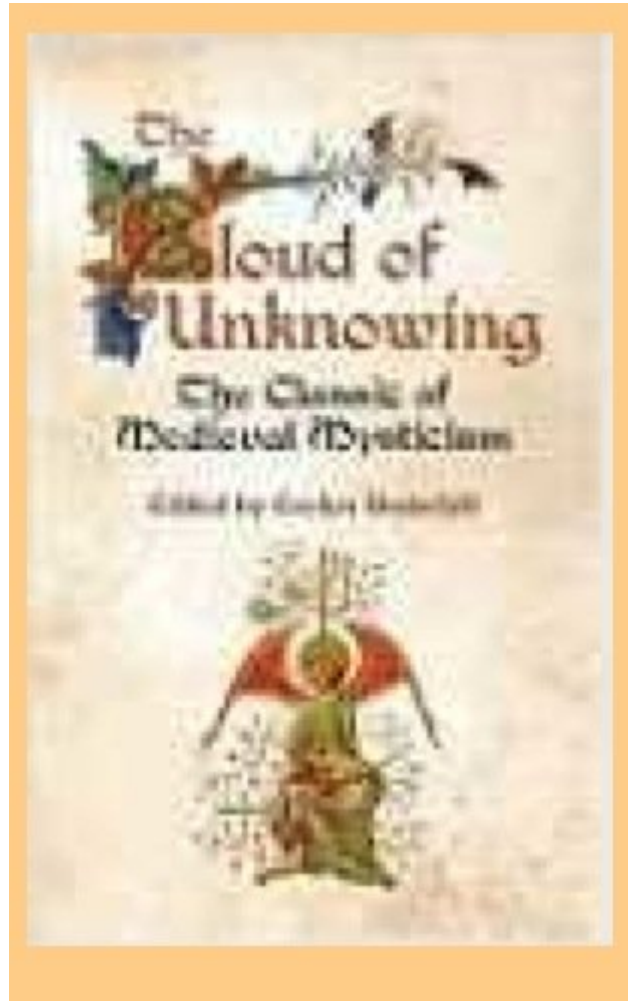




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The Cloud Of Unknowing



Synopsis

Some things never change, including the human need to connect with our creator. Prayer and meditation on the divine are techniques that have been used for millennia to grow in the knowledge of God. Cloud of Unknowing documents techniques used by the medieval monastic community to build and maintain that contemplative knowledge of God. Scholars date the anonymous authorship of Cloud of Unknowing to 1375, during the height of European monasticism. Written as a primer for the young monastic, the work is instructional, but does not have an austere didactic tone. Rather, the work embraces the reader with a maternal call to grow closer to God through meditation and prayer.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I bought it for the reason that it says it's a Christian classic, and also I'd heard a lot about this book while reading about Christian mysticism. It's such a great book. The author is warmhearted, witty, genial, down-to-earth, very mature, contemplative, deep type of a guy. After I left the book for a while, I had the sense of a "true peace" and a "comfort with God" (his words in quotations) when coming back to it. Evelyn Underhill writes the Introduction and says " The MS from which it was made is unknown to us." It's still controversial who the author really was. But it was written around

the latter half of the fourteenth century, England. There are so many things around and about him such as his other books, his being a cloistered monk, his being a Carthusian etc. which are still uncertain and unprovable. No doubt that the book is a mystical treatise. It talks about how to get to God by going over the cloud of unknowing leaving behind the cloud of forgetting. All just have to be between you and God, other things else have to be forgotten. It's the "speedily springing unto God as a sparkle from the coal." There are two kinds of the church life, the active life and the contemplative life. The active life is the life of busying with all kind of religious activities such as helping the poor, the needy, and doing other charity works. The contemplative life "should be occupied, in reading, thinking, and praying" and "contemplative sitteth in peace with one thing." His view of praying is that, "Prayer in itself properly is not else, but a devout intent direct unto God, for getting of good and removing of evil." And God is, "The everlastingness of God is His length. His love is His breadth. His might is His height. And His wisdom is His deepness." The quotations were just to let you know of how he writes and his main ideas. I would recommend this book for anyone, religious, or mystic. I love the author so much, he makes me feel that there's still something good left of our humanity.

this was written in the 13th century, by an obviously intelligent, well educated, and warm-hearted monk with a real desire to help others. Not all meditation traditions/techniques derive from eastern (Hindu, Buddhist, etc) sources- a common misconception which I once believed myself. The language has been updated, but certainly not dumbed-down. God Bless our unknown author for sharing this with us... the methods described in this book are not easy, quick-fix, psycho-babble of the sort to be found in all too many modern books on the subject of meditation. But they are very well worth the time and effort for the sincere seeker of God and His truth. A very old Christian monastic tradition with ancient roots, just waiting to be discovered and put to use by the rest of us. Highly recommended.

This is a medieval text by an anonymous monk on 'contemplation', which today we would call meditation. It is a very startling and satisfying read, especially for the person who is trying to meditate, and meant to be read again and again. The perspective is Christian but parallels the eastern approach at every step of the way.

This short book written hundreds of years ago by an unknown Monk is interesting, concise, humbling and relevant even today for the Christian who is seriously curious about delving into the

spiritual realm of a contemplative. This is not a "scholarly" writing, but that of a mentor to his friends whom he wants to instruct on how to go deeper in their walk with Christ. Some of the writing is a bit difficult at first to understand, you must read with a meditative reading style. I would also suggest reading it out loud as it will help with your attention and understanding. The author expresses that this will be a difficult read for someone new to the thoughts of a contemplative lifestyle. He recommends that you need to read this through two or three times to fully grasp the thoughts and lessons. He also acknowledges that this task will be hard work. It doesn't come easy. It doesn't come quickly. It is a calling from God. But after all the hard labor the rewards are worth it. I think that this translation by Harper Collins is well done and worth your consideration. Enjoy!

Wonderful addition to my spiritual library.

essential reading for a contemplative life

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