beginning with the Dedication Page that announces, "For many years we have been training others to facilitate Mid-Life Directions Workshops for Personal and Spiritual Growth and Long Life Directions Workshops for Personal and Spiritual Growth. They are an international group of outstanding professionals. We dedicate this book to these Mid-Life Directions Certified Consultants around the country and around the world." and ending on the last page reserved for seminar information, the book is further interspersed throughout with reports of seminar participants and their outcomes. Observing that in their seminars "most people have awful feelings of apathy, boredom, lethargy, disillusionment, bitter anxiety, anger and regret," the authors extrapolate that "we have come to believe that most people go through a crisis of negative feelings . . . ." and (by suggestion) need their seminars too. "Carl Jung says, "(a phrase repeated all too often in this book) that "this is due to a loss of faith." It was this, the authors

state, that inspired Jung to weave his whole system of pseudo-religious theory of the psyche modeled on the ancient pagan beliefs of Gnosticism, mythology, alchemy, astrology and psychoanalysis. That sets the Gnostic theme of this book--that finding Self through self-analysis leads one to the secret Jungian-Gnostic knowledge of God who is our essence. (What?) Thus, we are dragged down a long dead-end corridor of psycho-romantic theorizing with adjoining rooms full of pagan, Gnostic and New Age spiritualities, all rolling on waves of vague, undocumented, unexplained, self-serving speculations. The most blatant of these is: 1. WE ARE GOD--"an enfleshment of: the offspring of: an epiphany of: and the incarnation of: God." The authors misinterpret the phrase from Genesis "made in the image and likeness of God" to mean that man's essence is God. However, Christianity's interpretation is that man is made TO the image of God by our capacity to know Him and love Him and His creation. We are God's creatures and that is how we are to relate to Him, whereas the original sin of Adam and Eve was that they wanted to BE God. 2. SELF IS WHERE GOD EXISTS. "The Kingdom of God is within you," it is argued, means that God is in your essence (as did the Gnostics), whereas the Church teaches that we have the Indwelling of God through Sanctifying Grace, but not as our essence. 3. SELF IS FOUND THROUGH PSYCHO- ANALYSIS. But Carl Jung is "not accepted by any scientific or medical field" according to Richard Knoll in his book, The Jung Cult. Psychoanalysis is rarely attempted today by psychiatrists, and, generally, it does not work; to some degree because many people simply are not candidates for that process. But while Jung taught that psychoanalysis is useful for "integration," even he never suggested that one should try to analyze himself, as do these authors. 4. WHEN WE FIND SELF, they say, WE FIND THE "GROUND OF OUR BEING," i.e., GOD. So, in this book finding God within the Self is the fulfillment of the "myths" of Creation, Incarnation and Resurrection. It is not explained why the authors refer to the mysteries as "myths." However, in an oddity for putative Catholic authors, the Crucifixion, the central mystery of Christianity, is never mentioned. 5. SIN IS MERELY THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF GOOD. In a posture suggestive of Manicheism, the authors explain sin as being the shadow side of something else that is good. Everything in the world, they elaborate, is in a polarity, a duality, with something else. Accordingly, goodness is presented as the unification of the shadow with its opposite; even Christ is included as having a shadow. 6. ALL HUMANS SHARE IN A COLLECTIVE UNCONSCIOUS, UNIVERSAL MIND. The authors treat this as credible. In Jung's adoption of this quasi-scientific concept, Archetypes have been passed down to all humans and function much as instincts. The authors do not, of course, support the notion of its descent with any explanation, not even an incoherent one. 7. THE SACRED MYSTERIES OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION ARE REFERRED

TO AS MYTHS! Jung and the authors interpret the Catholic mysteries as being meaningful ONLY because mythologies passed down to us through universal Archetypes provide those meanings. Without those Archetypes and myths, according to Jung and the authors, the sacred mysteries would have no meaning for us. 8. HOLINESS IS "WHOLENESS." In this book holiness is attained by man as he "integrates" his consciousness with his unconsciousness--when he "unifies" his opposites, thus becoming a "whole" person. 9. "BOTH JESUS AND BUDDHA PROVIDED IDENTICAL ADVICE ON LOVING . . . AND EXPERIENCING THE SACRED." ? Then, the authors provide that Buddha did that six centuries before Jesus! To further confirm this point, they recommend readers meditate on a "wonderful little book,"--Jesus and Buddha: the Parallel Savings--by the "celebrated Christian writer, Marcus Borg," (to whom Christ is a mere spirit-person) and, according to the authors, is a "non-exclusivist Christian." Terrific! How did God ever get himself into such a mess as to be in need of this book? I do not recommend it. It is nonsense.

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