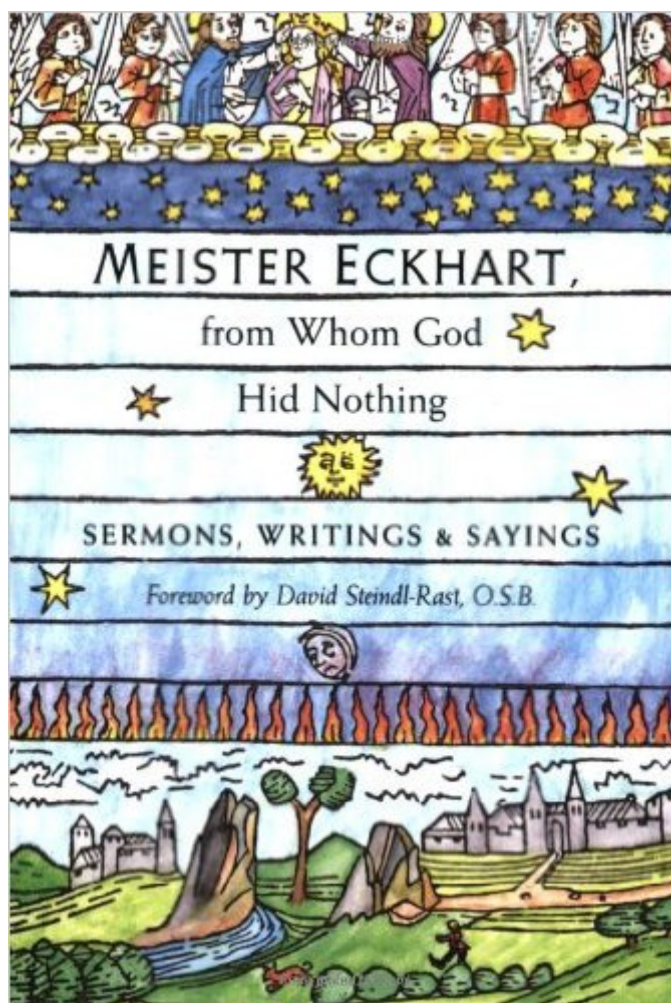


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Meister Eckhart, From Whom God Hid Nothing: Sermons, Writings, And Sayings



Synopsis

This introduction to the writing and preaching of the greatest medieval European mystic contains selections from his sermons, treatises, and sayings, as well as Table Talk, the records of his informal advice to his spiritual children.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is probably the most recommendable book of Eckhart's writings on the market, and the best introduction for anyone who has heard the name and is curious to learn more. The translations are lively and accurate, the contents have been selected from Eckhart's sermons, tractates and short sayings, in which he was addressing ordinary people. Eckhart was one of those rare individuals who combine the soul of a saint and the mind of a theologian with the verbal gifts of a poet, so he has a head start when it comes to the perennial problem of expressing the Inexpressible. In a way the essence of Eckhart lies in his Latin theological writings, where he interprets the Christian Mysteries through the ideas and vocabulary of Plato and the Neo-Platonists: these show him as one of the greatest thinkers in Western history. (Those interested in this side of him should read C.F. Kelley's "Meister Eckhart on Divine Knowledge", now happily reprinted.) But what distinguishes Eckhart from most later theologians is that he says the word "God" the way a carpenter says "wood" or a swimmer says "water". He knows what he is talking about. And if his words remind us again and again of Vedanta, Zen or the Sufis, surely this is because those who truly See, See the same thing. Still, it would be wrong to think of him as some kind of eccentric or stray: he is part of a broad

tradition of Christian thought that begins with the Gospel of John and survives until the late 17th century. Eckhart speaks the same language as other Mediaeval theologians, though with an accent of his own. My main criticism of this book is simple: it is too short. Knowing Eckhart's Sermons and the treasures they contain, I can easily imagine this book quadrupled without any loss of interest.

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