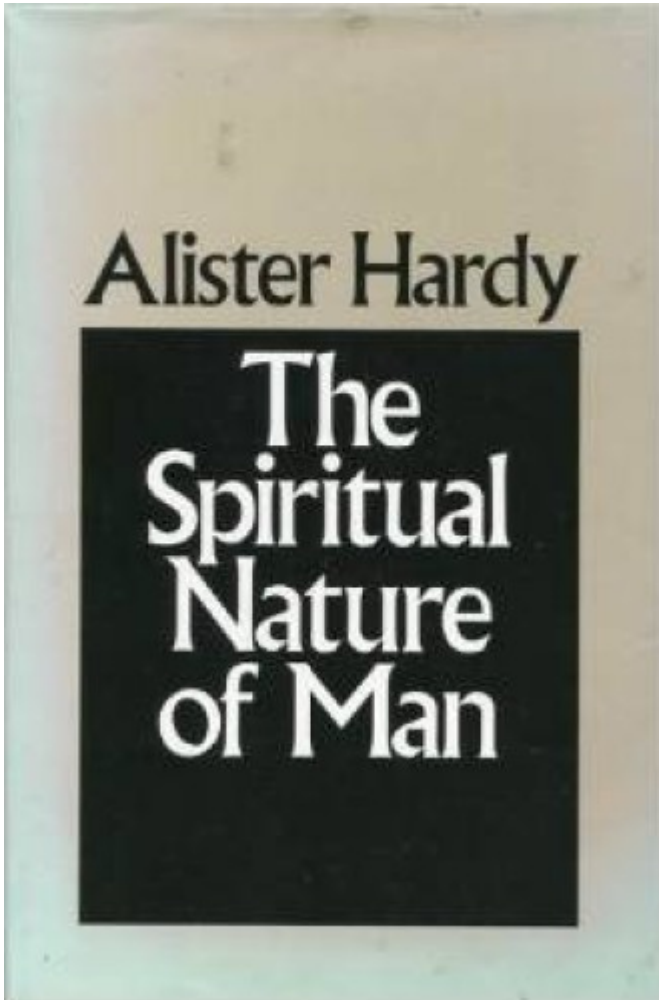


Book recommendations from Tanya Luhrmann

By [Amy Frykholm](#)

May 15, 2014

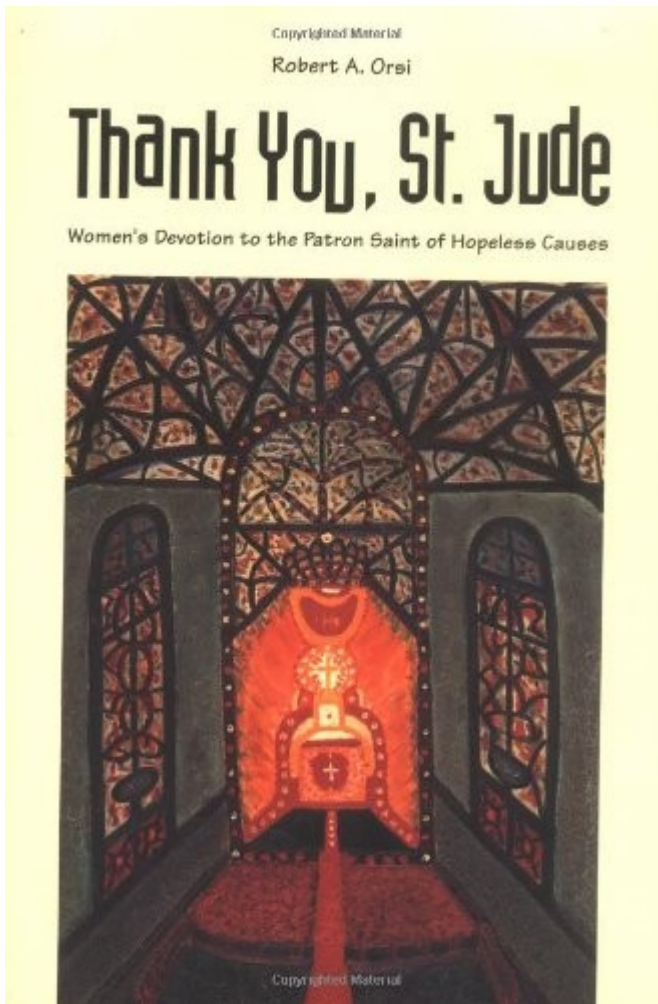
In Review



The Spiritual Nature of Man

by Alister Hardy

Oxford University Press



Thank You, St. Jude

by Robert A. Orsi
Yale University Press

I recently [interviewed](#) cultural anthropologist and *New York Times* columnist [Tanya Luhrmann](#) about prayer and religious experience. After the interview, I asked her for some recommendations of books on prayer that are not “how-tos.” What are some books that can help me understand prayer more conceptually and experientially? Here is what she said:

*I've been rereading two books recently that people might find intriguing. One is Alister Hardy's *The Spiritual Nature of Man*. He asked people (mostly Protestants—he was at Oxford) to send him accounts of the experience of the presence of God, and they make for fascinating reading.*

The other book I've been looking at again is Bob Orsi's Thank you, St. Jude. This is a rich account of the way Catholic women pray and the way that a saint rose in popularity and importance.