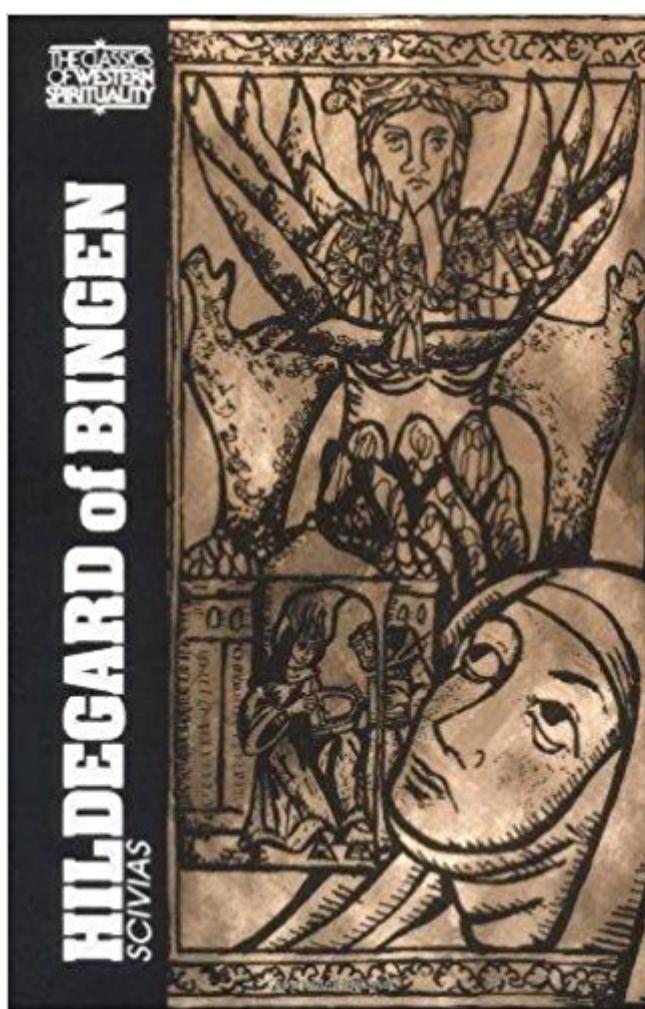


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Hildegard Of Bingen: Scivias (Classics Of Western Spirituality (Paperback))



Synopsis

This work contains the 26 visions of Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179), who was the first of the great German mystics, as well as a poet and a prophet, a physician and a political moralist.

Book Information

Series: Classics of Western Spirituality (Paperback)

Paperback: 545 pages

Publisher: Paulist Press; First Edition edition (March 1, 1990)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0809131307

ISBN-13: 978-0809131303

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.5 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 35 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #51,424 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > New Age & Spirituality > Theosophy #23 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Theology > Mysticism #35 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Other Religions, Practices & Sacred Texts > Mysticism

Customer Reviews

Text: English (translation) Original Language: Latin --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In one series, the original writings of the universally acknowledged teachers of the Catholic, Protestant, Eastern Orthodox, Jewish, and Islamic traditions have been critically selected, translated and introduced by internationally recognized scholars and spiritual leaders.

My first encounter with St Hildegard of Bingen was as an undergraduate student in which she was presented as some sort of liberal feminist. I've been reading the saints recently not so much for the acquirement of knowledge for myself but rather to interact with them and let them speak to me. St Hildegard of Bingen though is definitely no liberal feminist. She tends to be a ranter especially against the stagnant clerics in her day. But her theology is quite in line with the entire teachings of the Western Catholic Church. I thought her dogmatic theology was much more simpler than a St Thomas Aquinas.

This book is everything I had hoped for and all that I truly expected it to be. I will be honest, in as much as I have only read a small portion of the book. I found to my surprise one of the most amazing pieces of written prose that I have ever read. I hope I am not infringing in any copyrights because I am going to post a portion right here: (from vision

4)

1 Lament of the soul returning by

God's grace from the path of error to Zion" A pilgrim, where am I? In the shadow of death. And in what path am I journeying? In the path of terror. And what consolidation do I have? That which pilgrims have. For I should have had a tabernacle adorned with five square gems more brilliant than the Sun and the stars, for the Sun and the stars that set would not have shone upon it, but the glory of the angels; the topaz would have been its foundation and all the gems its structure, its staircases made of crystal and its courtyards paved in gold. For I would have been a companion of the angels, for I am a living breath, which God placed in dry mud; thus I should have known and felt God. But alas! When my tabernacle saw that it could turn its eyes in all the ways, it turned its attention toward the North; ach, ach! and there I was robbed of my sight and the joy of knowledge, and my garments all torn. And so, driven from my inheritance, I was led into a strange place without beauty or honor, and there subjected to the worst slavery. Those who had taken me, struck me and made me eat with swine and sending me into a desert place gave me bitter herbs dipped in honey to eat. Then, placing me on a rack, they afflicted me with many tortures. And stripping me of my garments and dealing me many wounds, they sent me out to be hunted, and got the worst poisonous creatures, scorpions, asps and other vermin, to hunt and capture me; and these spewed out their poison all over me so that I was made helpless. Therefore they mocked me, saying: 'Where is your honor now?' Ach, and I trembled all over and with a great groan of woe, said silently to myself, 'Oh, where am I? Ach, from whence did I come here? And what comforter shall I seek in this captivity? How shall I break these chains? Oh, what eye can look on my wounds? and what nose can bear their noisome stench? and what hands will anoint them with oil? ach, who will have mercy on my affliction.'

The story continues on.....I cannot explain how this one piece of work has touched me so, perhaps I too have journeyed such a perilous time away from God in some previous life. Who can say? Perhaps I too have heard her wonderful songs and music fill ancient towering cathedrals, one would certainly think so as I truly feel that I have found a long lost dear friend. Sorry for my little rant. This is simply an amazing book, worth every cent; even though it was second hand, it was in excellent condition. The paper is old school and there are no color prints as previously mentioned; however, I purchased the

book for the content and it delivers. I am sure that I am not the only person who feels as I do about St. Hildegard. Purchase the book, you will be glad you did.

Wonderful information about Hildegard. If you want to learn more about her, and especially about her music, this is a good source.

Fine, I am loving it. Thank you.

The book was in good condition.

The complete telling of Hildegard's visions: Not for the fanciful or casual reader. Often misinterpreted by the enthusiastic but untutored reader, Hildegard intended her visions to be supportive of the Church's theology, in accordance with her own religious experience, and edifying for the educated churchwomen and -men who would be allowed to read them.

I was disappointed in the quality of the illustrations, which are very rough black and white sketches, but it is useful for meanings.

My main language is Spanish. I understand English and I am currently reading books in English. "Hildegard of Bingen: Scivias" is a very difficult book to understand. Probably because it was originally written in Latin and translated to English. The book has a lot of great information. I have read the first 3 chapters and put the book on hold. I am reading other books to improve my English understanding. I wish I know better English because this book is one of those I so wanted to have in my collection and I will read it as soon as I am ready. In the mean time learning more English. If you understand English very well, I recommend this book.

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