

the showings of julian of norwich

The Showings of Julian of Norwich: A Journey into Medieval Mysticism and Divine Love

the showings of julian of norwich represent one of the most profound and enduring works of medieval Christian mysticism. Written in the late 14th century by Julian, an anchoress living in Norwich, England, this text offers a unique glimpse into the spiritual visions and theological insights that shaped her understanding of God, suffering, and hope. For centuries, The Showings (also known as Revelations of Divine Love) have fascinated theologians, scholars, and spiritual seekers alike, not only for their deep religious content but also for their compassionate and hopeful portrayal of divine love.

Exploring the showings of Julian of Norwich opens a window into the medieval world, where faith and mysticism intertwined to provide comfort and meaning during turbulent times. This article delves into the origins, themes, and significance of The Showings, providing a comprehensive look at why this work continues to resonate today.

The Historical Context of The Showings of Julian of Norwich

To truly appreciate the showings of Julian of Norwich, it's important to understand the historical and social backdrop against which they emerged. Julian lived during a time marked by widespread suffering – the Black Death had ravaged Europe just a few decades earlier, and England was embroiled in political unrest and religious upheaval.

Who Was Julian of Norwich?

Julian was an anchoress, a woman who chose to live a life of seclusion dedicated to prayer and contemplation. Enclosed in a small cell attached to St. Julian's Church in Norwich, she experienced a series of mystical visions during a severe illness around 1373. These visions, or "showings," would later form the basis of her written work.

Her writings are remarkable not only because they come from a woman in a male-dominated medieval society but also due to their optimistic and tender portrayal of God's nature, which contrasted with the more punitive views common at the time.

The Medieval Mystical Tradition

Julian's showings are part of a broader tradition of Christian mysticism, which emphasizes direct, personal experiences of the divine. Mystics like Meister Eckhart, Margery Kempe, and Teresa of Ávila also contributed to this genre, but Julian's work stands out for its poetic depth and theological originality.

Key Themes in The Showings of Julian of Norwich

The richness of *The Showings* lies in its exploration of several profound theological and spiritual themes that continue to inspire readers.

God's Love and Compassion

One of the most striking aspects of Julian's visions is her emphasis on God's unconditional love. She famously wrote, "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well." This hopeful refrain underscores a vision of a merciful God who loves humanity despite its flaws and sins.

Julian's concept of God's love is deeply compassionate and nurturing, often described in maternal terms. She presents God not as a distant judge but as an intimate presence who suffers alongside creation.

The Meaning of Suffering

In *The Showings*, Julian wrestles with the problem of suffering and evil. Rather than denying pain, she acknowledges its reality but reframes it within a divine purpose. Suffering, for Julian, is a way through which individuals grow spiritually and come to a deeper understanding of God's love.

Her reflections encourage readers to view hardship not as punishment but as a transformative experience, a perspective that offers solace and strength.

The Trinity and Unity

Julian's visions frequently explore the relationship between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. She presents the Trinity as a unity of love and action, emphasizing that God's work in creation and redemption is inseparable.

This theological insight highlights the interconnectedness of all things and

the ongoing presence of God in the world.

Understanding the Language and Imagery in The Showings

The showings of Julian of Norwich are rich with vivid imagery and symbolic language, which can initially seem challenging but offer profound insights when explored carefully.

Symbolism of the Womb and Motherhood

Julian often uses the metaphor of a mother and her child to describe God's relationship with humanity. This maternal imagery was revolutionary in her time, providing a tender and intimate way of understanding divine care.

For example, she compares the universe to a hazelnut held in God's hand, small yet precious and sustained by divine love. This image conveys both the fragility and the protection inherent in creation.

Visualizing the Divine

Her visions include striking visual elements – from Christ's wounds to the interplay of light and darkness – that symbolize spiritual truths. These images invite readers to meditate on the mysteries of faith in a deeply personal way.

By engaging with these symbols, modern readers can connect with the mystical experience behind the text, moving beyond literal interpretation to a more contemplative understanding.

The Lasting Impact and Relevance of The Showings of Julian of Norwich

Although written over six centuries ago, the showings of Julian of Norwich continue to influence Christian spirituality and broader discussions about the nature of God and human suffering.

