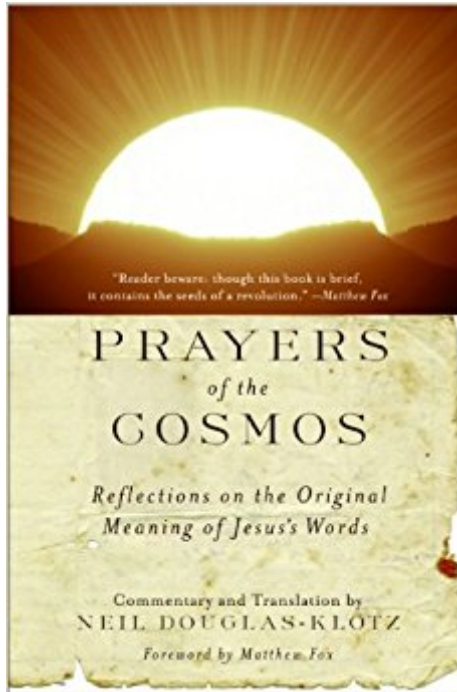


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Prayers Of The Cosmos: Meditations On The Aramaic Words Of Jesus



Synopsis

Neil Douglas-Klotz offers a radical new translation of the words of Jesus Christ with Prayers of the Cosmos. Reinterpreting the Lord's Prayer and the Beatitudes from the vantage of Middle Eastern mysticism, Douglas-Klotz, the Sufi Founder of the worldwide network of the Dances of Universal Peace, reveals a mystical, feminist, cosmic Christ. Prayers of the Cosmos is a spiritual revelation "and in the words of Science of Mind, "When you read this book, you will have no further doubt that God loves you infinitely and unconditionally."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I first purchased a copy of this book when it was originally released in 1990/1991. Something about the cover caught my attention. After the first page, I fully agreed with the intro: "In your hands lies a revolution..." Fourteen years later, I am still learning from this little paperback and have purchased and given as gifts several dozen copies. I have read through some of the other books ("Setting A Trap for God," etc.), but in my mind, "Prayers of the Cosmos" is still the best. It is simple, direct, and free of the trappings of ego that seem to permeate so many of the other books. My only "complaint" is that the prayers aren't available in CD, only audio cassette.

Not being an Aramaic scholar, I cannot really comment on the alternative shades of meaning and translations contained in this book, but I can, without reservation, say reading through these words and using the body prayers makes my heart sing. After many months I go back again and again to this book when I want more expansive material for meditations. Expansive, yeah, that's exactly what

it is!

One reviewer found the difference between the King James version translation and this one disturbing - well yes. That may be the point. This very small book explains how this translation was done - looking at not just literal translation but other layers of meaning. Our Sunday study group (some Christian, many not) found it deeply inspiring and enriching. It brings into sharp focus the patriarchal, hierarchical mindset of King James' translators. They were a product of their times and of whatever political pressure may have been brought to bear upon them. This book does much to expand our understanding and to expand the accessibility and usefulness of the newly translated material

Enjoyable, valuable and fascinating but I agree with other reviewers that the translation technique is flawed. In the author's own explanations of his technique, he reveals unsupportable leaps of logic. He infers too much and turns a word or two into multiple lines. He goes beyond translation and extrapolates according to his own values and philosophy. Still, he allows us to hear Jesus' words in a way that breaks through the icy formalism of King James' English. He helps us hear a voice that was much more powerful and emotionally rich than the one revealed in the version with which we are so familiar. I think that the value of this work comes in condensing its emotional, non-verbal essence for use as a background for the words. Then, recognizing that there are some specific inaccurate shades of meaning in some of the words, we can continue to use the traditional translations in a new context: with a new depth of feeling and with joy and respect for the nuances of the original meaning.

In my search for the wisdom of the ancients, I have been acutely aware that we do not have many original texts of Jesus' words. Klotz' translation comes so much closer to the storytelling techniques of the Middle East, that it is hard to escape the idea that this is truly how the Master sounded when he taught in person. Now we can begin to recognize the Beatitudes as the bones of the path we are to walk

Jesus' Prayer is so very familiar that it can become 'fixed' in our minds and hearts -- our old meanings, images and feelings might be rich, but may also limit the possibilities of the Spirit's ever creative prayer in us. The original Aramaic words of Jesus, and the poetry and commentaries in this book, help Jesus to "teach us to pray" anew, with fresh associations to every word. The author gives

us access to a sweetness and power of this prayer that is truly too deep for words.

This book brought some clarity for me about the "Lords Prayer" and "The Beattitudes". It has made it easier to apply these "teachings" to my everyday life. I now have a deeper understanding of what Jesus was trying to say.

This book was recommended to me by a new friend whom I met at the memorial service for a mutual friend. We sat outside, gathering ourselves to drive home after an emotional experience, and shared different spiritual traditions. (Our friend was quite the ecumenical person and an involved and gentle learner.) We were talking about the original languages of ancient writings and how they translate to modern context. It never occurred to me Aramaic was the native tongue of Jesus, so I was curious and ordered this book immediately. As is my habit with texts of this type, I read a page or two a day. I appreciate the author's effort, am so unschooled I have nothing to compare it to for accuracy, but ultimately was affected more by the concept than uplifted by the words.

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