

## The Desert Mothers Spiritual Practices From The Women Of The Wilderness

The Desert Mothers-Mary C. Earle 2007-02-01 At the dawn of Christianity, holy women went into the wilderness of the deserts of northern Egypt to give themselves totally to lives of prayer. An Episcopal priest and retreat leader explores the spirituality of these little known fourth-century "desert Desert Fathers and Mothers-Christine Valters Painterner 2012 Be inspired by the writings of ordinary Christians who chose to renounce the world in order to individually follow God's call. Insightful commentary and historical background illustrates how you can use this wisdom in your own spiritual quest. Praying with the Desert Mothers-Mary Forman 2005 "Introduces the reader to the lives, sayings, and stories of the fourth- and fifth-century women who were foundational members of the early Christian community in the Mediterranean region; invites readers to explore their own spiritual journeys"--Provided The Forgotten Desert Mothers-Laura Swan 2001 Presents the wisdom of many early women Christian leaders, discussing the meanings of their teachings and the spirituality of their lives, and also providing a time line, glossary, selected bibliography, calendar of feasts, and ordination rite. Desert Banquet-David Keller 2011 The wisdom of the desert fathers and mothers lies in their experiences of solitude, prayer, community life, work, and care for their neighbors. Their goal was transformation of their lives through openness to the presence and energy of God in Christ. They taught by example and by sharing narratives and sayings that reflect the deep human psychological and spiritual aspects of their journey toward authentic human life. The venue for their transformation was the whole person "body, mind, and spirit. They emphasized self-knowledge, humility, purity of heart, and love of God and neighbor. Far from being naïve, their sayings and narratives reflect honest struggles, temptations, and failures. They also demonstrate the disciplines of prayer and meditation that kept them centered in God as their only source of strength. The daily reflections in Desert Banquet introduce readers to a variety of these early Christian mentors and offer reflections on the significance of their wisdom for life in the twenty-first century. David G. R.Keller, an Episcopal priest, is adjunct professor of ascetical theology at the General Theological Seminary in New York City. He is co-steward, with his wife, Emily Wilmer, of Oasis of Wisdom: An Institute for Contemplative Study, Practice, and Living based in Asheville, North Carolina (www.oasisofwisdom.net). He is the author of Oasis of Wisdom: The Worlds of the Desert Fathers and Mothers (Liturgical Press) and Come and See: The Transformation of Personal Prayer (Morehouse Publishing).

Holy Companions-Mary C. Earle 2004-07-01 Let the lives and the wisdom of the Celtic saints teach you to pray. An excellent resource for individuals or groups who want to learn from the masters.

In God's Holy Light-Joan Chittister, OSB 2015-09-25 The Desert Monastics, thousands of monks and nuns who lived in the Egyptian wastelands between the third and fifth centuries, have come to be seen as the Olympians of the spiritual life. Renowned spiritual writer Joan Chittister explores the sayings of the Desert Mothers and Fathers, finding wisdom from that ancient tradition that speaks to your life today. This popular introduction to a powerful source of Christian wisdom can be a companion to your own spiritual journey.

The Wisdom of the Desert-Thomas Merton 2004 In the fourth century, the wildernesses of Egypt and Palestine were inhabited by a strange breed of spiritual nonconformists: the first Christian hermits. Thomas Merton's affection for these "Desert Fathers" shines in this much-loved treasury of their acts and words of wisdom. His free translation from the Latin source Verba Seniorum illuminates their radical lives with insight and humor and sets them in close relation to Zen recluses, Hindu renunciants, and all those who have ever fled conventional life in search of higher wisdom.

Celtic Christian Spirituality-Mary C. Earle 2011 The Celtic Christians beheld the world around them and perceived the divine life of God as upholding every aspect of the material universe. Their prayers and poems, their liturgies and theological interpretations give Christians a sense of faith that is confident in a merciful and infinitely creative, healing God.

The Sayings of the Desert Fathers- 1975-02-01 `Give me a word, Father', visitors to early desert monks asked. The responses of these pioneer ascetics were remembered and in the fourth century written down in Coptic, Syriac, Greek, and later Latin. Their Sayings were collected, in this case in the alphabetical order of the monks and nuns who uttered them, and read by generations of Christians as life-giving words that would help readers along the path to salvation.