Influence on Christian Theology and Spirituality

Julian's optimistic theology has inspired countless writers, theologians, and

spiritual leaders. Her emphasis on God's love and the ultimate reconciliation of all things offers a hopeful counterpoint to doctrines focused solely on judgment and damnation.

Her work has been embraced by various Christian traditions, including Anglicanism and Catholicism, and remains a staple in studies of mysticism and medieval theology.

Modern Spiritual Lessons

In today's world, marked by uncertainty and turmoil, The Showings offer valuable spiritual insights. Julian's message encourages patience, trust, and compassion – not just towards God but towards ourselves and others.

Her reflections on suffering remind us that pain can have meaning and that hope persists even in the darkest times. For those exploring contemplative prayer or seeking a deeper connection with the divine, her writings provide a gentle and profound guide.

How to Approach Reading The Showings Today

If you're interested in exploring the showings of Julian of Norwich, here are some tips to get the most out of her mystical text:

- **Read Slowly and Reflectively:** Julian's language is poetic and symbolic, so take your time to meditate on the passages.
- **Use Modern Translations:** Some editions provide contemporary English that can make the text more accessible.
- **Consider Historical Context:** Understanding medieval Christianity can enrich your appreciation of the themes.
- **Engage with Commentaries:** There are many scholarly and spiritual guides that offer interpretations and insights.
- **Practice Contemplation:** Use her imagery as a starting point for prayer or meditation.

Exploring Further: Related Works and Resources

For those captivated by the showings of Julian of Norwich, exploring related

mystical writings and historical resources can deepen your understanding.

Other Medieval Mystics

Consider reading works by contemporaries and successors such as:

- *The Cloud of Unknowing* – an anonymous 14th-century guide to contemplative prayer.
- *The Book of Margery Kempe* – the autobiographical account of a mystic's spiritual journey.
- Meister Eckhart's sermons and treatises, which explore the soul's union with God.

Academic and Spiritual Commentaries

Many modern scholars have written extensively on Julian's theology, including:

- Edmund Colledge and James Walsh's translations and commentary.
- Denise M. LaRue's works on feminist theology and medieval mysticism.
- Contemporary spiritual writers who draw inspiration from Julian's message.

Diving into these resources can illuminate the nuances of The Showings and connect you with a rich tradition of spiritual exploration.

The showings of Julian of Norwich remain a testament to the enduring power of mystical experience and the transformative potential of divine love. They invite us not only to witness a medieval vision but also to embrace a timeless message of hope, compassion, and faith that continues to inspire and uplift across the centuries.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are 'The Showings' of Julian of Norwich?

'The Showings' of Julian of Norwich are a series of mystical visions and writings experienced by the 14th-century English anchoress and mystic Julian of Norwich, in which she received divine revelations about God's love and the nature of suffering.

When did Julian of Norwich receive her Showings?

Julian of Norwich is believed to have received her Showings in 1373 during a severe illness, when she experienced a series of spiritual visions that lasted several hours.

What is the main theme of the Showings of Julian of Norwich?

The main theme of the Showings is the boundless love and compassion of God, emphasizing that 'All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.'

How do the Showings of Julian of Norwich contribute to Christian mysticism?

The Showings offer a unique perspective on God's nature, focusing on hope, divine love, and the meaning of suffering, contributing significantly to Christian mysticism and theological thought.

Are the Showings of Julian of Norwich considered authoritative in Christian theology?

While not considered doctrinally authoritative, the Showings are highly respected for their spiritual insight and have influenced Christian spirituality and theology, especially within contemplative traditions.

In what language were the Showings originally written?

The Showings were originally written in Middle English by Julian of Norwich, making them one of the earliest known works in English by a woman.

How have the Showings of Julian of Norwich influenced modern spirituality?

The Showings have inspired modern readers with their message of hope,

forgiveness, and divine love, influencing contemporary Christian thought and progressive spiritual movements.

Where can one read the Showings of Julian of Norwich today?

The Showings are available in various modern English translations and editions, both in print and online, often included in collections of Christian mysticism and medieval literature.

