

st teresa of avila autobiography

St Teresa of Avila Autobiography: A Journey Through Spiritual Awakening and Mysticism

st teresa of avila autobiography offers an intimate glimpse into the life and spiritual evolution of one of the most influential mystics and reformers of the Catholic Church. Written in the 16th century, her autobiography is not just a personal memoir but a profound work that has inspired countless individuals on their spiritual journeys. It combines vivid storytelling with deep theological insight, making it a timeless classic in religious literature.

The Life Behind the Autobiography

St Teresa of Avila, born Teresa Sánchez de Cepeda y Ahumada in 1515, was a Spanish Carmelite nun whose life was marked by intense spiritual experiences and dedication to religious reform. Her autobiography chronicles her early years, struggles with faith, mystical visions, and the challenges she faced in reforming the Carmelite order. Understanding her background helps readers appreciate the depth and significance of her writings.

What Makes St Teresa of Avila's Autobiography Unique?

Unlike many spiritual writings of her era, Teresa's autobiography is remarkably candid and conversational. She does not shy away from discussing her doubts, fears, and failures, which adds authenticity and relatability to her story. This openness invites readers into her inner world, making the spiritual journey accessible and engaging.

The Spiritual Themes Explored in the Autobiography

One of the most compelling aspects of the autobiography is Teresa's exploration of mystical theology. She discusses concepts such as:

- **The Interior Castle:** A metaphor for the soul's journey toward God, describing different stages or 'mansions' of spiritual development.
- **Prayer and Contemplation:** Teresa emphasizes the importance of deep, contemplative prayer as a pathway to divine union.
- **Spiritual Trials:** She candidly shares the hardships and temptations she endured, highlighting perseverance and faith.

These themes not only provide insight into Teresa's spirituality but also serve as a guide for readers seeking their own spiritual growth.

The Historical and Cultural Context

To fully appreciate the autobiography, it's important to consider the historical setting of 16th-century Spain. This period was marked by religious upheaval, the Counter-Reformation, and the Spanish Inquisition. Teresa's efforts to reform the Carmelite order and her mystical experiences were sometimes met with suspicion. Her writings reflect the tensions between personal mystical experience and established Church authority.

Influence and Legacy of the Autobiography

St Teresa of Avila's autobiography has had a lasting impact on Christian spirituality and mysticism. It influenced later mystics such as John of the Cross and continues to be studied by theologians, historians, and spiritual seekers. The book's blend of personal narrative and spiritual instruction makes it a valuable resource for understanding the inner life of a saint.

Tips for Reading and Understanding the Autobiography

Engaging with St Teresa of Avila's autobiography can be both enriching and challenging. Here are some tips to enhance your reading experience:

1. ****Read with Patience:**** The language and style reflect the 16th-century context; take your time to absorb the meaning.
2. ****Use Supplementary Materials:**** Commentaries and historical background can clarify complex theological ideas.
3. ****Reflect on Personal Application:**** Consider how Teresa's experiences and insights might relate to your own spiritual or personal journey.
4. ****Discuss with Others:**** Joining a reading group or online forum can deepen understanding through shared perspectives.

Mysticism and Autobiography: A Rare Combination

St Teresa's work stands out because it combines the genre of autobiography with mystical theology, a rare feat in religious literature. This fusion allows readers to witness not only the external events of her life but also the internal transformations that shaped her faith and mission.

Key Takeaways from St Teresa of Avila's Spiritual Journey

- **Authenticity in Faith:** Teresa's openness about struggles illustrates that spiritual growth is not a linear path.
- **The Power of Prayer:** Her emphasis on contemplative prayer highlights the transformative potential of deep meditation.
- **Courage in Reform:** Her perseverance in reforming the Carmelite order demonstrates the impact of conviction and resilience.
- **Mystical Experiences:** Her vivid descriptions of visions and ecstasies provide a window into the mystical tradition of Christianity.

Exploring Related Works and Writings

Beyond the autobiography, St Teresa of Avila authored several important works such as *The Interior Castle* and *The Way of Perfection*. These texts expand on themes introduced in her autobiography and offer practical guidance on prayer and spiritual discipline. Exploring these writings can enrich one's understanding of her spiritual philosophy.

How St Teresa of Avila's Autobiography Resonates Today

In a modern world often characterized by fast-paced living and external distractions, Teresa's reflections on silence, contemplation, and inner peace remain profoundly relevant. Her autobiography encourages readers to slow down, listen to their inner selves, and cultivate a deeper relationship with the divine, making it a timeless source of inspiration.