Marvelously Made-Mary C. Earle 2012-05 Each chapter in Marvelously Made focuses on a vital part of the body (the heart, the lungs, the brain, the joints); relates an anecdote from the author's experience; provides reader-friendly(i.e., not overly technical) information about the wonders of the organ or body part, and offers a prayer and a set of "gratitude practices"—physical and spiritual meditation exercises to deepen the reader's appreciation of the body.

Julian of Norwich-Mary C. Earle 2013-12-06 Teachings from this fourteenth-century mystic provide spiritual direction and call for you to open yourself, body and soul, to divine love. Many people are familiar with the phrase "All shall be well" but do not know much, if anything, about Julian of Norwich, the fourteenth-century English mystic who wrote those words. Thomas Merton declared her to be "without a doubt one of the most wonderful of all Christian voices," and former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams says that her writings "may well be the most important work of Christian reflection in the English language." This accessible introduction to Julian's Revelations of Divine Love, an extended reflection on a series of her mystical visions, includes an informative introduction that addresses the historical, cultural and sociological context of Julian's life and writings. Mary Earle's facing-page commentary focuses on Julian's profoundly hopeful vision of humanity and God, her creative imagery and her rigorous honesty about the spiritual life. Drawing directly from Julian's text, Earle addresses a variety of topics essential to understanding Julian's mysticism, including the infinite nature of God, the life of prayer, God's suffering with us, the eternal and undying life of the soul, the motherhood of Jesus and the motherhood of God, "all shall be well" and more.

Oasis of Wisdom-David G. R. Keller 2005 "Introduces readers to the wisdom of the desert elders in the context of their daily lives, presenting their background (historical, cultural, and religious) and describing the environment of solitude, ascetic disciplines, labor, and interactions with other people that was the source of their wisdom"--Provided by publisher.

In the Heart of the Desert-John Chrissyavgis 2008 Father John's inspiring introduction to the spirituality of the Desert Fathers and Mothers brings their words to life for the modern reader. These key figures of the early church chose lives of hardship and solitude, where they could point their hearts away from the outward world and toward an introspective path of God's calling in a deliberate and individual way. Contains a Foreword by Metropolitan Kallistos Ware, the second highest ranking Orthodox Bishop in England.

The Monastic Way-Hannah Ward 2006 A book of daily readings drawn from the writings of those who have lived the monastic life in all the major spiritual traditions of the Eastern and Western Churches: Benedictine, Franciscan, Orthodox, Carmelite, and others. For each month there is a specific theme: Starting Out, Seeking Guidance, Living With Others, Balancing Life and so on, through the year. Each theme is introduced by quotations from one of the great monastic Rules, and for each day of the year there is an excerpt from the writings of a huge variety of men and women stretching across the centuries, from 5th century Desert Mothers to Basil Hume, Joan Chittister, Thomas Merton and many more familiar and new names. This is a book for all who are looking to an ancient, rooted wisdom for practical guidance on living in the world today.

Silence and Honey Cakes-Rowan Williams 2004 Rowan Williams goes back to the 4th century desert fathers and mothers for inspiration and insight, discovering that their spirituality resonates strongly with aspects of the modern spiritual search. He uses examination of their stories and sayings as a starting point for his own reflections on topics such as: living in relationship with others; discovering the truth about ourselves; reassessing our priorities; silence and the importance of language; living in a fearless community; living within our limitations; life and death; staying and leaving.

A Course in Desert Spirituality-Thomas Merton 2019-03-05 2020 Association of Catholic Publishers first place award in spirituality Thomas Merton's sessions with the young monks at the Abbey of Gethsemani showcase Merton's brilliant ability to survey the key figures and synthesize their writings, inspiring his listeners and readers with what it means for the spiritual life. Like its companion volume, A Course in Christian Mysticism, this book is a collection of fifteen lectures that get to the heart of Merton's belief that monastic wisdom and spirituality are applicable for everyone. This compact volume allows anyone to learn from one of the twentieth century's greatest Catholic spiritual teachers. The study materials at the back of the book, including additional primary source readings and thoughtful questions for reflection and discussion, make this an essential text for any student of Christian desert spirituality.

