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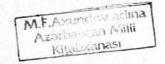
The Desert Fathers

Sayings of the Early Christian Monks

The Desert Fathers Sayings of the Early Christian Monks

Translated and with an Introduction by BENEDICTA WARD

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'All must endure great conflict when they are first con

'All must endure great 1-40691

but later they have unspeakable joy'

The desert fathers provided the inspiration for Christian spirituality throughout the Middle Ages and beyond. The men and women who first embraced the life of solitude in the deserts of Egypt, Palestine and Syria were seldom clerics or scholars. Yet these uneducated peasants, shepherds, itinerant traders, former slaves and prostitutes soon attracted so many followers they were said to have turned the desert into a city. From the fourth century onwards, along with biographies and full-length treatises, their reflections were brought together and widely circulated. Powerful and moving in their depth of religious conviction and wholehearted, even joyful, commitment to poverty, simplicity and humility, the sayings directly influenced the Rule of Saint Benedict, and set the pattern for Western monasticism.

This edition makes freshly accessible the most influential Latin collection of sayings. The new English translations follow the original Latin organization around themes important to the monks, such as charity, fortitude, lust, patience, prayer, self-control and visions.

Translated with an introduction by BENEDICTA WARD

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