Additional Resources

The Showings of Julian of Norwich: An Analytical Exploration of a Medieval Mystical Classic

the showings of julian of norwich stand as one of the most significant works of medieval Christian mysticism, offering profound insights into spirituality, theology, and human experience. Composed in the late 14th century by Julian of Norwich, an anchoress and mystic, these revelations or "showings" provide a rare glimpse into the medieval mind grappling with suffering, divine love, and hope. This article delves into the historical context, thematic depth, theological nuances, and lasting impact of Julian's work, while also considering its relevance in contemporary spiritual discourse.

Historical and Cultural Context of The Showings of Julian of Norwich

The showings of Julian of Norwich were written during a turbulent period marked by the Black Death, social upheaval, and religious strife in England. Julian, believed to have been born around 1342, experienced a near-death illness in 1373, during which she reported a series of sixteen visions or "showings." These mystical experiences formed the core of her book, originally composed in Middle English, which is considered the earliest surviving English-language book written by a woman.

Understanding the historical backdrop enriches the reading of the showings. The late 14th century was a time when the Church wielded immense authority, yet it was also a period of questioning and reform. Julian's writings diverge from the often punitive and fear-driven religious narratives of the time by emphasizing God's unconditional love and mercy. This theological stance was groundbreaking, subtly challenging established doctrines without overt confrontation.

The Structure and Style of the Showings

The showings are divided into two main texts: the Short Text and the Long Text. The Short Text is a concise account of the visions, likely written soon after Julian's recovery. The Long Text, composed years later, expands on these visions with extensive theological reflection and commentary.

Julian's prose is notable for its clarity and poetic sensibility. Her use of language is accessible yet deeply metaphorical, employing vivid imagery such as the famous "Hazelnut" vision – a small object representing God's creation and love. This blend of simplicity and depth allows the showings to transcend its medieval origins and speak directly to readers across centuries.

Theological Themes and Interpretations

At the heart of the showings is Julian's radical assertion that "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well." This refrain encapsulates her optimistic theology, which foregrounds hope and divine compassion over judgment and despair.

God's Love and Mercy

One of the most pervasive themes is the unconditional love of God. Unlike some contemporary mystics who emphasized human sinfulness and divine wrath, Julian presents a vision of a nurturing, motherly God who comforts and sustains humanity. The imagery of Christ as a mother figure redefines traditional gender roles in theology and highlights the intimacy of the divine-human relationship.

Suffering and Redemption

While Julian does not deny the reality of suffering, she interprets it within a framework of ultimate redemption. Her reflections suggest that pain and hardship have a purpose in the spiritual journey, fostering growth and drawing souls closer to God. This perspective offers a nuanced understanding of theodicy, balancing acknowledgment of evil with hope in divine providence.

Human Free Will and Divine Sovereignty

Julian carefully navigates the tension between human agency and God's control. She asserts that while God is sovereign, human beings are free to choose love and faith. This balanced view avoids fatalism and encourages

personal responsibility within the context of divine grace.

Literary and Mystical Significance

The showings of Julian of Norwich occupy a unique place in both literature and mysticism. As one of the earliest English spiritual autobiographies, it contributes to the development of vernacular religious writing. Its introspective style and psychological insight prefigure modern spiritual literature.

Julian's mysticism is experiential rather than speculative. Her emphasis on direct vision and emotional response makes the showings a compelling study in contemplative practice. Scholars often compare her work with other mystics such as Meister Eckhart and Teresa of Avila, noting her distinctive blend of optimism and realism.

Pros and Cons of The Showings in Contemporary Study

- **Pros:** The showings offer a hopeful and compassionate theological perspective that resonates with modern readers seeking spiritual solace. Its accessible language and vivid imagery enhance its appeal.
- **Cons:** Some critics argue that Julian's optimistic theology may underplay the complexity of evil and suffering. Additionally, the medieval context can pose challenges for contemporary interpretation without careful historical awareness.

The Showings of Julian of Norwich in Modern Context

The legacy of the showings extends well beyond medieval scholarship. Today, Julian of Norwich is celebrated as a pioneering female voice in spirituality and theology. Her work has influenced a broad range of fields including feminist theology, pastoral care, and interfaith dialogue.

Many contemporary spiritual practitioners find in Julian's writings a source of comfort amidst personal and societal crises. Her emphasis on hope and divine love provides a counter-narrative to the often bleak outlook of modern life. Moreover, the showings have been integrated into various liturgical traditions and academic curricula worldwide, underscoring their enduring relevance.