The Way of the Heart-Henri J. M. Nouwen 1991-05-10 The modern classic that interweaves the solitude, silence, and prayer of the fourth- and fifth-century Egyptian Desert Fathers and Mothers with our contemporary search for an authentic spirituality

Spiritual Practices for the Brain-Anne Kertz Kernion 2020-10-15 2021 Illumination Book Awards, Silver Medal: Health/Wellness For centuries, spiritual and meditative practices have helped people become more calm, focused, and happy. Christian saints such as John of the Cross and Teresa of Avila encouraged habits of the heart and soul. Now we know that such habits benefit the whole person. In Spiritual Practices for the Brain, Anne Kertz Kernion (founder of Cards by Anne) relies on the most current research to link spiritual practices to improved health. Relying on her education and experience in brain development, positive psychology, and theology, Anne is able to relate seemingly simple practices such as focused breathing, gardening, practicing kindness, or going for a walk with powerful results for your mind, body, and soul. Her presentation is friendly and readable, and each chapter explores a specific topic such as the Breath, Gratitude, and Self-Compassion, and includes simple practices for readers to try. As an artist and an exercise instructor, she exudes encouragement and hope for the person learning a new practice or revisiting an old one.

The Wisdom Way of Knowing-Cynthia Bourgeault 2003-10-13 "Drawing on resources as diverse as Sufism, Benedictine Monasticism, the Gurdjieff Work, and the string theory of modern physics, Cynthia Bourgeault has crafted her own unique vision of the Wisdom way in this very accessible book, nicely balanced between concept and practice." —Gerald May, senior fellow, Shalem Institute, and author, Addiction and Grace and Will and Spirit "The spiritual wisdom and practical suggestions in this lively and beautiful book will be helpful to many who find themselves setting out on the interior journey." —Bruno Barnhart, a Camaldolese monk and author, Second Simplicity: The Inner Shape of Christianity "Cynthia Bourgeault's book is a valuable contribution to the much-needed reawakening of spiritual practice within a Christian context. Her sincerity, good sense, metaphysical depth, and broad experience make her a source to be trusted." —Kabir Helminski, Sufi Shaikh, the Threshold Society

Spiritual Direction-Sue Pickering 2008 Spirituality.

The Solace of Fierce Landscapes-Belden C. Lane 2007-02-26 In the tradition of Kathleen Norris, Terry Tempest Williams, and Thomas Merton, The Solace of Fierce Landscapes explores the impulse that has drawn seekers into the wilderness for centuries and offers eloquent testimony to the healing power of mountain silence and desert indifference. Interweaving a memoir of his mother's long struggle with Alzheimer's and cancer, meditations on his own wilderness experience, and illuminating commentary on the Christian via negativa—a mystical tradition that seeks God in the silence beyond language—Lane rejects the easy affirmations of pop spirituality for the harsher but more profound truths that wilderness can teach us. "There is an unaccountable solace that fierce landscapes offer to the soul. They heal, as well as mirror, the brokenness we find within." It is this apparent paradox that lies at the heart of this remarkable book: that inhuman landscapes should be the source of spiritual comfort. Lane shows that the very indifference of the wilderness can release us from the demands of the endlessly anxious ego, teach us to ignore the inessential in our own lives, and enable us to transcend the "false self" that is ever-obsessed with managing impressions. Drawing upon the wisdom of St. John of the Cross, Meister Eckhardt, Simone Weil, Edward Abbey, and many other Christian and non-Christian writers, Lane also demonstrates how those of us cut off from the wilderness might "make some desert" in our lives. Written with vivid intelligence, narrative ease, and a gracefulness that is itself a comfort, The Solace of Fierce Landscapes gives us not only a description but a "performance" of an ancient and increasingly relevant spiritual tradition.

Wisdom of the Desert Fathers and Mothers-Anonymous 2010-09-01 Foreword by Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove In the fourth century, thousands of men and women fled into the Egyptian desert seeking to recapture the passion of the earliest Christians through lives of prayer and solitude. As records of the wisdom and purity of these "Desert Fathers and Mothers" spread through the Roman Empire, Christians streamed to their caves seeking counsel on the interior life. The hermits' ascetic practices and sagacious words were a shining witness to a living faith that could be woven into the fabric of daily life—offering timeless wisdom for Christians of any era. This volume contains Athanasius' famous The Life of St. Anthony, St. Jerome's The Life of Paul the Hermit, and the collected sayings of many of the desert fathers and mothers. Encouraging humility, patience, prayer, introspection, and love, they teach that contemplative practice opens the door to eternal wisdom for daily life.

Practical Spirituality According to the Desert Fathers-Athanasius Iskander 2011-03 Although the Bible tells what people need to do to reach perfection and earn eternal life, it does not tell how. Fr. Iskander borrowed methods and techniques from the Holy Fathers and provided wise instructions on how to practically apply them to the struggles faced by young Orthodox people living in the 21st century.

