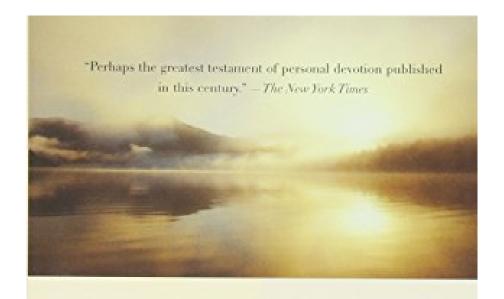


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MARKINGS

Dag Hammarskjöld

With a new preface by JIMMY CARTER

Foreword by W. H. Auden



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Review

"Perhaps the greatest testament of personal devotion published in this century."—The New York Times

"The conviction when one has finished [Markings is] that one has had the privilege of being in contact with a great, good, and lovable man."—W. H. Auden

From the Inside Flap

Dag Hammarskjold left behind the manuscript of this book to be published after his death. It is a remarkable record of the spiritual life of a man whose public image was universally known and admired -- a record that reveals the extent of his commitment to the Way of the Cross.

Hammarskjold himself described the manuscript as a "sort of white book concerning my negotiations with myself and with God." The first entry is a poem written about 1925; the notes made during the 1940's and 1950's reflect a period of constant spiritual growth, self-questioning, and resolution; and the book ends with a poem he wrote only a few weeks before his death.

In Markings Hammarskjold felt that he gave the only true profile of himself. Lacking as it does any reference to the external world, the book constitutes only haft a portrait, as W. H. Auden points out in his Foreword. But as we read it, the outer image of the Secretary-General persists and heightens the sense of loneliness Hammarskjold conveys, the severity with which he marked his own spiritual conduct and measured the integrity of his soul, his conception of life as a summons, and his premonition of death.

Many will read this book primarily as a unique historical document; many will find in its meditations an unusual devotional book. But, above all, almost every reader is bound to feel, with Auden, that he has had "the privilege of being in contact with a great, good, and lovable man."

About the Author

Dag Hammarskjold was born in Sweden in 1905 and died in Northern Rhodesia in a plane crash in 1961, while flying there to negotiate a cease-fire between United Nations and Katanga forces. Elected Secretary-

General of the United Nations in 1953, serving until his death, he was known throughout the world as a peacemaker. He had studied law and economics, but was also widely read in philosophy and literature. His internal struggles remained a private matter between him and God until after his death, when this book of meditations was published, making him posthumously one of the twentieth century's most noted spiritual pilgrims.

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"Perhaps the greatest testament of personal devotion published in this century." — The New York Times

A powerful journal of poems and spiritual meditations recorded over several decades by a universally known and admired peacemaker. A dramatic account of spiritual struggle, Markings has inspired hundreds of thousands of readers since it was first published in 1964.

Markings is distinctive, as W.H. Auden remarks in his foreword, as a record of "the attempt by a professional man of action to unite in one life the via activa and the via contemplativa." It reflects its author's efforts to live his creed, his belief that all men are equally the children of God and that faith and love require of him a life of selfless service to others. For Hammarskjöld, "the road to holiness necessarily passes through the world of action." Markings is not only a fascinating glimpse of the mind of a great man, but also a moving spiritual classic that has left its mark on generations of readers.

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A Diamond in the Rough

By David O

This is the most illuminating book I have ever read, bar none. I have gone through over twenty copies in the past 15 years as I find them, order more, and hand them out to my loved ones or leave them in places for others to 'discover'. I learned about this book in high school and have turned to it countless times over the years in good times and in bad, over and over, and it is like a diamond - each time that I open it I am privy to another sparkle.

Also, over the years, I have learned more and more about Dag Hammarskjold. I have since read his biography by Urquhart and other pieces of a biographical nature by other Hammarskjold fans and devotees. His example, as a civil servant and soldier of peace, have inspired my own pacifism, and his example has led me to more 'vistas of insight' than any other.

Dag Hammarskjold was a unprepossessing Swedish civil servant when his name was selected to and vetted and eventually elected to become the second Secretary-General of the United Nations. Kofi Annan, a successor of his, called him the 'lodestar' of his profession. He did more to build the stability and future of a peaceful world than anyone I am aware of before or since. And without fanfare.

But his was a lonely existence, punctuated with episodes of depression and spiritual yearning as he struggled to make sense of his duty and life. He thought about death often; it is reflected in this, his most intimate and searching journal. It was only published after his death while on a mission of peace to the Congo. He died in a fireball over an Africa he was trying desperately to understand, and heal. He died too early. He is mourned by those who knew him, friends and enemies - they all attended his funeral and said words that surely he

would never have expected. I urge anyone who has read this book to find and read his biography by Urquhart and other books that analyze his journal, like the 'White Book' and others. Let's raise awareness and interest and get another biography published.

'Markings' is a fine book, originally a bestseller when it was released, that anyone of any denomination can find solace within it's pages.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

A classic for your library

By Marmalade

I purchased several Markings as 'used' for gifts and am very satisfied with all of them. The new version does not contain the same forward and I like this one better. I have a second or third printing. It is the kind of book one does not need to read sequentially but can pick up and just open it up for a few pages. A fascinating aspect is despite Hammarskjold's amazing accomplishments, none of these are in the book. Rather it is his own personal growth and spiritual journey. I highly recommend this book for one's own library and to give as gifts. It is timeless.

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Very dense and awesomely inspiring. thought provoking. Makes you think - a lot - and makes you a better person for it. Lots of wisdom in a tight space and a window into quite a remarkable person as well.

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