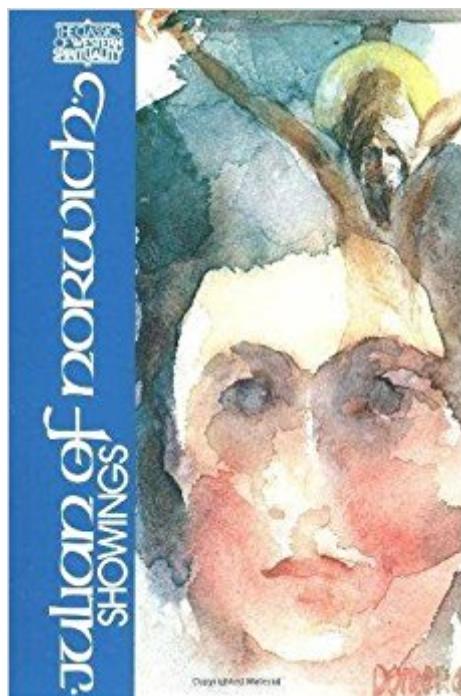


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# Julian Of Norwich: Showings (Classics Of Western Spirituality)



## **Synopsis**

Julian, an anchoress who lived in solitude in Norwich, England in the late 14th century, received the 16 "showings" or revelations of God's love in a series of experienced visions. The first version was a short text. The second, longer version was apparently written some years after the first, when she had had time to pray and reflect about the teachings God had given her. In the light of their thirteen years of work on the critical edition of Showings, Colledge and Walsh give us this first modern English rendering from the place of Julian's teaching in Catholic Spirituality. The editors present Julian as a skilled theologian and master of rhetorical style. Jean Leclercz, the noted monk, writer, and medievalist, in his preface addresses himself to the question, "Why is this an important work today?" Showings reveals a Julian who experienced God directly and not self-consciously as "our mother." Her revelations of the feminine side of God represent a significant contribution to the tradition. Her graphic visions of the humanity of Christ are marked by vivid imagery and detail. But the special appeal of Julian lies in her theology of the all- embracing fullness of divine love. Julian is certainly a warm and approachable companion for the mystical journey.

## **Book Information**

Series: Classics of Western Spirituality (Paperback)

Paperback: 384 pages

Publisher: Paulist Press; 59466th edition (January 1, 1977)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0809120917

ISBN-13: 978-0809120918

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 21 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #185,995 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #44 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > New Age & Spirituality > Theosophy #131 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Theology > Mysticism #238 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Other Religions, Practices & Sacred Texts > Mysticism

## **Customer Reviews**

In a time when Christian women mystics are at last being discovered, Julian of Norwich still stands out as one of the most essential--and one of the most approachable. An anchoress who lived in solitude in Norwich, England, in the late 14th century, Julian's book consists of the 16 "showings" or

revelations from God. Most famous is her vision of the universe as she gazes into the smallness of a hazelnut, but the book is rich throughout with beauty. Her style is simple and homely in its images, not unlike the later St. Teresa of Avila. "God almighty is our loving Father," she writes, "and God all wisdom is our loving Mother." She affirms, "our substance is in God, and ... God is in our sensuality." For Julian God is the foundation of all that is, and the foundation of God is love. As she concludes, "What, do you wish to know your Lord's meaning in this thing? Know it well, love was his meaning. Who reveals it to you? Love. What did he reveal to you? Love. Why does he reveal it to you? For love." The editors, Edmund Colledge, O.S.A., and James Walsh, S.J., worked for 13 years on this beautiful edition. Including a detailed analysis of the text in the introduction, the book also contains an insightful preface from Jean Leclercq, who explores the relevance of Julian's work for today. All of this, however, is in service to these astonishing visions, given to a woman whose single desire was to surrender all to God. --Doug Thorpe

In the light of their thirteen years of work on the critical edition of *Showings*, Colledge and Walsh give us this first modern English rendering from their critical text.

Julian of Norwich was a 15th century anchorite (or anchoress) who lived much of her life in a little chapel on the grounds of her church. This book contains both a short version and a longer version, written later in her life. Learning that she lived much like a hermit, one is tempted to dismiss her writings as unrelated to the busy, interactive life for most of us in the 21st century. However, her focus on her relationship with God (Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit) can be instructive, or even inspirational for the reader. She is best known for her affirmation that "All is well; all will be well; and all will be made well." Her "Showings" (or *Revelations*) elaborate on this theme, which is a mantra that could well be pasted on the refrigerator or bathroom mirror: a needed reminder in the stress, the rush, and sometimes the tragedies of everyday life.

Best translation and commentary. Good background information provided. Plenty to meditate on.

required reading on julian

One of the most important books I've ever read and continue to read annually, especially during the season Lent. Don't fail to read this one. Cross reference what Julian states with other written works.

A friend recommended this book to me, and it has not disappointed. The Good News withstands the test of time. The interesting thing here is the relevance it holds for us NOW.

The notes and Introduction to the text are most helpful and interesting. Reading "Showings" is a different kind of reading and stretches ones normal focus of the so-called "real world".

Exceptional!! If you have sought to be enlivened by spirituality this is the book for you! There is a fare amount of what I would call "Churchifieng" in the first half but the long version of Julians "Showings" (included) is truely bliss at its best. Truth has a way of bringing the "bugs" out of the woodwork as it were (the first half "introduction" section) but then freedom is a major threat to power. Just believe what Julian heard and you life will change.... and do pass it on!!!!

Hard read, harder do

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