



Vision of God

Nicolaus Cusanus , Emma Gurney Salter (Translator) , Evelyn Underhill (Introduction)

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Known for his deeply mystical writings about Christianity, Nicholas of Cusa wrote this, his most popular work, against a backdrop of widespread Church corruption. God, he believed, is found in all things, and thus cannot be perceived by man's senses and intellect alone. The path to ultimate knowledge, then, begins in recognizing our own ignorance.

Deeply influenced by Saint Augustine, Nicholas mixes the metaphysical with the personal to create a deeply felt work, first published in 1453, designed to restore faith in even the most jaded.

A German cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church, NICHOLAS OF CUSA (1401-1464) was a philosopher, jurist, mathematician, and astronomer. Also referred to as Nicolaus Cusanus and Nicholas of Kues, he is considered one of the great geniuses and polymaths of the 15th century. Among his other works are Writings on Church and Reform, Catholic Concordance, and Of Learned Ignorance.

Vision of God Details

Date : Published (first published November 30th 1927)

ISBN :

Author : Nicolaus Cusanus , Emma Gurney Salter (Translator) , Evelyn Underhill (Introduction)

Format : Kindle Edition

Genre : Religion, Theology, Philosophy, Occult, Mysticism

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Robbie says

There are some interesting thoughts here, such as Nicholas of Cusa's idea of 'learned ignorance', which emphasises the ultimate futility of the intellect alone to see God. His leitmotif of seeking to 'see' God (seeing being something of a metaphor for fully experiencing God in the most mystical sense) is useful. His work clearly illustrates the glories of being able to penetrate beyond 'the wall' separating humans from the observable glories of God, but provides rather little guidance as to how one may do so.
