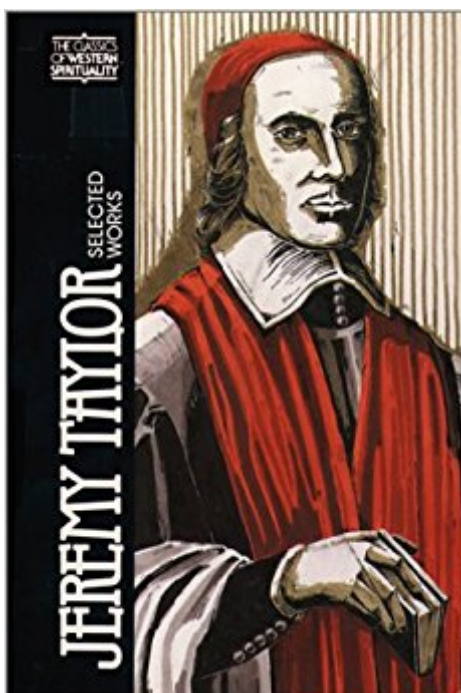


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Jeremy Taylor: Selected Works (Classics Of Western Spirituality)



Synopsis

Jeremy Taylor lived in an age of transition. Politically, England was emerging as a modern state, struggling with its new autonomy and experimenting with representative government. Religiously, the Puritan voices of the radical Reformation battled with the established church to move it from the *via media*. Intellectually, it was an age in which new philosophical voices were emerging and bards were composing their odes not in the learned classical languages of antiquity but in English. Taylor saw the completion of the Authorized Version of King James near the beginning of his life: an eloquent precursor of the monumental achievements that men like Donne, Milton, and Bunyan would make during his lifetime. Taylor has been called the "Shakespeare of the Divines." Like his older contemporary Lancelot Andrewes, he drew on the spirit of the Renaissance. Rich classical allusions, ornate symbolism, and flowing cadences enhance his presentation of the sacred truths of holy writ. His own experience of life made him no stranger to suffering, having buried his first wife and all of his five sons. In his best-known work, *Holy Dying*, we have not only a fine example of a genre of spiritual literature common to the late Middle Ages, but one of the moving meditations on death ever written. In it we see a man proclaiming the truths of Christianity, not with the bold speculative originality of mystics like Eckhart or the systematic precision of Albert the Great, but with a sheer literary brilliance that enabled him to craft words that stood like windows to the unseen world of which they spoke: words that could awaken and stir, that could define and articulate the myriad sentiments and subtleties of the holy life. In this volume the whole range of Taylor's achievement is surveyed. His work as a pilgrim and pastor, theologian and priest, poet and preacher is presented with comprehensive introductions that highlight how he blended the insights of the Fathers with the forces of his own time into brilliant new forms of expressions.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

JOHN E. BOOTY is Professor Emeritus of Church History at the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. JUDITH MALTBY is Chaplain and Fellow at Corpus Christi College, Oxford. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Jeremy Taylor deserves a wider audience than those who are interested only in Christian classics. He is also a prose stylist of the first water. Read him, and you will see where DeQuincey got his chops. As he warms to the solemn themes about which he writes, his sentences are like great rivers of poetic and exalted language. His experience as a preacher also makes him a great master of the -sound- of words.

Purchased this to add to my Classics of Western Spirituality collection. When I get around to reading it, probably years from now, I'll probably review it then.

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