

[PDF] The Imitation Of Christ

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Title: The Imitation of Christ

Author: Thomas

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Description:

About the Author About the Author:

"Thomas À Kempis (Thomas Hemerken, Thomas HÅmerken, Thomas van Kempen, TomÀis de Kempis) (ca.1380 - July 25, 1471) was a Renaissance Roman Catholic monk and author of Imitation of Christ, one of the best known Christian books on devotion.

He was born at Kempen (Germany), County of Cleves in 1380 and died in 1471 near Zwolle in the Prince-Bishopric of Utrecht, 75 miles north of his birthplace. His paternal name was Hemerken, Kleverlandish for "little hammer."

In 1395 he was sent to the school at Deventer conducted by the Brethren of the Common Life. He became skillful as a copyist and was thus enabled to support himself. Later he was admitted to the Augustinian convent of Mount Saint Agnes near Zwolle, where his brother John had been before him

and had risen to the dignity of prior. Thomas received priest's orders in 1413 and was made subprior in 1429.

The house was disturbed for a time in consequence of the pope's rejection of the bishop-elect of Utrecht, Rudolf van Diepholt; otherwise, Thomas' life was a quiet one, his time being spent between devotional exercises, composition, and copying. He copied the Bible no less than four times, one of the copies being preserved at Darmstadt in five volumes. In its teachings he was widely read, and his works abound in Biblical quotations, especially from the New Testament.

His life is no doubt fitly characterized by the words under an old picture first referred to by Franciscus Tolensis: "In all things I sought quiet and found it not save in retirement and in books." A monument was dedicated to his memory in the presence of the archbishop of Utrecht in St. Michael's Church, Zwolle, on November 11, 1897. Because of the closing of the church, his shrine was replaced in 2006 in an historical church in the centre of Zwolle.

Thomas À Kempis belonged to the school of mystics who were scattered along the Rhine from Switzerland to Strasburg and Cologne and in the Netherlands. He was a follower of Geert Groote and Florentius Radewijns, the founders of the Brethren of the Common Life.

His writings are all of a devotional character and include tracts and meditations, letters, sermons, a life of Saint Lydewigis, a Christian woman who remained steadfast under a great stress of afflictions." (*Quote from wikipedia.org*) --This text refers to the edition.

From When one seeks classic works on religion (Christian or otherwise), this seminal work should be the first book on the second shelf. While not actual scripture, it's as close as one can get, and if one's goal is to be Christ-like, this recasts much of scripture in that mold. A true visionary, á Kempis lovingly crafted his sentences to transcend typical mystical writing. The narration is fluid, seeming more recited than read. David Cochran Heath once again produces a primer on tone, inflection, and diction. Many times the listener could audibly detect a smile from Heath, as a love of the themes and subject matter is clearly evident in the reading. S.M.M. © AudioFile 2006, Portland, Maine--
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