

RANDOM HOUSE  BOOKS



Meditations From A Simple Path

Mother Teresa

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Meditations from

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INTRODUCTION



I HAVE HAD the great fortune to meet Mother Teresa on several occasions. Each time, I was struck by her deep love for God and overwhelming sense of peace. The desire to experience this peace is, in fact, what draws so many of us to her. Mother Teresa herself would respond, if asked, that it is not she who is the source of this peace, but God. With this book, all of us are welcome to seek the path to peace which she has followed in the hope that we may find the same.

In an age of misplaced priorities, we may need to be reminded of the importance of faith in God and the joy to be received from experiencing this faith. It is a simple message, yet one many of us do not readily see. Too often, faith suffers under the burdens of the modern world. Yet, it is faith that gives each of us the strength to overcome our difficulties because God's love is enduring. We learn through faith that we are not facing our struggles alone.

For almost fifty years, Mother Teresa has dedicated her life to serving the poorest of the poor. She has witnessed, in the slums of Calcutta, how God's love transforms lives. Where many others might see only suffering, Mother Teresa sees dignity. Indeed, it is the poorest, who are not consumed with worldly matters, who are most free to seek God's peace.

Each of us has the opportunity to share in this peace. For many accustomed to a fast-paced world filled with anxiety, this may seem difficult at first, but this book offers us a guide. The path to faith begins with silent contemplation and prayer. Prayer frees us from worldly

concerns and reminds us of God's constant presence in our lives. Once we are able to accept God's love through prayer, we will be able to share this love with others through service.

Not all of us are called to serve in the particular way that Mother Teresa and the Missionaries of Charity serve, but we are called to serve others in everyday life. It is not how much we do that is important; rather, it is the love with which our actions are performed that is most important. The smallest action, done with love, will lead us toward peace.

The beauty of the messages in this simple volume is that they speak not only to Catholics but to people of all faiths. They are simple truths that transcend all boundaries of race, culture, and religion. They offer all of us a guide on the path to peace. As you read these words, I encourage you to open your hearts to God in prayer and to welcome His peace.

Anthony Cardinal Bevilacqua
Archbishop of Philadelphia

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