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Watchman Nee: The Master of Mix-Up The Parable of the Chocolate Rabbit

by G. Richard Fisher

Many of us remember getting a chocolate rabbit for Easter and discovering that it was only a shell — not solid. People experience the same kind of letdown from some religious icons. The accolades, promotions, and testimonials for these icons have been overdone. Sometimes the promotion has been a tool to sell books. Sometimes the teachers' words and presentations are shown to be aberrational or heretical. And sometimes those who biblically scrutinize these teachings are accused of attacking good men.

Immature or undiscerning Christians often focus on the shell and never deal with what is — or isn't — inside. So the "Christian" marketing machine goes on pushing illusion with little substance. Some hollow items are even touted as "Christian Classics." The shell of mock spirituality hides the lack of content or the corrupt content. We are being sold empty accounts of religious folk heroes inside a shell of religious cliches.

WATCHMAN WHO?

Author Dana Roberts, writing on Watchman Nee, observes that Nee's



books, *"The Latent Power of the Soul and The Spiritual Man*, teach us a gnostic psychoanalysis."¹

Many Christians have heard of Watchman Nee. His book, *Sit, Walk and Stand* appears to be a nice presentation of Ephesians. At one time, the prevailing view was that Watchman Nee was a martyr for the faith, something like a twentieth-century Stephen, for being killed in a Chinese prison. That fact alone makes some think he was.

In 1984, Warren Wiersbe said, "I don't doubt that Watchman Nee may have had some weaknesses in some areas. I fear that all of us have them whether we recognize them or not. I do realize, however, that Watchman Nee was one of the giants of the faith."²

However, there are weaknesses and there are *weaknesses*. Weaknesses in critical areas can cripple. The word *weakness* can be used to gloss over serious problems or rationalize the
(continues on page 10)

Inside this Issue:

LOW-IMPACT CHRISTIANITY	PAGE 2
WATCHTOWER MAY SELL BROOKLYN BUILDING	PAGE 3
EXCAVATING A MOUNTAIN OF EVIDENCE	PAGE 4