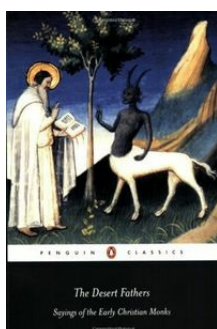


THE DESERT FATHERS: SAYINGS OF THE EARLY CHRISTIAN MONKS

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Peek Inside the Book

I may be wrong but I think nothing needs so much effort as prayer to God. If anyone wants to pray, the demons try to interrupt the prayer, for they know that prayer is the only thing that hinders them. All the other efforts in a religious life, whether they are made vehemently or gently, have room for a measure of rest. But we need to pray till our dying breath. That is the great struggle. Benedicta Ward, The Desert...

Reader's Opinions

As you'd expect, there's a lot of contradictory advice in here, but plenty of it is good. I do wish Ward had included more notes and more about the monks in question. This is very much a popularisation; not much use for we, the more academically inclined. "The true labourer struggles that the work may not deteriorate."

Benedicta Ward is the nun scholar who wrote all kinds of medieval studies that often point to Jesus our Lord as the exalted King of Heaven. This book of hers is a real classic that you would want to read over and over again, and you might end up memorizing some of the sayings in...