



### **JOHN C ROBINSON:WHAT AGING MEN WANT**

*Men facing retirement are often confronted with many new challenges, yet at the same time, there are new opportunities when transiting post-employment. Robinson is a psychologist, author, interfaith minister and human development practitioner who suggests there are practical no-nonsense approaches to these transitions.*

*In “What Aging Men Want,” Robinson draws on the work of Robert Bly’s “Iron John” on addressing male masculinity. Australian psychologist and author Steve Biddulph in his book “Men Raising Boys” addresses similar related masculinity issues. During the mid to late 1990’ in Launceston, Tasmania I facilitated a return to work program titled ‘Work Dynamics.’ Participants, (predominantly males) across the age range who attended with life issues other than simply finding employment. The program guidelines allowed informal opportunities to approach some masculinity issues. Later, whilst living in South Australia I became deeply immersed in volunteer activities relating to men’s health [MACHS]. Robinson’s, approach to male issues in “What Aging Men Want,” is from a conscious spiritual yet mystical approach and is a readable book. A book review from ‘readers on line’ by Richard Follett also follows.*

*—Philip Crouch, Tasmania, 2020*

### **JOHN ROBINSON: BACKGROUND BRIEF**

“John C. Robinson is a clinical psychologist with a second doctorate in ministry, an ordained interfaith minister, the author of nine books and numerous articles on the psychology, spiritualiuent speaker at Conscious Aging Conferences across the country. His major works include Death of the Hero, Birth of the Soul; But Where Is God:Psychotherapy and the Religious Search; Ordinary Enlightenment; Finding Heaven Here;The Three Secrets of Aging; Bedtime Stories for Elders; What Aging Men Want: Homer’s Odyssey as a Parable of Male Aging; his first novel, Breakthrough; and The Divine Human: The Final Transformation of Sacred Aging.”

### **JOHN ROBINSON: WHAT AGING MEN WANT, EXTRACT**

**‘Two decades ago the poet Robert Bly published a book that stayed on the New York Times Bestseller list for sixty-two weeks and changed a generation of men. Based on an ancient fairy tale, Iron John became an allegory for midlife men in search of an authentic life. I was part of the men’s movement launched by this poet and the book I wrote at that time, Death of a Hero, Birth of the Soul, became one of its bibles.**



This same army of 38 million men is now marching into their retirement years largely unprepared for what aging really entails or what to do with the next twenty-five years of unprecedented longevity gifted them by science and medicine. Boomers, of course, believe that they will conquer this stage with exercise, attitude, and nutrition.

As their problems and defeats multiply, however, aging men - and I am one of them - now discover that they are lost once again in an unknown land longing for another great story to guide them home. I have found that story.

**RICH FOLLETT READERS ON LINE: "WHAT AGING MEN WANT" REVIEW**

'What Aging Men Want: The Odyssey as a Parable of Male Aging by John C. Robinson, Ph.D., D. Min. is a powerful, transformative guide to the inevitable personal odyssey all men must face: maintaining a sense of purpose and vitality while facing the effects of advancing years. What Aging Men Want dares to ask the question: "What if aging can be '...a radically new, fulfilling and joyful time saturated in love and generosity, quite literally the blossoming of your life?'"

It is a compelling question, approached with impeccable scholarship, sound psychology, a mythologist's eye for universal truth, and the kind of straight-talking personal point of view authentic only to those with a wealth of first-hand experience.

The premise of What Aging Men Want by John C. Robinson, Ph.D., D. Min. is that the universal stages of a man's aging process correspond to specific chapters of Odysseus' fabled return to Ithaca at the close of the Trojan War. While Robinson's approach is so methodical and precise as to be virtually incontrovertible, the narrative is pleasingly conversational in tone and never Patronizing.

It is clear that Dr. Robinson seeks not to assert his credentials among a jaded body of peers, but rather to extend a compassionate invitation for fellow men struggling with fear and doubt to drink freely from his font of hard-won and carefully considered knowledge. It is virtually impossible to imagine any man, regardless of wealth, privilege, level of education, or degree of life experience, for whom What Aging Men Want would not be a valuable asset.



Each chapter of *What Aging Men Want* by John C. Robinson, Ph.D., D. Min. is formatted identically, with an introduction outlining the focus, a segment reframing the story in modern context, the author's interpretation, points for discussion, and a closing challenge. **Robinson then ends each section of this exceedingly well-crafted guidebook with Growth Questions which challenge the reader to apply learned insights in practical and personal ways.**

This consistency of design allows the reader to relax into the experience and extract every possible benefit from the wisdom within its covers.

In much the same fashion as Odysseus of old, readers of "What Aging Men Want" by John C. Robinson, Ph.D., D. Min. will return to their former lives with a newfound sense of joy, purpose and self-worth. "What Aging Men Want" by John C. Robinson, Ph.D., D. Min. should be required reading for every man facing mid-life and struggling with impending mortality.'



**Suggested resources:**

What Aging Men Want - John Robinson, Ph.D., 2013, Published by John Hunt Publishing, USA, and Ropley Publishing UK. ISBN: 9781780999814

<https://www.bookdepository.com/What-Aging-Men-Want/9781780999814>

[http://www.johnrobinson.org/what\\_aging\\_men\\_want\\_117503.htm](http://www.johnrobinson.org/what_aging_men_want_117503.htm)

<http://www.johnrobinson.org/works.htm>

Richard Follett: Book review

<https://readersfavorite.com/book-review/what-aging-men-want>

Robert Bly "Iron John" Men's Issues Advocate

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QdqrVylYyvs>