Final Thoughts on the Autobiography

St Teresa of Avila's autobiography is more than just a historical document; it is a living testimony of faith, struggle, and divine encounter. Whether you approach it as a spiritual seeker, a history enthusiast, or a lover of classic literature, the book offers rich insights and a compelling narrative that resonates across centuries. By engaging with her story, readers embark on a journey not unlike Teresa's own—a path toward greater understanding, faith, and transformation.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who was St. Teresa of Avila and why is her autobiography important?

St. Teresa of Avila was a 16th-century Spanish mystic, Carmelite nun, and reformer of the Carmelite Order. Her autobiography, often referred to as "The Life of Teresa of Jesus," is important because it provides deep insights into her spiritual experiences, mystical visions, and the challenges she faced in her religious reforms.

What is the main focus of St. Teresa of Avila's autobiography?

The main focus of St. Teresa of Avila's autobiography is her spiritual journey and mystical experiences, including her deep prayer life, visions, and the development of her inner relationship with God. It also details her efforts to reform the Carmelite Order and the obstacles she encountered.

When was St. Teresa of Avila's autobiography written?

St. Teresa of Avila wrote her autobiography between 1562 and 1565, towards the latter part of her life, reflecting on her spiritual experiences and the progress of her reforms.

What literary style does St. Teresa of Avila use in her autobiography?

St. Teresa of Avila's autobiography is written in a clear, straightforward style that combines narrative with reflective and mystical elements. It is both a personal memoir and a spiritual guide, using vivid imagery to describe her inner experiences.

How has St. Teresa of Avila's autobiography influenced Christian spirituality?

St. Teresa of Avila's autobiography has greatly influenced Christian spirituality by providing a firsthand account of mystical experiences and the practice of contemplative prayer. It has inspired countless readers to deepen their spiritual lives and pursue a closer relationship with God.

Are there modern translations of St. Teresa of Avila's autobiography available?

Yes, there are several modern English translations of St. Teresa of Avila's autobiography available today. These versions often include annotations and introductions to help contemporary readers understand the historical and spiritual context of her writings.

Additional Resources

****Unveiling the Spiritual Journey: A Deep Dive into St Teresa of Avila's Autobiography****

st teresa of avila autobiography stands as one of the most profound spiritual narratives in Christian literature, offering an intimate glimpse into the mystical experiences and reforms led by one of the most influential figures of the Catholic Reformation. Written in the 16th century, this work not only chronicles the life of a remarkable woman but also serves as a theological and psychological exploration of faith, suffering, and divine union. This article undertakes a comprehensive analysis of the autobiography, examining its historical context, literary significance, and enduring impact within religious and literary circles.

Historical Context and Significance

St Teresa of Avila, born Teresa Sánchez de Cepeda y Ahumada in 1515, lived during a period marked by significant religious upheaval. The Protestant Reformation was challenging the Catholic Church's authority, and within this climate, Teresa emerged as a reformer of the Carmelite Order, advocating for a return to strict asceticism and contemplative prayer. Her autobiography, often referred to simply as **The Life of Teresa of Jesus**, was penned between 1562 and 1565, providing a firsthand account of her spiritual development and mystical experiences.

The **st teresa of avila autobiography** is not merely a hagiographic text; it is a candid self-portrait that reveals Teresa's internal struggles, doubts, and profound moments of religious ecstasy. This honesty makes the work unique among spiritual autobiographies of its time, offering scholars and readers a rare window into the psychological dimensions of mysticism during the Counter-Reformation.

Literary Features and Narrative Style

The narrative style of Teresa's autobiography is notable for its conversational tone and straightforward prose, which contrasts sharply with the elaborate and often esoteric spiritual literature of the 16th century. Teresa writes with an accessible voice, addressing her readers directly and inviting them into her spiritual journey. This accessibility is one reason why the autobiography remains influential both as a religious text and a piece of literary history.

Another distinctive feature is the use of vivid imagery and metaphors to describe mystical experiences. Teresa's accounts of visions, ecstasies, and the 'spiritual marriage' with God employ poetic language that transcends mere description, aiming to evoke the ineffable nature of divine union. Such

literary techniques have made the autobiography a subject of study not only in theology but also in literature and psychology.

