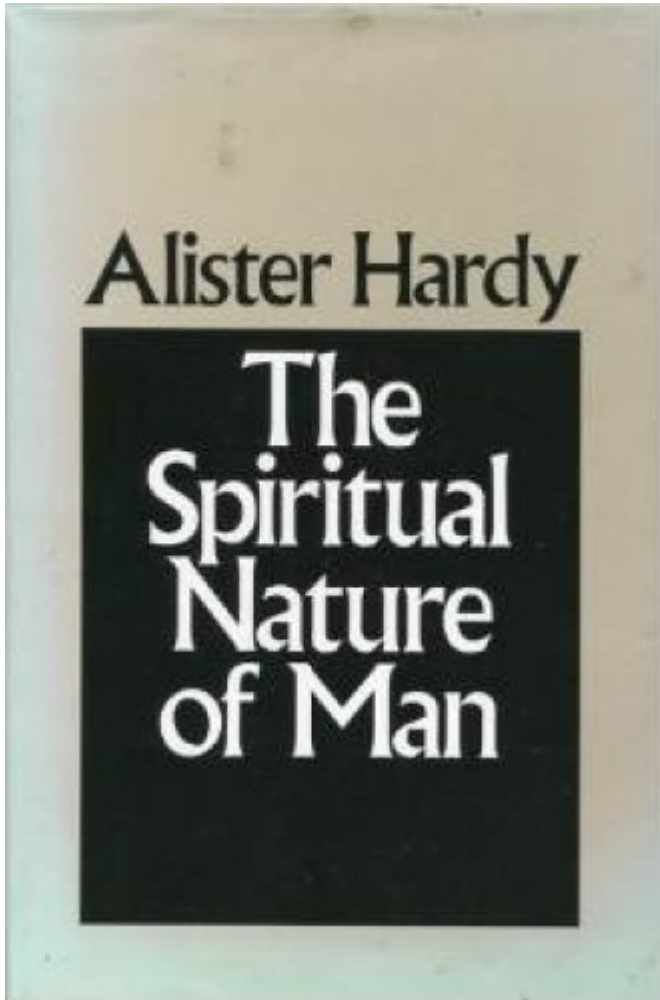


Book recommendations from Tanya Luhrmann

By [Amy Frykholm](#)

May 15, 2014

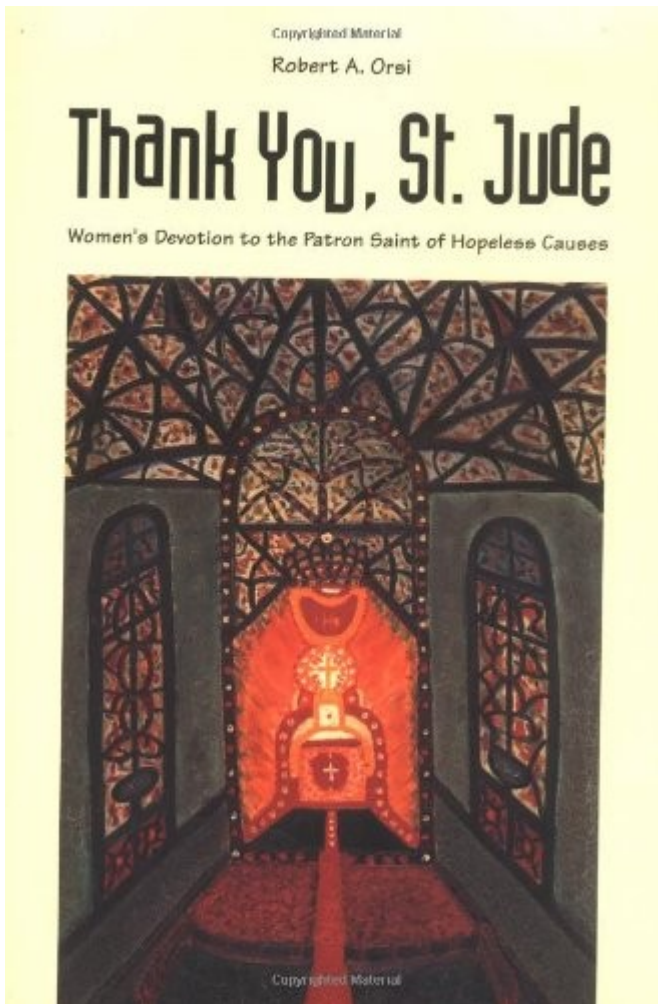
## In Review



### **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.*