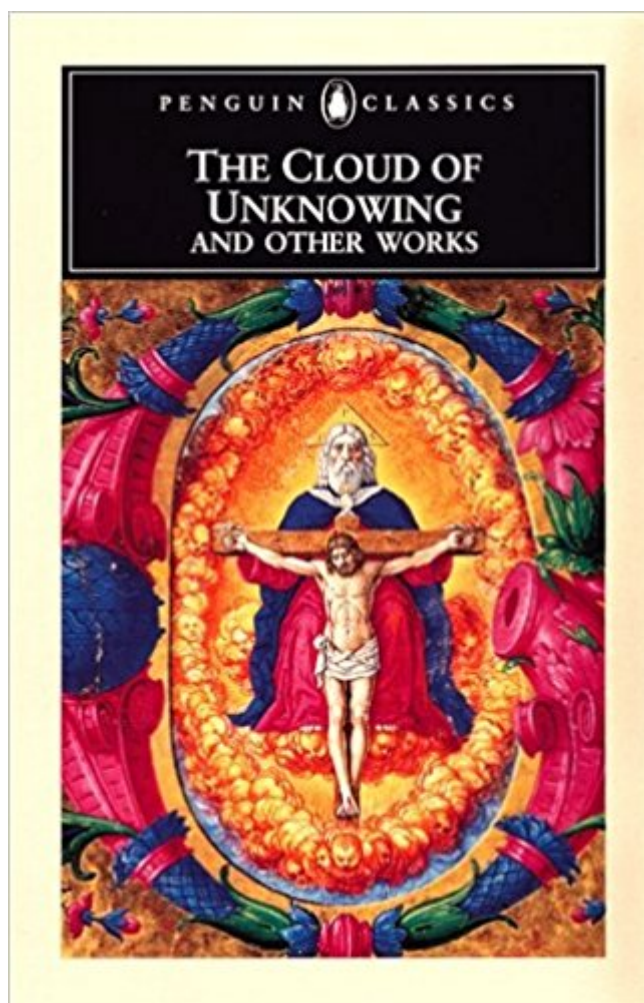


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# The Cloud Of Unknowing And Other Works (Penguin Classics)



## Synopsis

In the fourteenth century there was a great flourishing of religious writings in English, both orthodox and heretical. Many of these works focused on Christ's Passion and humanity, whereas *The Cloud of Unknowing* describes an abstract, transcendent God beyond human knowledge and human language. Drawing upon radically different traditions, it is a rich work full of intriguing contradictions that speaks to us with liveliness and wit even today. The unknown author, thought to be a priest and Carthusian monk, is also believed to have written the other three works in this volume: *The Mystical Theology of Saint Denis*, *The Book of Privy Counselling*, and *An Epistle on Prayer*, which, together with *The Cloud of Unknowing*, are the four texts at the core of medieval mystical theology. This Penguin Classics edition includes full explanatory notes, suggestions for further reading, an appendix that reproduces the Middle English text of a section of *The Mystical Theology of Saint Denis*, and an introduction that places the texts within the context of medieval religious writing. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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

The identity of the author of *The Cloud of Unknowing* is not known, but he was undoubtedly an English priest who lived during the latter half of the 14th century. A. C. Spearing is Professor of English at the University of Virginia. He has published widely on medieval literature and has translated Julian of Norwich's *Revelations of Divine Love* for Penguin Classics.

From the 1100s and well translated works by the anonymous author, a spiritual director of souls. Quoted in the Office of Readings for those who know that official publication, if wondering as to orthodoxy.

Are we and our institutions--individually and collectively--irredeemably mired in the flesh?"Not!", says the wisely anonymous author of Penguin Classics' "*The Cloud of Unknowing and [Three] Other Works*", all dealing with the flesh-to-Spirit path to spiritual perfection. The unknown author's recommendation that one pay particular attention to short words of one syllable (God, love, in, up, and so forth) is well taken, as is his insistence that one must read the entire text (to avoid misunderstandings) and indeed repeatedly re-read, in order to arrive at a proper understanding of all that the author would so dearly love to convey. I was greatly helped by including translator A. C. Spearing's Introduction in the cycle of readings. Your friend in Christ Jesus, John Douglas Adams.

I have been enjoying this treatise in various forms for the last thirty years. This edition is as good as any and can be kept at hand on our mobile phones. If I was to speculate as to the author's identity, well, who other than a Carthusian could have written such a work? Chapter 68 gives the climax and crux of the treatise. The first dozen or so chapters give the practical instructions. Simple and sublime.

Very interesting book. Given its age, it was much easier to read than I was expecting and provided insight into the more mystical and contemplative practice of prayer meditation.

This is a spiritual book of ancient origin by anonymous that focuses on ways to become closer in relationship to God.

I very much enjoyed this book. It is easy to understand but difficult to practise, but I will spend the

rest of my life attempting it.

Good textbook.

This book is a gold mine of direction in coming to a closer relationship with the One who loves us totally!!

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