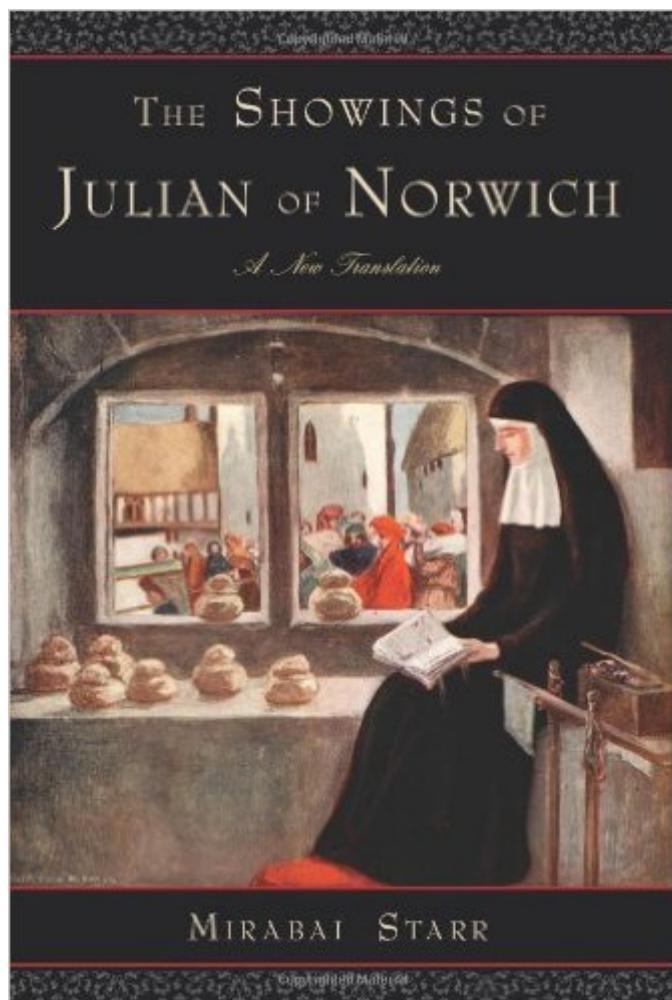


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The Showings Of Julian Of Norwich: A New Translation



Synopsis

A fresh and contemporary translation of one of the best loved and influential mystical texts of all time, *The Showings of Julian of Norwich* brings the message and spirituality of this 14th century mystic to 21st century readers. Julian of Norwich, a contemporary of Geoffrey Chaucer, was an English anchoress in East Anglia. At the age of 30, suffering from a severe illness and believing she was on her deathbed, Julian had a series of intense visions of Jesus, which she recorded and then expanded on later in her life. Her message for today's readers is simply this: She reveals the feminine face of the Divine and reminds us to see God there. All our failings are an opportunity to learn and grow; that they should be honored, but not dwelled upon. God's love has nothing to do with love and retribution and everything to do with love and compassion. In spite of all appearances, all is well.

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Customer Reviews

This would not be for everyone--for folks who want the more traditional and obviously Christian rendering. Mirabai Starr specializes in creating translations that are both true to a word--but allows the text to be more open to people reading who are on other paths and who might not be able to relate to the Christian language and metaphors. I like to read her works with a more traditional translation too and see what she has shifted a bit. Her books on Julian--and also John of the Cross and Theresa of Avila--are ones I have given to Buddhist, Hindu and Spiritual Eclectic friends who have been moved by the wisdom that they had not known existed in the Christian tradition. She is

very accessible-and may lead someone to then check out the more conventional renderings.

Mirabai Starr's wondrous expression of Julian's intensely personal visions enables readers to experience God in an extraordinary way. It is as though she has inherited Julian's mantle and shares her understanding of the immediacy of divinity in our lives. All I knew about Julian before I read this book was the comforting adage: "All shall be well and all shall be well and all manner of thing shall be well," which I quote to friends often. What I was not aware of was what immediately precedes it and is generally translated as "Sin is behovable, but." (Of course, the medieval word "behovable" would have stumped me anyway). Julian had been fretting about sin: "I realized that nothing stood in my way except sin, which is the thing that stands in everyone's way.... Why wouldn't God, in his omniscience, have prevented sin when he created us?" What Julian beheld early in her showings is made extremely clear in Mirabai's version. She interprets Jesus' words thus: "Sin is inevitable, yet all will be well and all will be well and every kind of thing shall be well." And she goes on to explain how this works. It is amazing that I have never come across this teaching before.

I felt that Starr's version of Julian's book reflects more of Starr than Julian. Some better choices in my opinion, if you really can't handle Middle English: Veronica Mary Rolf's new translation if you want something that's very close to the Middle English while being much easier to understand--or Ellyn Sanna's *All Shall Be Well*, which is a serious and truly modern translation that gets at the root of Julian's original meanings using 21st-century language. Both are serious (and lovely) works that stay true to the integrity of Julian.

I really enjoyed reading Julian of Norwich in Starr's translation as I can get it - at least in terms of the language. Understanding Julian's amazing spiritual revelations is another story! This is about God as Love.

This medieval lady is suddenly getting a lot of attention--about 600 years after the fact. She is charming and surprisingly worldly in her deep spirituality. She speaks to our time with a vibrancy other, more famous church elders have lost. She would sit by her window in the convent and talk to passers by. This gives her a grounding in the real world and its relation to a spiritual life. She was also, early in life, a mother and wife. Her great epiphany came as she lay dying and had visions ("showings") which she later recorded, with her plain spoken commentary. She is a delight and has a

growing fan base. And justifiably so. This translation from Medieval English is supple and clear. Highly recommended.

Wonderful translation- I've tried to battle through other versions but this one is wonderful. Insightful, profound and relevant., it really brings to light what I imagine Julian intended.

This is a "treasure" in my spiritual library. If you enjoy communications from mystics who have encountered Our Lord and/or Our Lady, you will LOVE this one. She is "spot on". I looked forward to reading it whenever I got a chance to sit down. I have learned a lot from this book.

I love Mirabai Starr's translations. This one does not disappoint. Julian becomes quite accessible -- loving, caring, and so wise -- across time. The theology of Julian of Norwich is valuable to those who suffer, both individuals and a fractured world. This translation is timely!

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