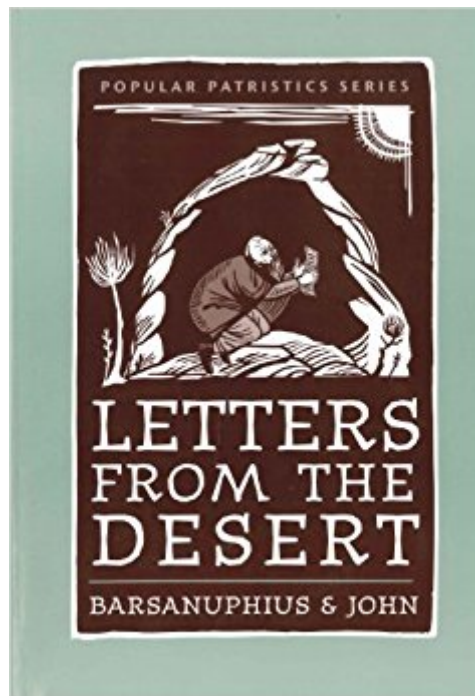


The book was found

Letters From The Desert: A Selection Of Questions And Responses (St. Vladimir's Seminary Press Popular Patristics Series)



Synopsis

Two monastic elders the 'Great Old Man' Barsanuphius, and the 'Other Old Man' John flourished in the southern region around Gaza in the early part of the sixth century. Maintaining strict seclusion within their cells, they spoke to others only through letters by way of Abba Seridos, the abbot of the monastic community in Gaza, where these two holy men lived in silence. The authority of John may be described as more institutional, responding as he does to problems of a practical nature; the authority of Barsanuphius is more inspirational, responding to principles of a spiritual nature. Thus, they complemented each other and together they maintained a harmonious 'authority-in-charity.' Rather than the Western emphasis on discipline, these two elders retained an emphasis on discernment, thus preserving the flexibility and fluidity of the Egyptian desert lifestyles (from whence Barsanuphius had been formed). Nevertheless, both men were highly educated and displayed a fine intellect, as is reflected in their writings. In the East, one sought out an elder, an Old Man (a geron in Greek or an abba, the Coptic word) as a spiritual director, and this was the chief role of monastic community to the surrounding community. These letters of the two Old Men were written to hermits, to monks in the community, to those in the choir, to priests, and to lay persons. Some were intended for advanced instruction, while others were intended for novices' according to the capacity of the inquirer. So one must not perceive as a general rule words spoken to souls at different spiritual levels. Still, these questions and answers evoke the image of the Christian tradition being passed from elder to disciple, and the contemporary reader will be able to appreciate the method and possibly be inspired to imitate the message.

Book Information

Series: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press Popular Patristics Series

Paperback: 213 pages

Publisher: St Vladimirs Seminary Pr (August 1, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0881412546

ISBN-13: 978-0881412543

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 5.2 x 7.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #776,605 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #177 inÂ Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Worship & Devotion > Monasticism & Asceticism #3359 inÂ Books > Religion &

Customer Reviews

Barsanuphius was not lightly called "the Great". We just might owe this early Christian holy man an unfathomable debt, and I invite readers to search this book for themselves to find out why. In the search they will make acquaintance with two wonderful, loving men, ascetic teachers of ancient Palestine, whose knowledge and common sense about living the spiritual life come to us in their own words. This book contains treasure for those who are serious about Christian joy.

Only if one is reading these letters can understand the history of the Church. It is amazing how some people of the old understood the life because they perceived the reality as it is without media to confuse them. They raised generations of straight minded people too. The letters prove that in the East was not a period of darkness as it was in the West of Europe. I was glad to be able to have a collection of these letters because the extended version is a bit pricey.

desert wisdom par excellence

[Download to continue reading...](#)

On The Human Condition: St Basil the Great (St. Vladimir's Seminary Press "Popular Patristics" Series) (St. Vladimir's Seminary Press "Popular Patristics" Series) Letters from the Desert: A Selection of Questions and Responses (St. Vladimir's Seminary Press Popular Patristics Series) Three Treatises on the Divine Images (St. Vladimir's Seminary Press Popular Patristics Series) Ninth Grade Slays #2: The Chronicles of Vladimir Tod (Chronicles of Vladimir Tod-Graphic Novel) Works on the Spirit PPS43 (Popular Patristics Series) On the Incarnation: Saint Athanasius (Popular Patristics) The Selection Series Box Set: The Selection, The Elite, The One Happily Ever After: Companion to the Selection Series (The Selection Novella) Plant Operator Selection System Secrets Study Guide: POSS Test Review for the Plant Operator Selection System The Selection: The Selection, Book 1 The Selection 4-Book Box Set: The Selection, The Elite, The One, The Heir Research and Writing in the Seminary: Practical Strategies and Tools Desert Boats. Predynastic and Pharaonic era Rock-Art in Egypt's Central Eastern Desert: Distribution, dating and interpretation (BAR International) What to Expect in Seminary: Theological Education as Spiritual Formation The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty [New Testament Edition] In the Heart of the Desert: The Spirituality of the Desert Fathers and Mothers

(Treasures of the World's Religions) Sonoran Desert Food Plants: Edible Uses for the Desert's Wild Bounty A Natural History of the Sonoran Desert (Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum) Acadia: The Complete Guide: Acadia National Park & Mount Desert Island (Acadia the Complete Guide Mount Desert Island & Acadia National Park) Incredible 5 Point Scale: The Significantly Improved and Expanded Second Edition; Assisting Students in Understanding Social Interactions and Controlling their Emotional Responses

[Dmca](#)