Comparative Impact Across Religious Traditions

While rooted in Christian mysticism, the themes of the showings – such as compassion, suffering, and the nature of the divine – find parallels in other religious traditions. Interfaith scholars have noted how Julian's visions resonate with Buddhist compassion, Sufi mysticism, and Jewish theological reflections, opening avenues for cross-cultural spiritual conversation.

Conclusion: The Enduring Power of The Showings

The showings of Julian of Norwich continue to captivate readers with their profound spiritual insights and poetic beauty. As both a historical artifact and a living text, they invite ongoing exploration and reflection. Julian's message of hope, love, and resilience remains a vital contribution to the global spiritual heritage, proving that even centuries-old revelations can illuminate contemporary quests for meaning and peace.

The Showings Of Julian Of Norwich

the showings of julian of norwich: *Julian of Norwich's Showings* Denise Nowakowski Baker, 1997 The 14th-century mystic Julian of Norwich has inspired generations of Christians with her reflections on the motherhood of Jesus and other writings. Here Denise Baker reconsiders Julian as an evolving theologian of great originality. Focusing on Julian's BOOK OF SHOWINGS, in which she recorded a series of revelations received in 1373, Baker provides the first historical assessment of Julian's significance as a writer and thinker. 3 halftones.

the showings of julian of norwich: *All Shall be Well* Ellyn Sanna, Julian (of Norwich), 2016-06-02 The great spiritual classic by Julian of Norwich is now available in modern, easy-to-comprehend language that stays true to Julian's original meanings. Her ancient wisdom is as relevant now as it was in the 14th century's world of plague, prejudice, and war. Discover Julian's joyous affirmation of the certainty of Divine love, a love that overcomes all. Julian would be pleased with this rendering of the Showings into contemporary English. The even-handed blending here of simple language and the grandeur of Julian's content is flawless; and the happy result is that the Showings slip into our minds and hearts as effortlessly as if the mystic of Norwich were speaking to us herself, face-to-face and soul-to-soul. -Phyllis Tickle, founding editor of Publishers Weekly Religion Department, author of *The Great Emergence, How Christianity is Changing and Why*; *The Words of Jesus, A Gospel of the Sayings of Our Lord*; and the *Divine Hours* series.

the showings of julian of norwich: *Showing of Love* Julian (of Norwich), 2001 This edition of Julian of Norwich, 'Showing of Love', studies the Brigittine-Syon Abbey-related manuscripts: British Library, Amherst; Westminster Cathedral; Paris Bibliothèque Nationale texts; and the careful copies made by English Benedictine nuns at Cambrai in the Sloane manuscripts now in the British Library, and the Margaret Gascoigne/Bridget More and Barbara Constable, O.S.B., fragments -- Front flap of book jacket.

the showings of julian of norwich: *Julian of Norwich's Showings* Denise Nowakowski Baker, 2014-07-14 The first woman known to have written in English, the fourteenth-century mystic Julian of Norwich has inspired generations of Christians with her reflections on the motherhood of Jesus,

and her assurance that, despite evil, all shall be well. In this book, Denise Baker reconsiders Julian not only as an eloquent and profound visionary but also as an evolving, sophisticated theologian of great originality. Focusing on Julian's Book of Showings, in which the author records a series of revelations she received during a critical illness in May 1373, Baker provides the first historical assessment of Julian's significance as a writer and thinker. Inscribing her visionary experience in the short version of her Showings, Julian contemplated the revelations for two decades before she achieved the understanding that enabled her to complete the long text. Baker first traces the genesis of Julian's visionary experience to the practice of affective piety, such as meditations on the life of Christ and, in the arts, a depiction of a suffering rather than triumphant Christ on the cross. Julian's innovations become apparent in the long text. By combining late medieval theology of salvation with the mystics' teachings on the nature of humankind, she arrives at compassionate, optimistic, and liberating conclusions regarding the presence of evil in the world, God's attitude toward sinners, and the possibility of universal salvation. She concludes her theodicy by comparing the connections between the Trinity and humankind to familial relationships, emphasizing Jesus' role as mother. Julian's strategy of revisions and her artistry come under scrutiny in the final chapter of this book, as Baker demonstrates how this writer brings her readers to reenact her own struggle in understanding the revelations. Originally published in 1994. The Princeton Legacy Library uses the latest print-on-demand technology to again make available previously out-of-print books from the distinguished backlist of Princeton University Press. These editions preserve the original texts of these important books while presenting them in durable paperback and hardcover editions. The goal of the Princeton Legacy Library is to vastly increase access to the rich scholarly heritage found in the thousands of books published by Princeton University Press since its founding in 1905.

