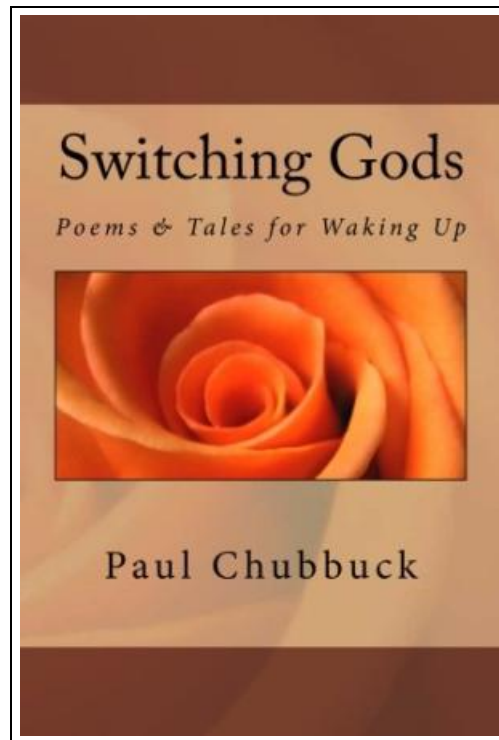


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Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, 2017. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. From the Foreword Waking up is a tricky business. It isn't a self-help project. It isn't about getting better at anything. It doesn't guarantee happiness. Ultimately, it's about seeing the true nature of things more clearly. Paul Chubbuck's new collection of poems: Switching Gods: Poems and Tales for Waking Up is aptly titled. It doesn't dangle happy platitudes about the joys of waking up, but, rather, manages to celebrate both the pain and the bliss that comes from seeing things more clearly. No one switches gods lightly or playfully. It's always a profound and painful business to recognize, as Chubbuck notes in the poem his book is named for, The prayers we thought unanswered really were, but by the wrong God. This collection of poems and brief stories contains quiet meditations on the coming of winter alongside angry laments for the burdens of generations that we unwittingly carry with us and pass along unconsciously. His poems are observational, allowing the natural world to reflect back his inner state, and mytho-poetic dialogues with his own demons. Something that many who have crossed the territory that Chubbuck explores have described is the fine line between divine awakening and madness. Chubbuck, the poet, dances on that razor's edge as well, somehow managing to weave Native American folk tales with the passion of a Sufi mystic. When writing about love and loss, there are hints of Rumi as in Tossing the Practice, Is the nakedness of the beloved not here to enjoy? Does she not tantalize only until the veil drops? After that, there is just delight. Switching Gods is not a guide to waking up, but...



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