

**THE KINGDOM OF
THE
LOVERS OF GOD**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649109944

The kingdom of the lovers of God by Jan Ruysbroec

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

JAN RUYSBROEC

**THE KINGDOM OF
THE
LOVERS OF GOD**

THE
KINGDOM OF THE
LOVERS OF GOD



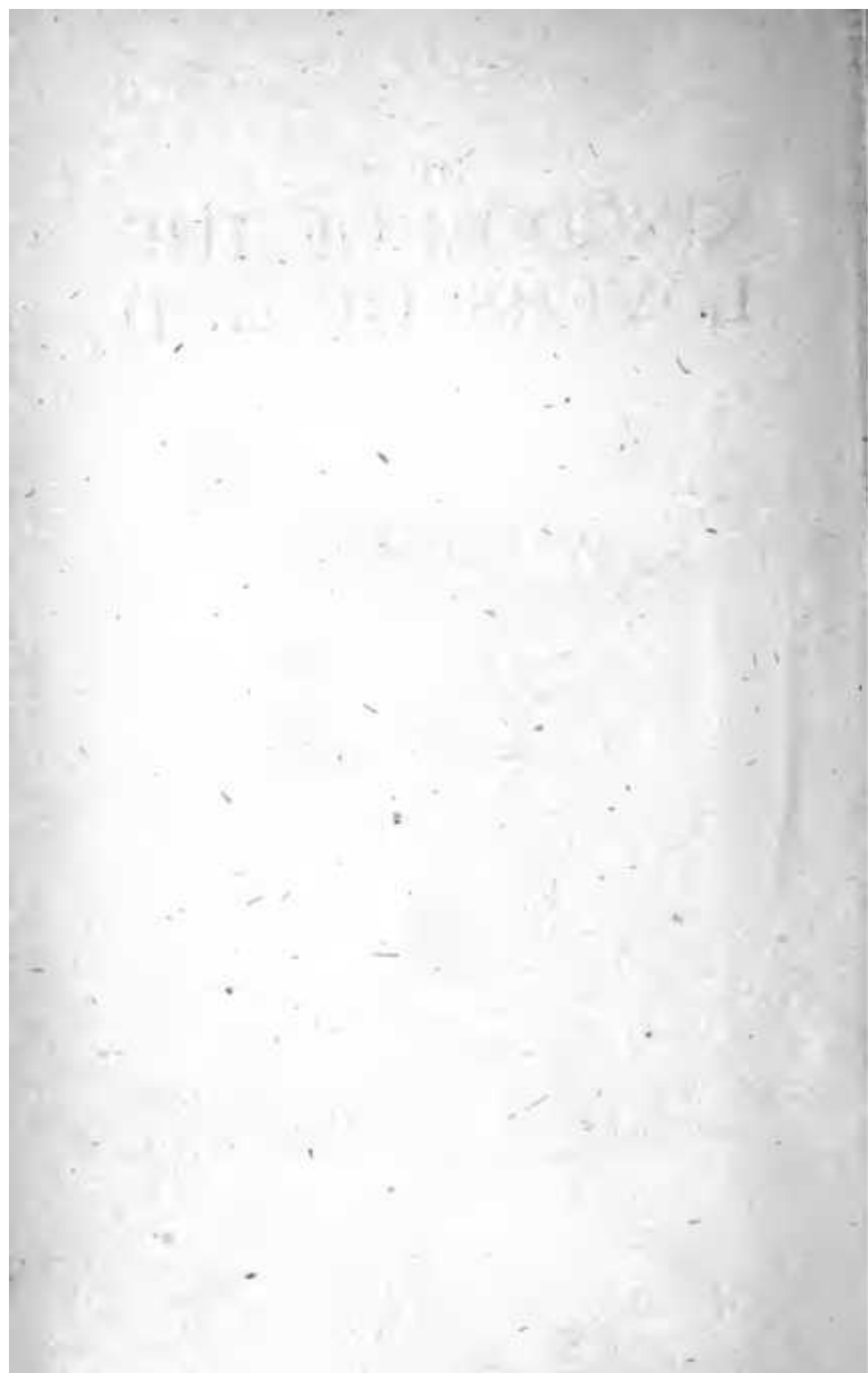
BY
Blessed JAN RUYSBROECK
Prior of Grönendal, near Brussels

*Now Translated for the first time from the Latin of Laurence
Surius, the Carthusian, together with an Introduction by*

T. ARNOLD HYDE

LONDON :
KEGAN PAUL, TRENCH, TRUBNER & CO. LTD.
NEW YORK : E. P. DUTTON & CO.

