



PRESS INFORMATION

Poacher's Pilgrimage

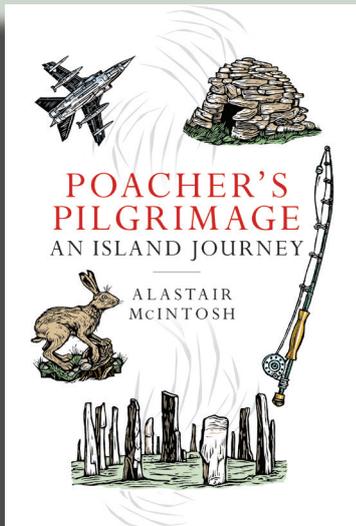
Alastair McIntosh

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Praise for Alastair McIntosh's writing –

'*Soil and Soul* is a world-changing book'

- **George Monbiot**

'Elegant and prophetic. There is earth in the ink and, yes, this is the voice crying out in the wilderness'

- **The Sunday Times**

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POACHER'S PILGRIMAGE

ALASTAIR MCINTOSH

AN ISLAND JOURNEY

The islands of the Outer Hebrides are home to some of the most remote and spectacular scenery in the world. They host an astonishing range of religious structures – stone circles, beehive dwellings, holy wells and 'temples' from the Celtic era. In a twelve-day pilgrimage Alastair McIntosh returns to the islands of his childhood and explores the meaning of these places, meditating on the connection between their ancient and modern contexts. Traversing moors and mountains, struggling through torrential rivers, he walks from St Clement's church at the foot of Roineabhail at the southern end of Harris to the northerly Butt of Lewis.

The book is a walk through space and time, across a physical landscape and into a spiritual one. As McIntosh battles with his own ability to endure some of the toughest terrain in Britain, he meets with the healing power of the land and muses on the eternal connection between religion and nature. The experience is gruelling, physical, and transcendent: having wrestled a 'Bog-monster' to unearth the healing well Tobar a' Ghobha he leaves its waters still and clear.

McIntosh is a provocative, nimble, and far-seeing thinker. He is a regular lecturer on nonviolence for international organisations and made this journey shortly after addressing a NATO 'Partnership for Peace' conference in Geneva. One of the journey's central questions is, what is the place of spiritual thought in the third millennium? This global context makes the book a powerful reflection not simply of the extraordinary place and people McIntosh encountered on his journey, but of imaginative hope for humankind.

Alastair McIntosh grew up and was educated in the Outer Hebrides. He is an independent writer, broadcaster, speaker and activist who is involved in a wide range of contemporary issues, from land reform, globalization and nonviolence to psychology, spirituality and ecology. He is the author of the bestselling *Soil and Soul: People versus Corporate Power*. *Hell and High Water: Climate Change Hope and the Human Condition* was published by Birlinn in 2008 to much acclaim. He features regularly on BBC Radio 4 and BBC Radio Scotland. **He lives in Glasgow and is available for interview.**