the showings of julian of norwich: *A Revelation of Love* Julian, 2018

the showings of julian of norwich: *Julian of Norwich: The Showings* Mirabai Starr,

2022-04-01 As a major fan and promoter of Julian of Norwich, whom I call 'my favorite mystic', it is genuinely exciting to find such a faithful but freeing translation of Julian's long-lost Showings. Now they are no longer lost—for anyone! —Fr. Richard Rohr, O.F.M., Center for Action and Contemplation In this contemporary translation of one of the most beloved and influential mystical texts of all time, Julian of Norwich: The Showings brings the message and spirituality of this 14th-century mystic to 21st-century readers. Revelations of Divine Love, the first book published in English attributed to a woman, is also included. Julian of Norwich, a contemporary of Geoffrey Chaucer, was an English anchoress in East Anglia. At the age of 30, suffering from a severe illness and believing she was on her deathbed, Julian had a series of intense visions of Jesus, which she recorded and then expanded on later in her life. In her visions, God was not angry and wrathful. Instead, the three properties of God were presented as life, love, and light, and all of His creation was good, including his servant, man. In Julian's version, man is not to blame for his sin; sin is something that he must experience and overcome in his spiritual journey with God. Her message for today's readers is simply this: She reveals the feminine face of the Divine and reminds us to see God there. All our failings are an opportunity to learn and grow; they should be honored, but not dwelled upon. God's love has nothing to do with love and retribution and everything to do with love and compassion. In spite of all appearances, all is well. This book contains some of the most profound spiritual writing ever written and remains a perennial favorite among Christians. This book was previously published as *The Showings of Julian of Norwich*. This new edition includes a foreword by Richard Rohr, author of *Falling Upwards*.

the showings of julian of norwich: *Revelations of Divine Love* Julian of Norwich, 2007-10-01

Considered one of the first books ever written by a woman in the English language, *Revelations of Divine Love*, by British mystic JULIAN OF NORWICH (1342-1416), continues to be an inspiration to spiritual seekers everywhere. During a period of illness, Julian witnessed sixteen visions of Christ that changed her life. She recorded these visions and spent many years working out their theological implications. Among her revelations were the comprehension of the Trinity, the conquering of the Fiend by the Passion, and the painless glory of Heaven. She believed in universal salvation and is

often remembered for being an optimist during a time when many believed that God was punishing mankind. Julian is essential reading for anyone seeking to renew or spark their Christian faith.

the showings of julian of norwich: Showings of Julian of Norwich Mirabai Starr, 2013-10-01 A fresh and contemporary translation of one of the best loved and influential mystical texts of all time, The Showings of Julian of Norwich brings the message and spirituality of this 14th century mystic to 21st century readers. Julian of Norwich, a contemporary of Geoffrey Chaucer, was an English anchoress in East Anglia. At the age of 30, suffering from a severe illness and believing she was on her deathbed, Julian had a series of intense visions of Jesus, which she recorded and then expanded on later in her life. Her message for today's readers is simply this: She reveals the feminine face of the Divine and reminds us to see God there. All our failings are an opportunity to learn and grow; that they should be honored, but not dwelled upon. God's love has nothing to do with love and retribution and everything to do with love and compassion. In spite of all appearances, all is well.

the showings of julian of norwich: A Book of Showings to the anchoress Julian of Norwich Julian (of Norwich), 1978

the showings of julian of norwich: *The Showings of Julian of Norwich* Julian (of Norwich), Mirabai Starr, 2013 A fresh and contemporary translation of one of the best loved and influential mystical texts of all time, The Showings of Julian of Norwich brings the message and spirituality of this 14th century mystic to 21st century readers. Julian of Norwich, a contemporary of Geoffrey Chaucer, was an English anchoress in East Anglia. At the age of 30, suffering from a severe illness and believing she was on her deathbed, Julian had a series of intense visions of Jesus, which she recorded and then expanded on later in her life. Her message for today's readers is simply this: She reveals the feminine face of the Divine and reminds us to see God there. All our failings are an opportunity to learn and grow; that they should be honored, but not dwelled upon. God's love has nothing to do with love and retribution and everything to do with love and compassion. In spite of all appearances, all is well.

