

THE IMITATION OF CHRIST

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649183043

The imitation of Christ by Thomas A Kempis

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

THOMAS A KEMPIS

**THE IMITATION
OF CHRIST**

EVERYMAN, I will go with thee,

and be thy guide,

In thy most need to go by thy side

THOMAS À KEMPIS

Born *c.* 1380 at Kempen, in the Rhineland. His surname was Hermerken. In 1399 was admitted to the Augustinian monastery of St Agnes at Zwolle and took the vows in 1406. He was successively promoted to the office of Bursar, Master of Novices and Sub-prior. Died in his ninetieth year on 25th July 1471.

THOMAS À KEMPIS

The Imitation of Christ



DENT: LONDON
EVERYMAN'S LIBRARY
DUTTON: NEW YORK

All rights reserved
Made in Great Britain
at the
Aldine Press · Letchworth · Herts
for
J. M. DENT & SONS LTD
Aldine House · Bedford Street · London
First included in Everyman's Library 1910
New edition 1960
Last reprinted 1968

NO. 484

SBN: 460 00484 0

PM

I

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Life of Thomas à Kempis	xi

BOOK FIRST

CHAP.		PAGE
I.	<i>Of the Imitation of Christ and the Contempt of all the Vanities of the World</i>	1
II.	<i>Of having an Humble Opinion of Oneself</i>	3
III.	<i>Of the Doctrine of Truth</i>	5
IV.	<i>Of Prudence in what We do</i>	8
V.	<i>Of Reading the Holy Scriptures</i>	9
VI.	<i>Of Inordinate Affections</i>	10
VII.	<i>Of Avoiding Vain Hope and Arrogance</i>	11
VIII.	<i>Of Guarding against too much Intimacy</i>	12
IX.	<i>Of Obedience and Subjection</i>	13
X.	<i>Of Avoiding Superfluity of Words</i>	14
XI.	<i>Of Acquiring Peace and Zeal for our Spiritual Progress</i>	15
XII.	<i>Of the Advantage of Adversity</i>	17
XIII.	<i>Of Resisting Temptations</i>	18
XIV.	<i>Of Avoiding Rash Judgment</i>	21
XV.	<i>Of Works done out of Charity</i>	22
XVI.	<i>Of Bearing the Defects of Others</i>	23
XVII.	<i>Of the Monastic Life</i>	25
XVIII.	<i>Of the Examples of the Holy Fathers</i>	26
XIX.	<i>Of the Exercises of a Good Religious</i>	28
XX.	<i>Of the Love of Solitude and Silence</i>	31
XXI.	<i>Of Compunction of Heart</i>	34
XXII.	<i>Of the Consideration of Human Misery</i>	36
XXIII.	<i>Of the Thoughts of Death</i>	39
XXIV.	<i>Of Judgment and the Punishment of Sinners</i>	42
XXV.	<i>Of the Fervent Amendment of our Whole Life</i>	45

BOOK SECOND

I.	<i>Of Interior Conversation</i>	49
II.	<i>Of Humble Submission</i>	52
III.	<i>Of the Good Peaceable Man</i>	53

CONTENTS

CHAP.	PAGE
IV. <i>Of a Pure Mind and a Simple Intention</i>	55
V. <i>Of Self-consideration</i>	56
VI. <i>Of the Joy of a Good Conscience</i>	58
VII. <i>Of the Love of Jesus above all Things</i>	60
VIII. <i>Of Familiar Friendship with Jesus</i>	61
IX. <i>Of the Want of all Consolation</i>	63
X. <i>Of Gratitude for the Grace of God</i>	66
XI. <i>Of the Small Number of the Lovers of the Cross of Jesus</i>	68
XII. <i>Of the Royal Road of the Holy Cross</i>	70

BOOK THIRD

I. <i>Of the Internal Discourse of Christ to a Faithful Soul</i>	75
II. <i>That Truth Speaketh within us without Noise of Words</i>	76
III. <i>That the Words of God are to be Heard with Humility, and that Many Weigh them not</i>	78
IV. <i>That We ought to Walk before God in Truth and Humility</i>	81
V. <i>Of the Wonderful Effect of Divine Love</i>	83
VI. <i>Of the Proof of a True Lover</i>	86
VII. <i>Of Concealing Grace under the Guardianship of Humility</i>	88
VIII. <i>Of the Mean Estimation of Oneself in the Eyes of God</i>	90
IX. <i>That all Things are to be Referred to God, as to our Last End</i>	91
X. <i>That it is Sweet to Despise the World and to Serve God</i>	92
XI. <i>That the Desires of our Heart are to be Examined and Moderated</i>	94
XII. <i>Of Acquiring Patience and of Striving against Concupiscence</i>	95
XIII. <i>Of the Obedience of an Humble Subject, after the Example of Jesus Christ</i>	97
XIV. <i>Of Considering the Secret Judgments of God, that We be not Puffed up with our Own Good Works</i>	99
XV. <i>How We are to be Disposed, and what We are to Say, when We Desire Anything</i>	101
XVI. <i>That the True Consolation is to be Sought in God Alone</i>	103
XVII. <i>That all Solitude must be Placed in God</i>	104

CONTENTS

CHAP.	PAGE
XXVIII. <i>That Temporal Miseries are to be Borne with Equanimity after the Example of Christ</i> . . .	105
XIX. <i>Of Supporting Injuries; and who is Proved to be Truly Patient</i>	107
XX. <i>Of the Confession of our Own Infirmary, and of the Miseries of this Life</i>	109
XXI. <i>That We are to Rest in God above all Goods and Gifts</i>	111
XXII. <i>Of the Remembrance of the Manifold Benefits of God</i>	114
XXIII. <i>Of Four Things which Bring much Peace</i>	116
XXIV. <i>Of Avoiding Curious Inquiry Respecting the Life of Others</i>	118
XXV. <i>In what Firm Peace of the Heart and True Progress doth Consist</i>	119
XXVI. <i>Of the Excellence of a Free Mind, which Devout Prayer rather Meriteth than Reading</i>	121
XXVII. <i>That Self-love chiefly Keepeth us back from the Sovereign Good</i>	123
XXVIII. <i>Against the Tongues of Detractors</i>	125
XXIX. <i>How, when Tribulation Presseth, We must Call upon and Bless God</i>	126
XXX. <i>Of Asking the Divine Assistance, and of Confidence of Recovering Grace</i>	127
XXXI. <i>Of the Contempt of Everything Created, in order to Find the Creator</i>	130
XXXII. <i>Of Self-abnegation and the Renunciation of all Cupidity</i>	132
XXXIII. <i>Of the Inconstancy of our Heart, and of Directing our Final Intention to God</i>	134
XXXIV. <i>That He that Loveth God Relisheth Him above all Things and in all Things</i>	135
XXXV. <i>That there is no Being Secure from Temptation in this Life</i>	137
XXXVI. <i>Against the Vain Judgments of Man</i>	139
XXXVII. <i>Of a Pure and Entire Resignation of Ourselves for the Obtaining Freedom of Heart</i>	140
XXXVIII. <i>Of the Good Government of Ourselves in Outward Things, and of having Recourse to God in Dangers</i>	142
XXXIX. <i>That a Man must not be too Anxious about his Affairs</i>	143
XL. <i>That Man hath no Good of Himself, and that He cannot Glory in Anything</i>	144
XLI. <i>Of the Contempt of all Temporal Honours</i>	146
XLII. <i>That Peace is not to be Placed in Men</i>	147