Backpacking with the Saints-Belden C. Lane 2014-11-12 Backpacking with the Saints is a captivating account of solo wilderness backpacking as spiritual practice. On his solitary hikes, Belden Lane has as companions the great spiritual texts of the world's religions. The wilderness, he argues, offers an enlightening approach to the texts, presenting the opportunity to explore the interior landscape and the spiritual realm of nature.

Desert Voices-Tessa Bielecki 2016-12-02 Desert Voices is a song from the edge. It celebrates the amorous frontier between two "desert rats" and an arid landscape of sand, sky, and giant cactus. It celebrates friendships between Abrahamic brothers and sisters who have spent too much time demonizing each other. It mourns the lives lost along the border of Israel and Palestine and honors non-violent sowers of hope. It sings from the death bed, from the poverty of the Cross, the universal desert of impermanence that may be the shadow of eternal life. Attracted by beauty and responding to sorrow, Tessa Bielecki and David Denny offer insights about inner work and earth care, peacemaking and social justice, living and dying, and share the nourishing wisdom that blooms in the desert today.

Humility Matters-Mary Margaret Funk 2005-01-01 The springboard for Humility Matters is the teaching on humility of St. Benedict, enriched by the fifteen years Sr. Funk spent in interreligious dialogue.

Britain's Pilgrim Places-NICK. GUY HAYWARD. MAYHEW-SMITH 2020-10 Britain'sPilgrim Places captures the spirit of 2,000 years of history, heritage and wonder. It is the complete guide to every spiritual treasure, including 500 enchanting holy places throughout England, Wales and Scotland and covers all major pilgrimage routes. Produced in collaboration withThe British Pilgrimage Trust, this book encapsulates the timeless quest of the human spirit to find meaning, connection and peace. Each listing is illustrated in full colour and written and presented in a way that appeals to everyone.From wild hermit islands to city-centre cathedrals alike, there is something to surprise and enlighten anyone with a sense of the sacred. 2020 is the Year of thePilgrimage and the Year of Cathedrals, and events are being held throughout the year to mark a revival in pilgrim places, cathedrals and free-form spiritual expression.The British Pilgrimage Trust's mission is to harness the quiet but powerful resurgence of interest in ancient ways of finding meaning and peace in the landscape. Britain'sPilgrim Places follows on frombest-selling Britain's Holiest Places which became a 6-part BBC television series.

The Sayings and Stories of the Desert Fathers and Mothers- 2021-03-15 The Sayings and Stories of the Desert Fathers and Mothers offers a new translation of the Greek alphabetical Apophthegmata Patrum, The Sayings of the Desert Fathers. For the first time in an English translation, this volume provides:
• extensive background and contextual notes
• significant variant readings in the alphabetical manuscripts and textual differences vis-à-vis the systematic and anonymous Apophthegmata
• reference notes to both quotations from Scriptures and the many allusions to Scripture in the sayings and stories. In addition, there is an extensive glossary that offers information and further resources on people, places, and significant monastic vocabulary. Perfect for students and enthusiasts of the desert tradition.

An Asian Woman's Religious Journey with Thomas Merton-Jung Eun Sophia Park 2021-11-30 Join Jung Eun Sophia Park on her personal quest for God and her true self through the writings of Thomas Merton. Approaching Merton as an Asian immigrant feminist in the postcolonial era, Park's perspective is a unique one, and in this dance sometimes it is her and sometimes Merton who leads. Throughout, Eastern and Western spirituality are organically woven together in reflection on Merton's narratives and in the examination of late capitalism, poverty, beauty, and violence. These reflections are insightful, provocative, and illuminating, particularly with regard to his androcentric spirituality, especially as it relates to his relationships with women.

Finding Happiness-Christopher Jamison 2008-12-19 Abbot Christopher Jamison from hit TV series THE MONASTERY, turns his attention to the eternal questions of how to be happy, and why we believe it is so important. Why is 'being happy' such an imperative nowadays? What meaning do people give happiness? In this book Abbot Christopher turns to monastic wisdom to offer answers, and to explain that in essence, happiness is a gift, not an achievement, the fruit of giving and receiving blessings. Following the same accessible and engaging format of FINDING SANCTUARY, Abbot Christopher takes different aspects of happiness, examines them, tells us what monastic wisdom has to say about them, and offers us steps towards our own journey to finding happiness.