1919



CONTENTS

| CHAP. | PAGE |
|---|------|
| I. IN WHAT WAY THE NAME OF THE LORD APPLIES RIGHTLY TO GOD, AND OF THE CREATION OF ALL THINGS . | 3 |
| II. HOW CHRIST HAS LED US BACK TO HAPPINESS; ALSO CONCERNING THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS | 7 |
| III. WHAT THINGS MAKE A MAN JUST, BOTH IN THE ACTIVE AND IN THE CONTEMPLATIVE LIFE | 13 |
| IV. WHAT THE WAYS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD ARE, AND FIRST OF THE SENSIBLE WAY | 16 |
| V. OF THE WAY OF NATURAL LIGHT | 21 |
| VI. OF THE SUPERNATURAL AND DIVINE WAY | 27 |
| VII. OF SIX KINDS OF MEN, WHO DO NOT APPLY THEMSELVES TO RECEIVING THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND ESPECIALLY OF THE FIRST KIND | 29 |
| VIII. OF THE SECOND KIND OF EVIL MEN | 33 |
| IX. OF THE THIRD KIND OF EVIL MEN | 37 |
| X. OF THE FOURTH KIND OF EVIL MEN | 41 |
| XI. OF THE FIFTH KIND OF EVIL MEN | 45 |
| XII. OF THE SIXTH KIND OF EVIL MEN | 48 |
| XIII. CONCERNING THE THREE THEOLOGICAL VIRTUES | 52 |
| XIV. CONCERNING THE GIFT OF THE FEAR OF THE LORD, AND CERTAIN VIRTUES SPRINGING THEREFROM | 55 |

| CHAP. | | PAGE |
|----------|--|------|
| | THINGS HINDER IT, AND WHAT FORTHWITH THEY ELIMINATE . . . | 187 |
| XXXVII. | OF THE FIVE-FOLD KINGDOM OF GOD, AND OF THE FIRST SENSIBLE KINGDOM, AND WHAT ARE THE FUTURE THINGS AT THE LAST JUDGMENT . . . | 190 |
| XXXVIII. | OF THE FOUR GIFTS OF GLORIFIED BODIES . . . | 196 |
| XXXIX. | CONCERNING THE NATURAL KINGDOM . . . | 202 |
| XL. | CONCERNING THE KINGDOM OF SCRIPTURE . . . | 204 |
| XLI. | OF THE KINGDOM OF GRACE AND GLORY . . . | 207 |
| XLII. | OF THE SIX FRUITS OF GRACE AND OF GLORY, OF WHICH THREE BELONG TO THE ACTIVE, - THREE TO THE AFFECTIVE LIFE . . . | 209 |
| XLIII. | CONCERNING THE KINGDOM OF DIVINITY BEYOND THE LIGHT OF GRACE AND GLORY; AND CONCERNING THE THREE-FOLD FRUIT OF THE SUPERESSENTIAL CONTEMPLATIVE LIFE . . . | 213 |

INTRODUCTION.

INCOMPARABLY the greatest of all Christian mystics, Jan Ruysbroeck was born in the year 1293, at the village of Ruysbroeck, near Brussels. Ordained in due course to the priesthood, he exercised his sacred office at the Church of St. Gudule. At the age of sixty, in accordance with the advice of Lambert the Hermit, he betook himself to a life of silence and contemplation in the heart of the forest of Soignes, settling finally "in Valle Viridi," or Grönendal, where he founded a priory, the ruins of which are still existent. There he became Prior of the Canons Regular (or Hermits) of St. Augustine, a college of priests once greatly esteemed in England. Visited by Gerhard Groot, John Thauler and other notable persons of that period, his fame spread far and wide, and won for him the title of Admirabilis, whilst later times have conferred upon him the distinction of Doctor Ecstaticus. He died on the second day of December, 1381, having written twelve books, seven epistles, two hymns, and a prayer.

Several of the books have been translated from the Flemish into French by Maeterlinck and Ernest Hello. The present translation of "The Kingdom of the Lovers of God" is from the Latin of Laurence Surius, the Carthusian, in a complete edition printed at Cologne in 1672.

In 1891 appeared a remarkable essay by Maeterlinck, forming the introduction to his "L'Ornement des Noces Spirituelles de Ruysbroeck l'Admirable," and in 1894 a translation of the essay was published in English. To these publications the present Introduction is much indebted.

In the book "Regnum Deum Amantium" we have what is declared to be the most characteristic and deeply mystical of all these writings. It will be perceived how easily and quickly from subjects often obvious, sometimes quaint and even childish, he soars into regions of abstruse speculation, where we can no longer follow him. There "pinnacled dim in the intense inane," he discourses freely and easily of divine secrets, of the Absolute, of the Ultimate Reality, which is God Himself. He stands in line, it is true, with the great mystics of antiquity: Plato, Porphyry, Plotinus; with the few who, long ages apart, have

possessed the sublime gift of Intuition in full measure, but with this difference: that where they proceed with faltering steps, assisted also by the light of Reason, he by the light of pure Intuition, securely and boldly scales the ascent to the secret shrine of Illumination.

Few and far between are they who have succeeded in penetrating this rarely trodden sanctuary of the mind, but there is a dread experience, familiar to some, who, whether consciously or not, have ventured upon that lonely promontory, which, jutting forth from the uttermost verge of human thought, conducts to the light beyond. Sooner or later they have met with that which has been variously termed, the Dweller on the Threshold, the Keeper of the Secret, the Wall, and the Destroyer, but the encounter has determined only in affrighted recoil from that contact: baffled, bewildered and half blinded, they have regained with difficulty the way back to peace and contentment of mind amid the familiar things of life.

The busy world of men does not realize that there is any experience of this nature, and appears unable even to entertain the idea that it exists, but there are those who