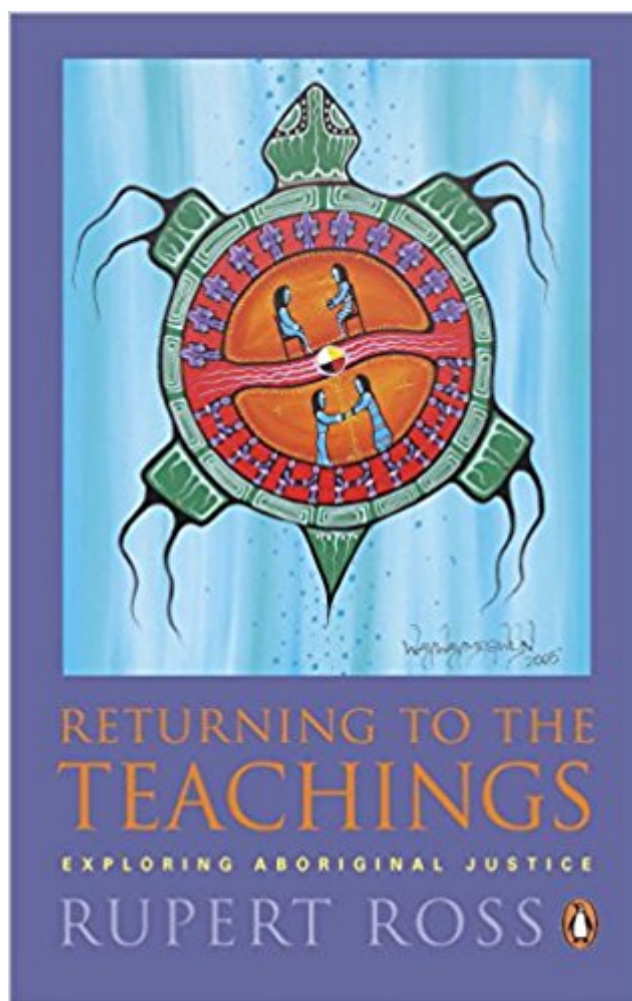


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# Returning To The Teachings: Exploring The Aboriginal Justice



## Synopsis

In his bestselling book *Dancing with a Ghost*, Rupert Ross began his exploration of Aboriginal approaches to justice and the visions of life that shape them. *Returning to the Teachings* takes this exploration further still. During a three-year secondment with Justice Canada, Ross travelled from the Yukon to Cape Breton Island, examining "and experiencing" the widespread Aboriginal preference for "peacekeeper justice." In this remarkable book, he invites us to accompany him as he moves past the pain and suffering that grip so many communities and into the exceptional promise of individual, family and community healing that traditional teachings are now restoring to Aboriginal Canada. He shares his confusion, frustrations and delights as Elders and other teachers guide him, in their unique and often puzzling ways, into ancient visions of Creation and our role with it. *Returning to the Teachings* is about Aboriginal justice and much more, speaking not only to our minds, but also to our hearts and spirits. Above all, it stands as a search for the values and visions that give life its significance and that any justice system, Aboriginal or otherwise, must serve and respect.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

RUPERT ROSS is a retired assistant Crown Attorney for the District of Kenora, Ontario. Starting in 1985, he conducted criminal prosecutions for more than twenty remote Ojibway and Cree First Nations communities in northwestern Ontario. His first book, *Dancing with a Ghost*, started his exploration of aboriginal visions of existence and became a bestseller. His second book, *Returning to the Teachings*, was also a bestseller and examined the aboriginal preference for the

• peacemaker justice • he observed during a three-year secondment with Justice Canada. Both books were shortlisted for the Gordon Montour Award for the best Canadian non-fiction book on social issues, and are presently used in universities and colleges across North America. Following his retirement, Ross was awarded the prestigious 2011 National Prosecution Award for Humanitarianism, and the Ontario Crown Attorneys Association has created an award named after him. He continues to live just north of Kenora with his wife, Val.

I have been reluctant to write reviews for books that I been required to read for courses, but this is the exception. I highly recommend Ross' book on many levels. First, because he approaches the subject of aboriginal justice from a white man who has worked as a prosecutor, with great humility and respect. He is quick to point out that what he is sharing is only his understanding of another culture, not his expertise. His detailed explanations of native American perspectives on healing, wholeness and even language are refreshing and readable. Secondly, he brings his skeptic's lens to the topic of restorative justice. How can a person - let alone a community - heal from crimes such as sexual abuse? He shows us that it is possible. Most importantly, Ross gives us a vision of what our communities and nations could look like as a result of a caring, deliberate process. Recommended for law, social work, cultural diversity and native studies.

A well-articulated and riveting account of the affects of Anglo-European culture on the native north american culture. Mr. Ross presents a sympathetic and captivating description of some of the many cultural differences, and shares some of the challenges in communication between and comprehension of each other's fundamentally dissimilar perspectives. "Returning to the Teachings" has so inspired my curiosity about the Hollow Water community in Manitoba and the healing work that is being done there that I crave the opportunity to learn more. This book is a treasured addition to my library.

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