

ABHISHIKTĀNANDA

PRAAYER

New Edition translated from the French



I·S·P·C·K

PRAYER

ABHISHIKTANANDA

NEW EDITION

translated from EVEIL A SOI—EVEIL A DIEU

ISPCK

C O N T E N T S

Author's Preface	vii
1 The Holy Presence	1
2 A Mystery of Faith	12
3 The Universal Theophany	26
4 The Call Within	39
5 The Sabbath Rest of God	50
6 On the Way	66
7 Silence and Yoga	72
8 The Word of God	90
9 The Prayer of the Name	101
10 OM! ABBA!	117

P R E F A C E

RECENT YEARS have witnessed a far-reaching "return to the sources" within the Church. This is what brought about the Vatican Council, and equally the post-conciliar turmoil. The latter questions everything that has been carried down to us by the stream of history—not only the contribution of Scholasticism and the Middle Ages or the heritage of Greco-Roman antiquity, but just as much the whole cultural and religious world of Palestine, the very context in which the first Christians awoke to faith in the risen Christ and in which Jesus himself used human language to tell of his experience as God incarnate.

This movement is undoubtedly legitimate, for in the last resort there should not be any intermediary between Christ and the believer. Through the Spirit the believer should participate in the very experience of Jesus himself. Of course, there are bound to be intermediaries at the external level, because our life is set in history and in time, and moreover it is essentially lived in community. However, these intermediaries, of whatever type they may be—for example, other people, ideas or institutions—all exist with a view to bringing about the personal meeting and direct contact between man and God. They ought to be entirely transparent to the mystery, lest they become idols like those from which

There are many people in these days who are dissatisfied with a merely formal practice of their religion, and are seeking for genuine spiritual experience. Such people will find that this book speaks to their condition. Its purpose is to make us "increasingly attentive to the call of the Spirit who, from the depths of our own spirit, invites us to pray 'in truth' and 'without ceasing', according to the very words of Jesus in the Gospel"—in other words, simply to live in the Presence of God.

The author was a French monk who lived in India from 1948 until his death in 1973. In his deep contact with Indian spirituality he found that his own Christian experience was greatly enriched; the fruits of this experience are presented here in a simple and attractive form.

As he says, "In this book there is nothing technical... It seeks rather to be a travelling companion on the road that leads *within*, to be the often repeated word of a friend, as he helps his comrade not to grow weary on the way, and constantly reminds him of mountain top where God awaits him."

The present (6th) edition of *Prayer* differs from earlier editions, because it has been freshly translated from the fuller French version of 1970.

Price : Rs. 15.00, § 3