the showings of julian of norwich: A Book of Showings to the anchoress Julian of Norwich: Introduction and the short text Julian (of Norwich), 1978

the showings of julian of norwich: *Showings* Julian (of Norwich), 1978 In the light of their thirteen years of work on the critical edition of Showings, Colledge and Walsh give us this first modern English rendering from their critical text.

the showings of julian of norwich: *Julian of Norwich, Showings* Julian (of Norwich), 1978

the showings of julian of norwich: *Julian of Norwich, Showings* Julian (of Norwich), 1978

the showings of julian of norwich: *Cultural Reformations* Brian Cummings, James Simpson, 2010-06-24 The original essays in Oxford Twenty-First Century Approaches to Literature mean to provoke rather than reassure, to challenge rather than codify. Instead of summarizing existing knowledge scholars working in the field aim at opening fresh discussion; instead of emphasizing settled consensus they direct their readers to areas of enlivened and unresolved debate. The deepest periodic division in English literary history has been between the Medieval and the Early Modern, not least because the cultural investments in maintaining that division are exceptionally powerful. Narratives of national and religious identity and freedom; of individual liberties; of the history of education and scholarship; of reading or the history of the book; of the very possibility of persuasive historical consciousness itself: each of these narratives (and more) is motivated by positing a powerful break around 1500. None of the claims for a profound historical and cultural break at the turn of the fifteenth into the sixteenth centuries is negligible. The very habit of working within those periodic bounds (either Medieval or Early Modern) tends, however, simultaneously to affirm and to ignore the rupture. It affirms the rupture by staying within standard periodic bounds, but it ignores it by never examining the rupture itself. The moment of profound change is either, for medievalists, just over an unexplored horizon; or, for Early Modernists, a zero point behind which more penetrating examination is unnecessary. That situation is now rapidly changing. Scholars are building bridges that link previously insular areas. Both periods are starting to look different in dialogue with each other. The change underway has yet to find collected voices behind it. Cultural

Reformations volume aims to provide those voices. It will give focus, authority, and drive to a new area.

the showings of julian of norwich: Christian Love Bernard V. Komar, 2003-03-07 Bernard Brady has given us a rare, delightful, and thought-provoking book—a volume that belongs on the desk or the bed-stand of anyone in search of the rich and varied dimensions of Christian love. Christians are taught that God is love and are commanded to love, their neighbors and their enemies. These truths are not controversial. What is controversial and, indeed, has been controversial throughout the history of Christianity is the meaning of this love. This book explores the tradition of Christian reflection on the meaning, and experience of love, loving, and being loved. Many books have been written about Christian love, but no book has gathered together this kind of primary source material and covered such a wide range of perspectives, allowing the reader to engage directly with the thought and experience of some of the greatest Christian minds on the topic of love. Bernard Brady covers with remarkable clarity the breadth and depth of discussions on Christian love from the Bible to contemporary experience to create this—a survey of how Christians through the ages have understood love. Beginning of course with the Bible, Brady examines the key writings and thinkers on the nature of Christian love: St. Augustine; mystics such as Bernard of Clairvaux, Hadewich, and Julian of Norwich; the great tradition and literature of courtly love, Thomas Aquinas, Martin Luther, Sören Kierkegaard, and others. In addition, Brady devotes chapters to several 20th century figures whose lives seemingly embodied Christian love: Mother Theresa, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Pope John Paul II. Finally, *Christian Love* addresses contemporary deliberations over the meaning of love with an analysis of the modern writings of Martin D'Arcy, Reinhold Niebuhr, Jules Toner, Gustavo Gutiérrez, Gene Outka, Margaret Farley, Edward Vacek, and Don Browning. In a synthesizing concluding chapter, Brady offers his own insightful and introspective understanding of the substance of Christian love, suggesting that it is an affective affirmation of another, that it is both responsive and unitive, and that it is steadfast and enduring. As a beautiful contemplative companion to one's own spiritual understanding, or as a thoughtful and meaningful gift, *Christian Love* is in every sense a treasure to behold, read, and share with those you love.

