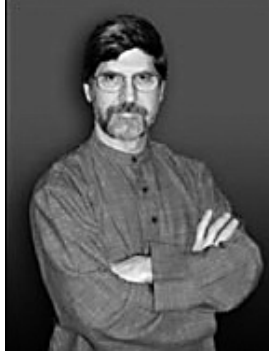


IN MEMORIAM  
JAMES S. CUTSINGER  
(May 4, 1953 – February 19, 2020)



**‘A Serious Seeker and Socratic Teacher’**

A gifted and compassionate teacher of the perennial wisdom, Professor Cutsinger possessed a penetrating insight that he brought to bear on issues of faith and modernity, challenging false assumptions prevalent within academia about the nature of man and the limits of knowledge.

He was the author of *The Form of Transformed Vision: Coleridge and the Knowledge of God* (1986) (Owen Barfield, who wrote the book’s foreword, praised Cutsinger’s ‘meticulous, unhurried, superabundantly documented exegesis of what Coleridge thought’); *Advice to the Serious Seeker: Meditations on the Teaching of Frithjof Schuon* (1997) (the book, which has influenced many a ‘serious seeker,’ explored the ideas of Frithjof Schuon and the perennialists); and three anthologies of Schuon’s writings: *The Fullness of God: Frithjof Schuon on Christianity* (2004), *Prayer Fashions Man: Frithjof Schuon on the Spiritual Life* (2005), and *Splendor of the True: A Frithjof Schuon Reader* (2013). Besides editing several of Schuon’s books and letters, he has also edited and produced several anthologies, notably the proceedings of two conferences that he organized [*Reclaiming the Great Tradition: Evangelicals, Catholics, and Orthodox in Dialogue* (1997) and *Paths to the Heart: Sufism and the Christian East* (2002)] as well as *Not of This World: A Treasury of Christian Mysticism* (2003).

# Finding a Fellow Spiritual Seeker in Foreign Land

*By Veena Howard*

*Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another:  
'What! You too? I thought I was the only one!'*

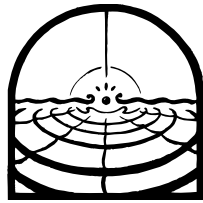
—C.S. Lewis

One of the great fortunes in life is meeting a fellow seeker of the Truth. I met Dr. Cutsinger in 1989. As I walked in his office and met him for the very first time, I experienced a very unusual familiarity, a sense of meeting an old friend. I had arrived from India a couple of months before, where I was born and had grown up. I was introduced to Dr. Cutsinger by Huston Smith, whom I met at an Interreligious Youth Service conference in Italy—a story for another day.

Some might find it bizarre, this friendship between this Hindu girl from a traditional family in India (who had a cow at her house, and Dr. Cutsinger never failed to remind me of it even many years after) and a Harvard educated, erudite, and articulate professor and Theologian. When I arrived on the campus of the University of South Carolina to pursue my Master's degree, I hardly knew any other American, spoke not too fluent English, and, did not understand the culture of the United States (especially of the South). One thing was common between us: the search for the truth and a love for God. He introduced me to his wife and family, and our friendship continues despite my move to the west coast.

Dr. Cutsinger was unique—anyone who knew him would agree with me. He had deep faith in Jesus as God, but he also believed in the underlying truth in all major religions. He sought to decipher it through Socratic method. Even during our first meeting we discussed the deep spiritual and philosophical ideas of Advaita Vedanta as if we followed the same religion.

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