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The Cloud of Unknowing

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The Cloud of Unknowing Anonymous A CHRISTIAN CLASSIC

Scholars date the anonymous authorship of *The Cloud of Unknowing* to 1375, during the height of European monasticism. We have now, as they had then, a deep longing to connect with our Creator. *The Cloud of Unknowing* documents techniques used by the medieval monastic community where prayer and meditation were essential elements in growing in faith and in the knowledge of God. Written as an instructive book for young men joining the monastic order, the work is instructive, but not somber. The work embraces the reader with a humorous, yet tender, call to grow closer to God through meditation and prayer.

"His writings, though they touch on many subjects, are chiefly concerned with the art of contemplative prayer; that 'blind intent stretching to God' which, if it be wholly set on Him, cannot fail to reach its goal. A peculiar talent for the description and discrimination of spiritual states has enabled him to discern and set before us, with astonishing precision and vividness, not only the strange sensations, the confusion and bewilderment of the beginner in the early stages of contemplation—the struggle with distracting thoughts, the silence, the dark—and the unfortunate state of those theoretical mystics who, 'swollen with pride and with curiosity of much clergy and letterly cunning as in clerks,' miss that treasure which is 'never got by study but all only by grace;' but also the happiness of those whose 'sharp dart of longing love' has not 'failed of the prick, the which is God.'"—EVELYN UNDERHILL

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