the showings of julian of norwich: The Female Mystic Andrea Janelle Dickens, 2009-05-30 The Middle Ages saw a flourishing of mysticism that was astonishing for its richness and distinctiveness. The medieval period was unlike any other period of Christianity in producing people who frequently claimed visions of Christ and Mary, uttered prophecies, gave voice to ecstatic experiences, recited poems and songs said to emanate directly from God and changed their ways of life as a result of these special revelations. Many recipients of these alleged divine gifts were women. Yet the female contribution to western Europe's intellectual and religious development is still not well understood. Popular or lay religion has been overshadowed by academic theology, which was predominantly the theology of men. This timely book rectifies the neglect by examining a number of women whose lives exemplify traditions which were central to medieval theology but whose contributions have tended to be dismissed as 'merely spiritual' by today's scholars. In their different ways, visionaries like Richeldis de Faverches (founder of the Holy House at Walsingham, or 'England's Nazareth'), the learned Hildegard of Bingen, Hadewijch of Brabant (exemplary voice of the Beguine tradition of love mysticism), charismatic traveller and pilgrim Margery Kempe and anchoress Julian of Norwich all challenged traditional male scholastic theology. Designed for the use of undergraduate student and general reader alike, this attractive survey provides an introduction to thirteen remarkable women and sets their ideas in context.

the showings of julian of norwich: God Joseph Bracken, 2017-07-14 Drawing on the wisdom and teaching experience of highly respected theologians, the Engaging Theology series builds a firm foundation for graduate study and other ministry formation programs. Each of the volumes—Scripture, Jesus, God, Anthropology, and Church—is concerned with retrieving, carefully evaluating, and constructively interpreting the Christian tradition. Comprehensive in scope and accessibly written, these volumes, used together or independently, will stimulate rich theological

reflection and discussion. More important, the series will create and sustain the passion of the next generation of theologians and church leaders. The word God, said Martin Buber decades ago, is the most heavy-laden of all human words. None has become so soiled, so mutilated. Twenty-first-century discourse and action often perpetuate that lack of reverence. In this volume Joseph Bracken shows us a better way. • He begins with Christianity's roots in Judaism and the inherent struggle to explain the reality of three persons in God who is one. • He allows readers to engage in the lively and fruitful trinitarian debates of the early church and discover how the classical doctrine of the Trinity has shaped the church through the centuries. • He offers a solid theological treatment of the history of the doctrine of God and its relevance for Christians today—for dialogue between Christian men and women, between Christianity and other religions, and between religion and science. Systematic theology at its best, *God: Three Who Are One* helps us find unexpected unity and consensus in a world full of troubling differences. Along the way, Bracken urges us to pray as well as think and to let rational reflection lead to praise and worship, thereby giving the doctrine of the Trinity its due reverence and care.

the showings of julian of norwich: Comfort and Meaning in the Showings of Julian of Norwich Philip V. Hiebert, 1993

the showings of julian of norwich: *Middle English* Paul Strohm, 2007-04-19 These original essays mean to provoke rather than reassure, to challenge rather than codify. Instead of summarizing existing knowledge after the fashion of the now-ubiquitous literary 'companions,' these essays aim at opening fresh discussion; instead of emphasizing settled consensus they direct their readers to areas of enlivened and unresolved debate. Although 'major authors' such as Chaucer and Langland are richly represented, many little-known and neglected texts are considered as well. Analysis is devoted not only to self-sufficient works, but to the general conditions of textual production and reception. Contributors to this collection include some recognized and admired names, but also a good many newer faces: younger scholars whose groundbreaking research is just coming into full view, and whose perspectives will influence the terms of literary discussion in the decades to come. Encouraged to speculate, they have addressed topics that unsettle previous categories of investigation. Each is oriented toward the emergent, the unfinalized, the yet-to-be-done. Each essay stirs new questions and concludes with suggestions for further reading and investigation that will allow readers to extend their own research into the questions it has raised.

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