Core Themes Explored in the Autobiography

The *Life of Teresa of Avila* autobiography explores several interwoven themes that are critical to understanding her spiritual worldview:

- **Divine Love and Union:** Teresa's ultimate goal is union with God, described as a transformative experience of love that surpasses all earthly pleasures.
- **Spiritual Trials and Suffering:** The text does not shy away from detailing Teresa's moments of despair, physical illness, and spiritual dryness, reflecting the complex nature of faith.
- **Reform and Obedience:** Teresa's commitment to reforming the Carmelite Order underscores themes of discipline, obedience, and renewal within the Church.
- **Inner Prayer and Contemplation:** The autobiography elaborates on the stages of prayer, emphasizing silent contemplation as a path to spiritual enlightenment.

Theological Implications and Mystical Insights

Teresa's autobiography occupies a crucial place in Christian mysticism, offering insights into the experiential knowledge of God beyond doctrinal formulations. Her description of the "interior castle," a metaphorical framework for the soul's journey toward God, has become a cornerstone of mystical theology. This concept divides the spiritual life into progressive stages, encouraging readers to understand their own spiritual development in dynamic terms.

Moreover, the autobiography contributes to discussions on the nature of mystical experience, distinguishing between sensory visions and the deeper, transformative encounters with the divine will. Teresa's reflections have informed not only Catholic spirituality but also broader philosophical inquiries into consciousness and transcendence.

Comparison with Contemporary Spiritual

Autobiographies

When compared with other spiritual autobiographies of the Renaissance and early modern period, such as St Augustine's *Confessions* or John Bunyan's *Grace Abounding*, St Teresa's work is distinctive for its blend of practical reformist zeal and mystical depth. While Augustine's confessions focus heavily on sin and redemption, and Bunyan's narrative is grounded in Protestant theology, Teresa's autobiography presents a uniquely Catholic mystical perspective that integrates active and contemplative dimensions of faith.

This fusion of reform and mysticism sets Teresa's work apart, making it a vital text for understanding the complexities of Catholic spirituality during a pivotal era.

Impact on Modern Spirituality and Literature

The influence of the *St Teresa of Avila autobiography* extends far beyond its immediate historical context. In modern spirituality, Teresa is often cited as a model of contemplative prayer and spiritual resilience. Her writings continue to inspire retreats, meditative practices, and theological studies worldwide.

Literarily, Teresa's vivid descriptions and narrative honesty have attracted attention from scholars interested in gender studies, psychology, and literary criticism. The autobiography's exploration of inner experience anticipates themes found in later existential and psychological literature, linking early modern mysticism with contemporary explorations of selfhood and identity.

Challenges and Critiques

Despite its acclaim, the *St Teresa of Avila autobiography* is not without its critiques. Some scholars question the historical accuracy of certain episodes, suggesting embellishments or theological agendas influenced the narrative. Additionally, Teresa's intense mystical experiences have been subject to psychological analysis, with some modern interpreters proposing neurological or psychiatric explanations.

From a literary standpoint, the straightforward style may lack the complexity that some readers expect from classical spiritual texts. However, this simplicity is often seen as a strength, enhancing the text's approachability and emotional impact.

Key Features of the Autobiography

- First-person narrative offering an intimate portrayal of spiritual growth.
- Combination of autobiography and theological reflection.
- Detailed accounts of mystical visions and ecstasies.
- Emphasis on prayer as a transformative process.
- Insight into the social and religious challenges of 16th-century Spain.

Exploring St Teresa's autobiography provides a multifaceted perspective on the interplay between personal faith and institutional religion. It reveals the courage and conviction required to pursue a spiritual path that challenged prevailing norms while enriching the broader Christian tradition.

In examining the *st teresa of avila autobiography*, one encounters not only a historical document but also a timeless meditation on the human quest for meaning, transcendence, and divine love. Teresa's voice continues to resonate, inviting reflection on the mysteries of faith and the complexities of the spiritual life.

