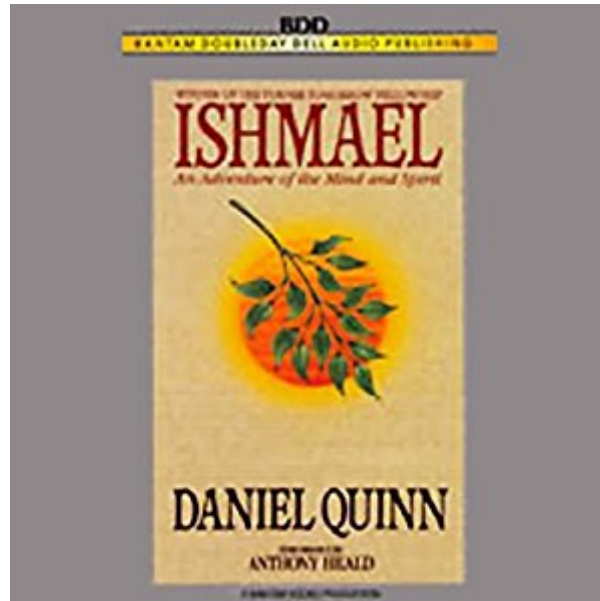


The book was found

# Ishmael: An Adventure Of The Mind And Spirit



## Synopsis

One of the most beloved and bestselling novels of spiritual adventure ever published, *Ishmael* has earned a passionate following among readers and critics alike. This special twenty-fifth anniversary edition features a new foreword and afterword by the author, as well as an excerpt from *My Ishmael*. **TEACHER SEEKS PUPIL.** Must have an earnest desire to save the world. Apply in person. It was just a three-line ad in the personals section, but it launched the adventure of a lifetime. So begins an utterly unique and captivating novel. In *Ishmael*, which received the Turner Tomorrow Fellowship for the best work of fiction offering positive solutions to global problems, Daniel Quinn parses humanity's origins and its relationship with nature, in search of an answer to this challenging question: How can we save the world from ourselves? **Praise for *Ishmael*** **"As suspenseful, inventive, and socially urgent as any fiction or nonfiction you are likely to read this or any other year."** **The Austin Chronicle** **"Before we're halfway through this slim book . . . we're in [Daniel Quinn's] grip, we want *Ishmael* to teach us how to save the planet from ourselves. We want to change our lives."** **The Washington Post** **"Arthur Koestler, in an essay in which he wondered whether mankind would go the way of the dinosaur, formulated what he called the Dinosaur's Prayer: 'Lord, a little more time!' *Ishmael* does its bit to answer that prayer and may just possibly have bought us all a little more time."** **Los Angeles Times** --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 2 hours and 56 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Abridged

Publisher: Bantam Doubleday Dell Audio

Audible.com Release Date: December 16, 1999

Language: English

ASIN: B00005452U

Best Sellers Rank: #4 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Religious &

Inspirational > Science Fiction & Fantasy #11 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction &

Literature > Short Stories #11 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature >

Religious Fiction

## Customer Reviews

I found 'Ismael' to be a sort of essay in narrative form (told by a gorilla) in the anti-civilisation (or beyond civilisation) genre. Though the book never mentions it explicitly, the theme is reminiscent of what is sometimes called the Easter Island effect, and warns against its extremities. Perhaps for someone new to the theme the novel might come across as marvellous, and also perhaps revelatory. I must admit that I found it rather simplistic, often presenting scenarios and interpretations as if they were exclusive. By way of a solution (or at least a resolution) to the problem of the larger part of humanity's implosion which he so starkly presents, Quinn, I think, offers none, at least not practically. He does so theoretically, and superbly so. I would have thought, nonetheless, that, in practical terms, the gorilla would propose to its student a more explicit anarchist way of living. For it seemed that that was the direction being taken. However, the novel never gets to that point. A reference to Kropotkin's 'Mutual Aid' would also not have been amiss, since some ideas in the novel at least mirror what Kropotkin so skilfully expounds therein.

The concept of captivity and not being able to find "the bars of the cage" is used as a metaphor for our culture and how it relates to our thoughts and our behavior of that culture. Ishmael talks about how we are lost and captive in these invisible bars; we cannot see what is keeping us in; therefore the way out becomes more confusing. We start to disengage because of this feeling of hopelessness. This idea of man made for world or world made for man takes a toll on how life "progresses". Are we aware of this captivity and/ or too comfortable in it to care? Our society has grown to feel good about these "invisible bars" because of the mentality that what they can't see won't hurt them. Ishmael knows and is trying to evoke the idea that it is time to create new culture with a sustainable way of life because without this we are heading straight for our extinction. The Economy has been a big part of captivity in our culture. Money is a driving force in fear of change. Large companies are afraid of losing what they have built. The mentality is that they feel against the world but in reality they are against themselves. Bettering themselves to benefit in the bigger picture is a foreign concept and idea. In today's society living a sustainable life seems to be too expensive for many people. It is "easier" to buy things that will not take as much time, money, or energy to apply to their lives. Ishmael's student says "We have to carry the conquest forward. And carrying it forward is either going to