Who Fears Death-Nnedi Okorafor 2011-06-07 Now optioned as a TV series for HBO, with executive producer George R. R. Martin! An award-winning literary author enters the world of magical realism with her World Fantasy Award-winning novel of a remarkable woman in post-apocalyptic Africa. In a post-apocalyptic Africa, the world has changed in many ways; yet in one region genocide between tribes still bloodies the land. A woman who has survived the annihilation of her village and a terrible rape by an enemy general wanders into the desert, hoping to die. Instead, she gives birth to an angry baby girl with hair and skin the color of sand. Gripped by the certainty that her daughter is different—special—she names her Onyesonwu, which means "Who fears death?" in an ancient language. It doesn't take long for Onye to understand that she is physically and socially marked by the circumstances of her conception. She is Ewu—a child of rape who is expected to live a life of violence, a half-breed rejected by her community. But Onye is not the average Ewu. Even as a child, she manifests the beginnings of a remarkable and unique magic. As she grows, so do her abilities, and during an inadvertent visit to the spirit realm, she learns something terrifying: someone powerful is trying to kill her. Desperate to elude her would-be murderer and to understand her own nature, she embarks on a journey in which she grapples with nature, tradition, history, true love, and the spiritual mysteries of her culture, and ultimately learns why she was given the name she bears: Who Fears Death.

Desert Spirituality and Cultural Resistance-Belden Lane 2018-07-10 “The wholeness of the life we seek is one that we are seldom able to envision in advance. It takes a shape that only the desert knows.” Desert Spirituality and Cultural Resistance: From Ancient Monks to Mountain Refugees is a passionate exploration of the theme of wilderness in the spiritual life. These three lectures by accomplished storyteller and theologian Belden Lane are inspirational in a way that lectures rarely are. Lane urges us to think courageously about the place of wilderness in Christian life. He contemplates the radical lives of the fourth-century Desert Fathers and Mothers, as well as the courageous example of sixteenth-century Anabaptists. He speaks of the ways in which wilderness can relate to the practice of a counter-cultural spirituality today, and he asks: Can desert and mountain gift us with a language to understand the experiences in our lives when we are taken to the edge, finding ourselves isolated and alone, both spiritually and culturally? “The wilderness is a place of suffering, out on the edge. It is a place of letting go, a place for dying, and yet also a place for coming alive. The desert is where things fall apart and where things may come together for us in an unanticipated way.”

Remember Who You Truly Are-Sally Jane Francis 2016-04-27 This book will help you to remember who you truly are, and to be your true, authentic self, in its entirety, to unlock the beautiful spirit and essence of you. You have a soul mission: it's time to wake up to it and fulfill your destiny and be everything you ever dreamed of being, your soul and spirit self really are, unafraid to shine in a world that all too often might seem might seek to undermine or limit you...You are filled with infinite possibilities and great gifts. Many of us are waking up from the illusion of fear, lower consciousness and vibration that we have been trapped in. Though times may be dark, the light can prevail and by holding on to our dreams and visions, we will emerge with a higher consciousness. We will shed all the restrictions of the past, and break the chains of the judgmental and fear-based systems which have ruled and limited our lives in so many ways, to take a jump and leap of faith and really be the full expression of our unique and special souls. "I really love this book. As soon as I started reading it, it felt like it was talking directly to my soul.... I believe Sally is a gifted soul on a mission to genuinely help & empower people. It is a book I will treasure" "What a beautiful book; one that touches you and works on so many levels." "It doesn't matter where you are on your journey, in this book you will find something new, something to remind you of who and where you are, why you are following the path you have chosen and affirmation that you are not alone, the Universe is always supporting you. I found the book easy to read, to me the energy of the words just flow off the page, and hit the spot. Read it from cover to cover, dip in and out, the choice is yours and the book supports you in what ever way you wish to connect with it. Bursting with information and and workable ways to experiment and include in your spiritual practice. Sally has worked really hard to make this work appeal to as wider audience as possible and I feel she has pulled it off with a flourish. Well done Sally, when's the next one?" "I really love this book. As soon as I started reading it, it felt like it was talking directly to my soul and I felt curiously emotional. I believe Sally is a gifted soul on a mission to genuinely help & empower people. It is a book I will treasure & refer to when I am in need of uplifting"