St Teresa Of Avila Autobiography

st teresa of avila autobiography: Autobiography of St. Teresa of Avila St. Teresa of Avila, 2014-03-05 In this classic of Christian mysticism, a Carmelite nun describes her struggles and ultimate union with God. St. Teresa recounts her childhood, spiritual crises, and embrace of the contemplative life.

st teresa of avila autobiography: The Book of Her Life Teresa of Avila, Kieran Kavanaugh, Otilio Rodriguez, 2008-01-01 The Book of Her Life is the spiritual autobiography of a Counter Reformation mystic and monastic reformer of sixteenth century Spain. Introduction by Jodi Bilinkoff.

st teresa of avila autobiography: The Life of Teresa of Jesus , 1991-10-15 Written in 1565 at the request of her confessor, St. Teresa's autobiography is at once an extraordinary chronicle of a life governed by the desire to draw closer to God and a literary masterpiece that brings to life a woman of candor, humor, and great spiritual strength. Teresa writes of her early life, the conflicts and crises she faced, and her decision to enter a life of prayer. Her lyrical, almost erotic descriptions of ecstatic experiences call to mind the senuous language of the Song of Songs.

st teresa of avila autobiography: The Life of Teresa of Jesus Saint Teresa (of Avila), 1960

st teresa of avila autobiography: The Life of Saint Teresa of Avila Carlos Eire, 2019-06-11 The life and many afterlives of one of the most enduring mystical testaments ever written The Life of Saint Teresa of Avila is among the most remarkable accounts ever written of the human encounter with the divine. The Life is not really an autobiography at all, but rather a confession written for inquisitors by a nun whose raptures and mystical claims had aroused suspicion. Despite its troubled

origins, the book has had a profound impact on Christian spirituality for five centuries, attracting admiration from readers as diverse as mystics, philosophers, artists, psychoanalysts, and neurologists. How did a manuscript once kept under lock and key by the Spanish Inquisition become one of the most inspiring religious books of all time? National Book Award winner Carlos Eire tells the story of this incomparable spiritual masterpiece, examining its composition and reception in the sixteenth century, the various ways its mystical teachings have been interpreted and reinterpreted across time, and its enduring influence in our own secular age. The *Life* became an iconic text of the Counter-Reformation, was revered in Franco's Spain, and has gone on to be read as a feminist manifesto, a literary work, and even as a secular text. But as Eire demonstrates in this vibrant and evocative book, Teresa's confession is a cry from the heart to God and an audacious portrayal of mystical theology as a search for love. Here is the essential companion to the *Life*, one woman's testimony to the reality of mystical experience and a timeless affirmation of the ultimate triumph of good over evil.

st teresa of avila autobiography: *The Autobiography of St. Teresa of Avila* , 1995

st teresa of avila autobiography: Teresa of Avila Cathleen Medwick, 2001-01-16 A refreshingly modern reconsideration of Saint Teresa (1515-1582), one of the greatest mystics and reformers to emerge within the sixteenth-century Catholic Church, whose writings are a keystone of modern mystical thought. From the very beginning of her life in a convent, following the death of her mother and the marriage of her older sister, it was clear that Teresa's expansive nature, intensity, and energy would not be easily confined. Cathleen Medwick shows us a powerful daughter of the Church and her times who was a very human mass of contradictions: a practical and no-nonsense manager, and yet a flamboyant and intrepid presence who bent the rules of monastic life to accomplish her work--while managing to stay one step ahead of the Inquisition. And she exhibited a very personal brand of spirituality, often experiencing raptures of an unorthodox, arguably erotic, nature that left her frozen in one position for hours, unable to speak. Out of a concern for her soul and her reputation, her superiors insisted that she account for every voice and vision, as well as the sins that might have engendered them, thus giving us the account of her life that is now considered a literary masterpiece. Medwick makes it clear that Teresa considered her major work the reform of the Carmelites, an enterprise requiring all her considerable persuasiveness and her talent for administration. We see her moving about Spain with the assurance (if not the authority) of a man, in spite of debilitating illness, to establish communities of nuns who lived scrupulously devout lives, without luxuries. In an era when women were seldom taken seriously, she even sought and received permission to found two religious houses for men. In this fascinating account Cathleen Medwick reveals Teresa as both more complex and more comprehensible than she has seemed in the past. She illuminates for us the devout and worldly woman behind the centuries-old iconography of the saint.

st teresa of avila autobiography: *Autobiography of St. Teresa of Avila - The Book of Her Life* St Teresa of Avila, 2019-12-17 Complete edition of the Autobiography of St. Teresa of Avila, translated by David Lewis. This edition includes over 500 footnotes, creating a study edition for readers to better understand Avila's path to Jesus through prayer. The story of her life, interspersed with lessons on prayer. Though slow starting, one may finish with tears of joy. The book defies description. We have, then, as good gardeners, by the help of God, to see that the plants grow, to water them carefully, that they may not die, but produce blossoms, which shall send forth much fragrance, refreshing to our Lord, so that He may come often for His pleasure into this garden, and delight Himself in the midst of these virtues. No student of thought should be without this historic book. This edition is provided in a slim volume with full text at an affordable price.

st teresa of avila autobiography: The Autobiography of St. Teresa of Avila Teresa de Jesús (santa), 1995

st teresa of avila autobiography: My Life - My Prayer , 2017 Accessible edition of the first volume of Teresa of Avila's autobiography The book of her life.

st teresa of avila autobiography: The Autobiography of St. Teresa of Avila St. Teresa St.