destroy the world or turn it into paradise-into the paradise it was meant to be under human rule. We have to decide to carry on forward; a difficult idea that has many minds lost. The world was made to rule but in ruling we have created destruction rather than a paradise. Ishmael being a Gorilla, and also a teaching the student about life had me confused in the beginning. As I read, I started to understand the dynamic and relationship between animal and human/ or animal and animal. It gives you a moment to step back from your own culture and realize that because the teacher is a gorilla, we are no longer stuck in the idea that our culture is human centered. You can step back and see how intertwined we really are with all aspects of life. I was also weary with the religious comparisons until I realized it is needed to comprise the thesis of man is headed for extinction; it gives us a visual story of our culture. The message lets you choose your plan of action to take rather than having Ishmael completely spell it out. The message of how this life came to be is put forth in such an interesting way.

In essence Ishmael is saying that humans are endangering the earth and their very existence by refusing to believe they are subject to the same treatment as any other invasive species. At some point in the not too distant future over population will surpass our ability to produce enough food to sustain life, and the population will crash. And as an added negative factor, global warming will hasten the process.

In his book Chaos, J. Snodgrass writes that he learned more from reading this book than he did from all of high school and college combined. That comment was sufficiently intriguing to cause me to read Ishmael myself. Though it was not what I expected, Quinn's thought-provoking novel invites the reader to reconsider the premises upon which much of human culture has been constructed. Is humanity the final act of creation/evolution? Does the world belong to humanity or does humanity belong to the world? What are the consequences of our anthropocentric worldview and, more importantly, what might be the consequences of abandoning that worldview? These are a few of the fascinating and challenging questions the book suggests. Quinn/Ishmael's take on the our mythology of origins, specifically the account of "the Fall" and Cain and Abel in Genesis, are alone enough to make the book worthwhile (Snodgrass' book on Genesis further considers the Biblical stories in light of the Agricultural Revolution and it's impact on pastoral societies, and is highly recommended). Perhaps the Eden story is describing something quite different from what our culture has been telling us for the past few thousand years. I'm glad to have read this book and I expect I'll be pondering its message for a long time.

A wonderful Socratic dialogue about why things are the way they are in modern civilized society with a focus on how we got here. I don't want to spoil it for you; it's a wonderful trip through history and philosophy and religion that will leave your eyes permanently open. I only wish our "leaders" would read it and apply the insights to be gained, but this is a book for everyone. Highly recommended.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Ishmael: An Adventure of the Mind and Spirit Adventure Guide Nicaragua (Adventure Guides Series) (Adventure Guides Series) (Adventure Guides Series) (Adventure Guide to Nicaragua) Ishmael: A Novel Ishmael Instructs Isaac: An Introduction to the Qur'an for Bible Readers (Connections) Master Your Mind: Achieve Greatness by Powering Your Subconscious Mind [mental power, mind control, thought control] (brain power, subconscious mind power, NLP, Neuro Linguistic Programming) Deliverance From Python Spirit: Powerful Prayers to Defeat the Python Spirit Æð Æð Spirit of Lies, Deceptions and Oppression. (Deliverance Series Book 3) The Power of Your Subconscious Mind: There Are No Limits to the Prosperity, Happiness, and Peace of Mind You Can Achieve Simply by Using the Power of the Subconscious Mind, Updated Adventure Guide Inside Passage & Coastal Alaska (Adventure Guide to the Inside Passage & Coastal Alaska) (Adventure Guide to Coastal Alaska & the Inside Passage) Adventure Guide Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao (Adventure Guides Series) (Adventure Guides Series) Adventure Guide Barbados (Adventure Guide to Barbados) (Adventure Guide to Barbados) Adventure Guide Grenada, St Vincent & Grenadines (Adventure Guide. Grenada, St. Vincent & the Grenadines) (Adventure Guide. Grenada, St. Vincent & the Grenadines) Animal Spirit Guides: An Easy-to-Use Handbook for Identifying and Understanding Your Power Animals and Animal Spirit Helpers Spirit Riding Free: Lucky and the Mustangs of Miradero (Dreamworks Spirit) Spirit-Led Preaching: The Holy Spirit's Role in Sermon Preparation and Delivery Comparing Christianity with the Cults: The Spirit of Truth and the Spirit of Error Deliverance from Marine Spirits: Powerful Prayers to Overcome Marine Spirits Æð Æð Spirit Husbands and Spirit Wives - Permanently. (Deliverance Series Book 1) Spirit Guides: 3 Easy Steps to Connecting and Communicating with Your Spirit Helpers: 3 Easy Steps Psychic How To See In The Spirit: A Practical Guide On Engaging The Spirit Realm Holy Spirit: Unlocking the Power of the Holy Spirit The Spirit of Classical Canon Law (The Spirit of the Laws Ser.)

Contact Us

DMCA

Privacy

FAQ & Help