

**A MANUAL OF SPIRITUAL
DIRECTION FOR MOURNERS,
WITH DEVOTIONS AND FORMS
OF SELF-EXAMINATION**

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A Manual of Spiritual Direction for Mourners, with Devotions and Forms of Self-Examination
by Anonymous

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A MANUAL FOR MOURNERS.

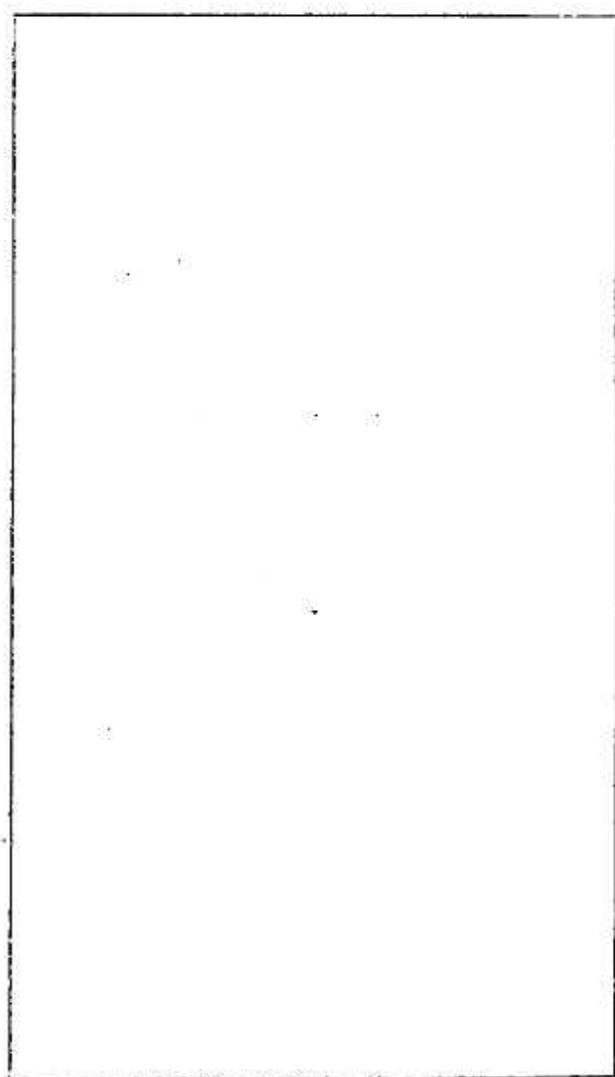
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“ ISIDORE of Pelusium thinks that our SAVIOUR did not mourn for His friend Lazarus, because he was dead (for He knew that He was going to raise him from the dead) ; but because he was to live again ; and to come from the haven where he had arrived, back again into the waves and storms : from a crown which he enjoyed, to a new encounter with his enemies.

“ If thou dost not believe this interpretation, yet dost thou believe the thing ? Dost thou seriously consider, that the misery of this world is so great, that we should rather weep that we are in it, than that others are gone out of it ?”—*Bp. Patrick.*

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IHS

BELOVED IN CHRIST,

GRACE be unto you, and Peace, and Consolation, from GOD our FATHER, the FATHER of mercies, and GOD of all comfort; and from our LORD JESUS CHRIST, in Whom whosoever believeth, shall live though he were dead, and whosoever liveth and believeth in Him shall not die eternally.

I address myself to you as one with whom GOD is dealing as with a son, inasmuch as He has laid His chastening Hand upon you; inflicting on you the sorrows of bereavement; feeding you with the bread of tears, and giving you the plenteousness of tears to drink.

I know nothing of the circumstances of your sorrow. I know not what the beloved object was which you have been called upon to resign,—Parent or Child, Husband or Wife, Brother or Sister, Kinsman or Friend.

B

I know

I know not whether your loss came upon you after warnings and time for preparation, or whether the desire of your eyes was taken from you with a stroke. I know not whether you have good and solid grounds of comfortable hope that as your deceased friend passed the time of his sojourning here in the Faith and Fear of God, so he was not suffered at his last hour for any pains of death to fall from Him: nor whether, (which God avert!) fears and misgivings with respect to his spiritual state, enhance the pangs of separation, and poison the arrow which has wounded you. I know not whether you are surrounded with affectionate sympathy, or whether you are desolate (so far as this world is concerned) in your misery. Young or old, male or female, I know not who you are, and never shall know. And you are, (and I desire that you should remain) in like ignorance with respect to me; for if I speak well, according to the Church's teaching, and the truth of God, to God be the glory! I desire no higher reward than that of being permitted to be an instrument in His Hands, Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them
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