Teresa Of Avila, 2017-04-30 How is this book unique? Font adjustments & biography included Unabridged (100% Original content) Illustrated About The Autobiography of St. Teresa Of Avila by St. Teresa Of Avila In this landmark of Christian mysticism, the revered Carmelite nun presents moving accounts of her profound religious experiences and ultimate union with God. St. Teresa wrote this memoir at the behest of her confessor. It offers a warm, accessible account of her transformation into an impassioned leader and reformer of church doctrine. St. Teresa recounts her childhood and education in sixteenth-century Spain, her physical afflictions and spiritual crises, her many visions and mystical encounters, and her determination to embrace the contemplative life. In describing the ascent of the soul, she explains the core of her theology as a four-stage process that progresses from mental prayer to divine rapture. Next to Don Quixote, this timeless work constitutes Spain's most popular prose classic. It forms an excellent introduction to the saint's other writings and to the Christian tradition of mystical literature.

st teresa of avila autobiography: Autobiography of Saint Teresa of Avila Saint Teresa of Avila, 2010-10-23 Autobiography of Saint Teresa of Avila is the account of Saint Teresa Sanchez de Cepeda y Ahumada, a prominent 16th century Spanish mystic, Carmelite nun, and writer of the Counter Reformation. Like many of her writings her autobiography has a didactic tone as it intends to instruct the reader on how to live a more devout Christian life in the manner put forth by the Catholic Church. A classic work of Christian mysticism The Life of Saint Teresa of Avila by Herself is a must read for anyone seeking a more contemplative life and a closer and more spiritual connection with God through prayer and religious devotion.

st teresa of avila autobiography: The Life of St. Teresa of Jesus, of the Order of Our Lady of Carmel Of Avila Saint Teresa, 2022-05-28 In The Life of St. Teresa of Jesus, of the Order of Our Lady of Carmel, St. Teresa of Avila presents a profound and introspective narrative that intertwines memoir with spiritual treatise. Written in the 16th century, this autobiographical work explores her mystical experiences, struggles with prayer, and her reformative vision for the Carmelite Order amidst the backdrop of the Counter-Reformation. St. Teresa's literary style is marked by clarity and a deep sense of reverence, inviting readers into the intimate landscape of her soul, revealing both the trials of her faith and the transformative power of divine love. Saint Teresa of Avila, a Spanish mystic and theologian, was not only a prominent religious figure but also a reformer who sought to restore the original spirit of the Carmelite Order. Her own tumultuous experiences with spirituality and her commitment to contemplative life provided her with the insight necessary to articulate the complexities of faith, prayer, and divine union. Her writings are both a product of her extensive theological knowledge and personal encounters with God, reflecting the fervor of the 16th-century Catholic revival. This book is highly recommended for those interested in mysticism, spirituality, and the intersection of personal experience with theological discourse. St. Teresa's rich insights and eloquent prose make this work an essential read for anyone seeking a deeper understanding of the Christian spiritual journey and the transformative power of grace.

st teresa of avila autobiography: Teresa of Avila Mirabai Starr, 2008-07-08 A "pure genius" translation of the beloved autobiographical writings of the great 16th-century Spanish mystic, Saint Teresa of Ávila (Caroline Myss, New York Times–bestselling author) Teresa of Ávila (1515–1582) is one of the most beloved of the Catholic saints. In 1562, during the era of the Spanish Inquisition, Teresa sat down to write an account of the mystical experiences for which she had become famous. The result was this book, one of the great classics of spiritual autobiography. With this fresh translation of The Book of My Life, Mirabai Starr brings the inimitable Spanish mystic to life for a new generation. In contemporary English that mirrors Teresa's own earthy, vernacular Spanish, and that presents us with—four centuries after Teresa's death—someone we feel we know, Mirabai Starr offers a stunning portrait of a woman who is intoxicated by God yet filled with an overflowing love for the world.

