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Markings



Synopsis

Universally known and admired as a peacemaker, Dag Hammarskjöld concealed a remarkable intense inner life which he recorded over several decades in this journal of poems and spiritual meditations, left to be published after his death. A dramatic account of spiritual struggle, *Markings* has inspired hundreds of thousands of readers since it was first published in 1964. *Markings* is distinctive, as W.H. Auden remarks in his foreword, as a record of "the attempt by a professional man of action to unite in one life the *via activa* and the *via contemplativa*." It reflects its author's efforts to live his creed, his belief that all men are equally the children of God and that faith and love require of him a life of selfless service to others. For Hammarskjöld, "the road to holiness necessarily passes through the world of action." *Markings* is not only a fascinating glimpse of the mind of a great man, but also a moving spiritual classic that has left its mark on generations of readers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is the most illuminating book I have ever read, bar none. I have gone through over twenty copies in the past 15 years as I find them, order more, and hand them out to my loved ones or leave them in places for others to 'discover'. I learned about this book in high school and have turned to it countless times over the years in good times and in bad, over and over, and it is like a diamond - each time that I open it I am privy to another sparkle. Also, over the years, I have learned more and more about Dag Hammarskjöld. I have since read his biography by Urquhart and other pieces of a biographical nature by other Hammarskjöld fans and devotees. His example, as a civil servant and

soldier of peace, have inspired my own pacifism, and his example has led me to more 'vistas of insight' than any other. Dag Hammarskjöld was a unprepossessing Swedish civil servant when his name was selected to and vetted and eventually elected to become the second Secretary-General of the United Nations. Kofi Annan, a successor of his, called him the 'lodestar' of his profession. He did more to build the stability and future of a peaceful world than anyone I am aware of before or since. And without fanfare. But his was a lonely existence, punctuated with episodes of depression and spiritual yearning as he struggled to make sense of his duty and life. He thought about death often; it is reflected in this, his most intimate and searching journal. It was only published after his death while on a mission of peace to the Congo. He died in a fireball over an Africa he was trying desperately to understand, and heal. He died too early. He is mourned by those who knew him, friends and enemies - they all attended his funeral and said words that surely he would never have expected.

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