



Seeing the Light: The Social Logic of Personal Discovery (Hardback)

By Thomas DeGloma

The University of Chicago Press, United States, 2014. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. The chorus of the Christian hymn Amazing Grace reads, I once was lost, but now am found, / Was blind but now I see. Composed by a priest who formerly worked as a slave trader, the song expresses his experience of divine intervention after a perilous trip at sea, one that ultimately caused him to see the error of his ways. This theme of personal awakening is a feature of countless stories throughout history, where wretches like the slave owner are saved from darkness and despair by suddenly seeing the light. In Seeing the Light, Thomas DeGloma explores such accounts of personal discovery, employing a variety of primary source materials, from newsletters to websites to video documentaries and foundational texts. In stories that range from the discovery of a religious truth to remembering a childhood trauma to coming out of the closet, DeGloma reveals a common social pattern: When people escape a place of darkness by discovering a life-changing truth, they typically ally with a new community. Individuals then use these autobiographical stories to shape their stances on...

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