st teresa of avila autobiography: The Life of Saint Teresa of Avila by Herself Teresa Of Avila, 1957 Born in the Castilian town of Avila in 1515, Teresa entered the Carmelite convent of the Incarnation when she was twenty-one. Tormented by illness, doubts and self-recrimination, she

gradually came to recognize the power of prayer and contemplation—her spiritual enlightenment was intensified by many visions and mystical experiences, including the piercing of her heart by a spear of divine love. She went on to found seventeen Carmelite monasteries throughout Spain. Teresa always denied her own saintliness, however, saying in a letter: There is no suggestion of that nonsense about my supposed sanctity. This frank account is one of the great stories of a religious life and a literary masterpiece—after Don Quixote, it is Spain's most widely read prose classic. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

st teresa of avila autobiography: The Autobiography of St. Teresa of Avila Saint Teresa (of Avila), 1987

st teresa of avila autobiography: *The Life of St. Teresa of Jesus* Teresa Of Jesus, 2013-06
Teresa of Avila, also called Saint Teresa of Jesus, baptized as Teresa Sanchez de Cepeda y Ahumada, (March 28, 1515 - October 4, 1582) was a prominent Spanish mystic, Roman Catholic saint, Carmelite nun, writer of the Counter Reformation, and theologian of contemplative life through mental prayer. She was a reformer of the Carmelite Order and is considered to be a founder of the Discalced Carmelites along with John of the Cross. In 1622, forty years after her death, she was canonized by Pope Gregory XV and was in 1970 named a Doctor of the Church by Pope Paul VI. Her books, which include her autobiography (*The Life of Teresa of Jesus*) and her seminal work *El Castillo Interior* (*The Interior Castle*) are an integral part of Spanish Renaissance literature as well as Christian mysticism and Christian meditation practices as she entails in her other important work, *Camino de Perfeccion* (*The Way of Perfection*). Readers interested in basic Christian mysticism need look no further than Saint Teresa of Avila. Theresa expresses in beautiful language her deep relationship with God, and her words of wisdom and ever-hopeful outlook have inspired Christians everywhere for centuries. The Spanish Carmelite nun's autobiography provides a perfect entrance point to the world of mental prayer. She begins her story with tales of her childhood in the early 1500s--the death of her mother, how she became a nun, and the hardships of her life including illness and a period of lukewarmness during which she ceased to pray. St. Teresa also relates the visions and instructions she received from God later in her life. This book also contains St. Teresa's writings on the four states of mental prayer. In the first stage, believers learn to pray. In the second, they experience the supernatural aspect of prayer. In the third, the soul is bathed in the pleasure of God's presence, and in the fourth, senses are abandoned in a sort of out-of-body experience where the soul feels only divine union. This book also contains a series of relations, letters she send to colleagues giving further thoughts of her beliefs. St. Teresa's warm and personal descriptions of union with God provide a wonderful and accessible starting point for engagement in her life and theology of mysticism.

st teresa of avila autobiography: The Autobiography of St. Teresa of Avila Saint Teresa (of Avila), 1997 One of the most remarkable life stories ever written. Here, the great reformer of Carmel describes her life and the extraordinary workings of grace within her soul. St. Teresa's vigorous prose shows forth her robust common sense, as well as her strong Catholic faith, which embraces wholeheartedly those teachings of Christ which the world finds most absurd.

st teresa of avila autobiography: *Teresa of Avila's Autobiography* Elena Carrera, 2019-01-22
The Spanish mystic Teresa of Avila (1515-82), author of one of the most acclaimed early modern autobiographies (*Vida*, 1565), has generated a wealth of literary, historical and theological studies, yet none to date has examined the impact of textual models on Teresa's self-construction. In looking at the issue of the self, Carrera draws on revisions

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(her Autobiography) by Saint Teresa of Avila. This treasury, with over 1,000 footnotes cross referencing all three, will give the reader a unified study of Avila's spiritual path to God's glorious peace. It is accessible advice, written to friends, about practicing a spiritual life. For many, Avila's body of work is soul piercing and inspiring. Blessed and praised be the Lord, from Whom comes all the good that we speak and think and do. The Way of Perfection was translated by E. Allison Peers, and includes over 100 footnotes. Interior Castle was translated by the Benedictines of Stanbrook, and includes over 400 footnotes. The Book of Her Life (her Autobiography) was translated by David Lewis, and includes over 500 footnotes. No student of thought should be without these historic books. This compilation edition is provided in a slim volume with full text at an affordable price.

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