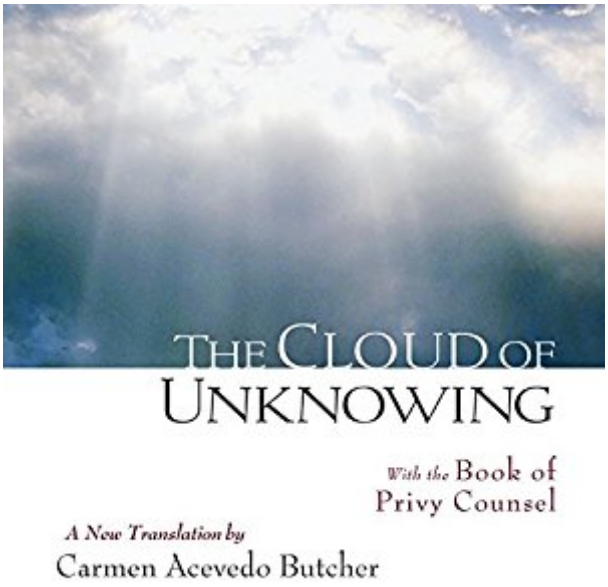
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The Cloud Of Unknowing: With The Book Of Privy Counsel



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Synopsis

This anonymous fourteenth-century text is the glory of English mysticism, and one of the most practical and useful guides to finding union with God ever written. Carmen Acevedo Butcher’s new translation is the first to bring the text into a modern English idiom - while remaining strictly faithful to the meaning of the original Middle English. The Cloud of Unknowing consists of a series of letters written by a monk to his student or disciple, instructing him (or her) in the way of Divine union. Its theology is presented in a way that is remarkably easy to understand, as well as practical, providing advice on prayer and contemplation that anyone can use. Previous translations of the Cloud have tended to veil its intimate, even friendly tone under medieval-sounding language. Carmen Butcher has boldly brought the text into language as appealing to modern ears as it was to its original readers more than five hundred years ago.Also included in the volume is the companion work attributed to the same anonymous author, The Book of Privy Counsel, which contains further advice for approaching God in a way that emphasizes real experience rather than human knowledge.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition
Listening Length: 5 hoursÃ Â andÃ Â 26 minutes
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Customer Reviews

This is an incredibly readable and "accessible" work, even though it is scholarly.No one should be afraid to read it. It is clearly written. It does not impeded the Spiritual intent of the author in any way. It augments the reader’s experience by the addition of appropriate (optional to read) footnotes as regards the Biblical basis of many statements in the text, the Old English literary technique and

"flavors" a strictly modern translation looses, the historical and contemporary references of the author’s time and apparent exposure.This volume in connection withFr. Menninger’s DVD "Cloud of Unknowing,"(and Evelyn Underhill’s translation for Old English comparison), andFr. Timothy Dolan’s "To Whom Shall We Go" http://www..com/To-Whom-Shall-We-Go/dp/1592760503make an excellent and safe gateway into why one can and should engage a Lay Contemplative journey as part of a balanced Christian existence.Used in combination, one will not only have sources of instruction, but inspiration and guidance...and guidance is necessary because all powerful spiritual journeys are opposed by ignorance, self-delusion, accidental pratfall, spiritual warfare. Adding a connection to a community of Lay People who engage in Contemplative growth strategies is probably the safest method of all.This volume would also be quite useful for those who are in pursuit of more secular-type meditation, but are frustrated with Eastern practices.I think this would be especially so for people who had become distanced from their Judeo-Christian roots while in pursuit of an inner harmony or a state of self-acceptance and a foundation of balance which they sensed ought to be part of their Christian Life--but couldn’t find. If I am not mistaken, this volume--written in the local vulgate and not Latin, was "leaked" to the lay community to answer just such a need, and the need remains very real today.Peace.

This is the first translation of this work that I have been able to read and understand. The author has created a highly readable translation.

The Cloud of Unknowing is one of the great works of Christian literature and spirituality. The limpid prose of this translation makes it accessible to many readers who might have been intimidated by more literal versions. Highly to be recommended.

Each short chapter is written to someone the author is mentoring. They are meant to help one understand ones self and to move on communicating with God. There is obviously church doctrine involved but still can be meaningful for those searching. It is a fairly simple read but with deeper connotations.

Introduction is very good. Pleasant voice in the audio version. A classic that is brought to life for our modern age.

Very satisfied.Met product description. Also, it arrived early.

I tried to read Underhill's translation, and got so bogged down in deciphering it that the message itself was lost to me. This translation is wonderful, easy enough to grasp the meaning of what anonymous was trying to tell us, and retains his (her?) warmth, humor, and friendly, chatty style. I highly recommend this to anyone who, like me, wants to learn a Christian method of meditation. I only wish I'd found this years ago.

The Cloud is here. The place between our material selves and the mystical Being. Thank you Anonymous. I would be game to read a more literal translation. Although this one is very accessible for the modern reader, the choice of translation from the Old English seems to leach some of the beauty and cleverness from the original.

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