



# Journey To A Far Place: Autobiographical Reflections (Visual Studies)

*Richard Quinney*

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## **Journey To A Far Place: Autobiographical Reflections (Visual Studies) Richard Quinney**

Framed as an autobiography, this book charts a quest for intellectual and personal meaning. Born and raised on a Wisconsin farm, Richard Quinney rejected farm life in favor of an academic career in which, he believed, his daily pursuits would hold a larger significance. Early in this career, Quinney found himself on a fast track in academia but neither his immersion in publishing and lecturing nor his involvement in the social movements and politics of the 1960s and 1970s seemed to supply answers to the existential questions that plagued him. As he moved from job to job, place to place, attempting to come to terms with the moral and political implications of his work in criminology and Marxist theory, he realized that he was searching for "the treasure of feeling at home in the world." Journey to a Far Place maps the author's difficult pilgrimage, on which he finds that reasoned thought alone cannot answer the important questions of being human. The 89 photographs are themselves an essay that trace a great circle from his place of origin all the way to China and to Ireland and then home. In the literary tradition of Thoreau, Dag Hammarskjold, Alan Watts, Peter Matthiessen, and Bruce Chatwin, Richard Quinney's meditative narration explores the meaning of worldly existence by experiencing "the holy other in everyday life." With tender reminiscence and intimate detail, he uncovers the roots of his life in a spiritual quest for home that will feel familiar to, and provide illumination for, anyone who seeks meaning within modern Western society. Author note: Richard Quinney, Professor of Sociology at Northern Illinois University, has published numerous books and articles dealing with the sociology of crime and social problems.

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