A Gnostic Book of Hours: Keys to Inner Wisdom

By June K. Singer

Hays (Nicolas) Ltd, U.S., United States, 2004. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 201 x 152 mm. Language: English. Brand New Book. Within the Nag Hammadi Library, thought to have been written during the first two centuries c.e., are ancient texts written by a group who called themselves the Gnostics. June Singer has recast the wisdom found in these texts into a book of hours, the traditional framework for an ongoing meditative practice. Its purpose is to enable readers to maintain an awareness of the presence of the divine mystery within the everyday world. A Gnostic Book of Hours is divided into eight offices or prayers for different parts of the day: matins (midnight), lauds (daybreak), prime (beginning of the workday), terce, sext, none (the little hours during the work day), vespers (sundown) and compline (retiring to sleep). For each office, Singer has selected a text for each day of the week. She annotates and interprets the ancient text and makes it relevant to today's readers. There are many paths to the holy, writes Singer, and each of us must find our own. Each path leads through differing labyrinthine ways. Yet all come to the same center, the kingdom within. There...

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This book beautifully asserts the Unity of All That Is, the Inner and the Outer. So many "spiritual" people want to pretend that the Gnostics had a disdain for the physical body. Why would Jesus and his followers then place such great significance on the resurrection of the body? Nor would either group have subscribed to the meditative practices in the Book of Hours because one of the groups was composed of Jews and converted Gentiles dedicated to obeying their God's dogma and ritual. The members of the other group didn't need to meditate in order to maintain the presence of the divine mystery within the everyday world.

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