The Celtic Soul Friend-Edward C. Sellner 2002-02

Amy's Best Friend, Prayers of a Child-Ernie Rosenberg 2012-09-01 The prayers of 6-year old Amy to her very best friend, God. God really is Amy's best friend and she treats Him that way. She brings Him a cupcake for his birthday, helps Him out with His problems, asks to become His assistant, and even takes objection to the creation. Why is fun so important? Because it is an avenue to God that is so very, very natural to small children. It gives small children (age 3-6) spirituality with a smile, a great big smile through the practice of nighttime prayer. "Amy's Best Friend, Prayers of a Child"comprises a personal introduction from Amy followed by 14 illustrated prayers, and finally special pages to record a child's own prayers. The book is non-denominational. "Amy's Best Friend" is accompanied by two fun books to support your child's practice of prayer. First, there is a coloring book giving your child hours of fun coloring in the same prayers you have read to him/her. Second, after all the pages at the end of "Amy's Best Friend, Prayers Of A Child" have been filled with your child's own prayers, a prayer journal is available under the name "Amy's Best Friend, Prayers of A Child: My Prayers." All books plus the Kindle ebook are available from my authors page: http: //www.amazon.com/author/amyamos.

Celtic Christian Spirituality-Mary C. Earle 2012-01-01 This introduction to Celtic Christian spirituality presents the primary texts from the Celtic Christian tradition. The facing-page commentary explores how faithful Christians and spiritual seekers use the writings of this lively tradition as ways of embodying and living the gospel.

Essential Grace-David Damiano 2016-01-30 What is grace? The answer lies deeper than you might suppose. To understand grace in its fullness, we must explore the great mystery of our very existence. In search of that deep understanding, Essential Grace takes you on an eternal journey. It begins with the mind of God, all alone in eternity past. It consummates in the heights of heaven, where we see God surrounded by the glorious host of His redeemed people. In between, it explores the multi-faceted grace of God poured out on His creation. Powerful and vivid, Essential Grace will open your eyes to the liberating reality of God's grace.

Discovery in the Desert-Tom Thiele 2011-02-21 Discovery in the Desert is the first book in Tom Thiele's Discovery Series. When asked about religious affiliation, do you describe yourself as a Christian? Do you wonder about heaven? When someone knows that they are a good person, does that mean that they are a heaven-bound Christian? That is exactly how David Hart saw himself before his discovery in the desert. David Hart, a young, bright NASA physicist is chosen to join a team of other NASA scientists assigned to a Classified Military Project. The team is formed to bring a new, cutting edge technology to the United States military-Time Travel. Initially great strides are made in developing a time travel capsule, and then the team hits a brick wall. Once the obstacle becomes common knowledge at NASA, the project transforms from one of prestige and glamor to one of embarrassment. The slowed progress grates on David's patience. Then he decides to do the unthinkable! Join David on this adventure of a lifetime as he realizes that not only has he been chosen to be on this NASA team, but he has been chosen for a much more significant task. A task, that once accomplished, will change David's life forever.

Gifts of the Desert-Kyriacos C. Markides 2007-12-18 In Kyriacos C. Markides's newest book, Eastern Orthodox mysticism meets Western Christianity as the internationally renowned author takes readers on a deep journey back in time to unveil the very roots of authentic spirituality. In his previous book The Mountain of Silence, Markides introduced us to the essential spiritual nature of Eastern Orthodoxy in a series of lively conversations with Father Maximos, the widely revered charismatic Orthodox bishop and former abbot of the isolated monastery on Mount Athos. In Gifts of the Desert, Markides continues his examination of Easter Orthodox mystical teachings and practices and captures its living expression through visits to monasteries and hermitages in Greece and America and interviews with contemporary charismatic elders, both male and female. Markides's pursuit of a deeper understanding of Orthodoxy takes him to the deserts of Arizona and a stay at a new monastery in Sedona; to the island of Cyprus and a reunion with Father Maximos; on a pilgrimage to holy shrines aboard a cruise ship in the Aegean Sea; and finally to the legendary Mount Athos, home to more than two thousand Orthodox monks. Markides relates his journey and reflections in a captivating style while providing important background material and information on historical events to give readers a highly accessible, in-depth portrait of a tradition little known in the West. Gifts of the Desert will appeal to a wide range of people, from Christians seeking insights into their religion and its various expressions to scholars interested in learning more about the mystical way of life and wisdom that have been preserved on Mount Athos since the fall of the Byzantine Empire and the Great Schism that separated the Eastern and Western Churches. Perhaps most important, however, is the bridge it offers contemporary readers to a Christian life that is balanced between the worldly and the spiritual.

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