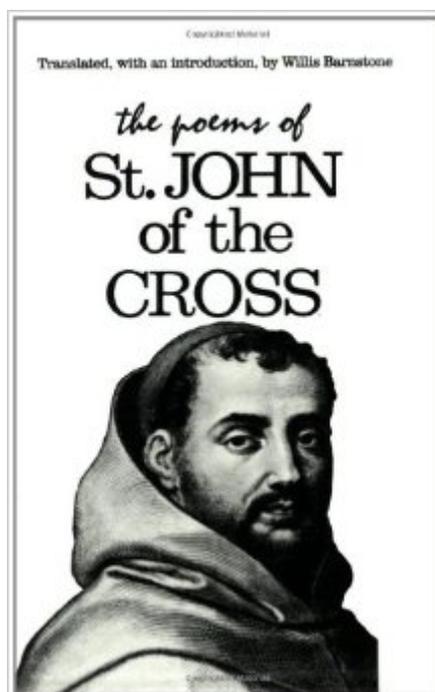


The book was found

# The Poems Of St. John Of The Cross



## Synopsis

Saint John's poetry of love and joy describes the soul's passage through dark night to final illumination in mystical union with Absolute Being. The allegory the poet uses is that of earthly love, and the poems are strikingly effective on the immediate level of personal experience, quite apart from their theological meanings. Many critics regard the work of Saint John of the Cross (1542-91), the 16th-century mystic, to be among the finest poetry Spain has produced. This bilingual edition, the first in modern English, was originally published in hard cover in 1968 by the Indiana University Press. Most of these poems were written during a period of nine months, in 1577-78, when Saint John (San Juan de la Cruz) was imprisoned and tortured in the dungeon of a small Carmelite monastery in Toledo, and their recurrent motifs are both metaphysical and deeply personal.

## Book Information

Paperback: 128 pages

Publisher: New Directions; New edition (January 17, 1972)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0811204499

ISBN-13: 978-0811204491

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.5 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (9 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #120,480 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #11 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Regional & Cultural > European > Spanish](#) #41 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Ancient, Classical & Medieval > Medieval](#) #122 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Themes & Styles > Inspirational & Religious](#)

## Customer Reviews

Barnstone has done a magnificent job of presenting the poems of St John of the Cross in English with side-by-side Spanish original text. I read Spanish, and have read more than one English translation of St. John of the Cross over the years. Barnstone's is the only one which to my mind maintains the 'alive' quality of the original. His English version of 'Noche Oscura' is particularly inspired. Barnstone also provides informative background information in his introduction to the poems. He has done a wonderful piece of work to make the life and the meaning behind these poems accessible to English speakers.

St. John of the Cross (San Juan de la Cruz) did not write many poems, or, if he did, he took little care to preserve them. Barnstone, in his introduction, thus likens St. John of the Cross to Emily Dickinson, who likewise did not seek widespread distribution of her poetry in her lifetime. There are eleven primary poems, with some small fragments beyond -- in this way, he is more like ancient Greek and Roman obscure poets than his contemporary Iberians, who tended toward overproduction. Barnstone describes St. John's poetry as being of three primary influences -- Italian, Iberian (both Spanish and Portuguese) and Hebrew scriptural poetry. St. John of the Cross was a controversial figure -- imprisoned, tortured, crippled and outcast at various times, at any given point in his life he was more likely to have been excommunicated than canonised. His bitter hardships made his black night, his dark night of the soul, one of incalculable ecstasy in poetic and spiritual disciplines. While he writes in the first person, it is sometimes shocking to realise that a monk vowed to poverty and celibacy would write of such rich and sexual/sensual imagery. In the same sense of poetry that the biblical 'Song of Songs' can be taken in physical and spiritual ways, so too can many of St. John's poetry. His 'Spiritual Canticle' (Cantico Espiritual) is a conversation between bride and bridegroom including the creation around them, in startling terms. It is included here twice, in different redactions. His piece on Psalm 136 -- By the waters of Babylon/Super Flumina Babylonis -- also shows strong biblical influences overlaid by contemporary poetic sensibilities. Barnstone's introduction is a good overview of both of the basic biography and a literary analysis of St. John of the Cross. The dual-language format of this text is of great help to students and scholars who wish to see the original and an interesting translation side by side.

The Poems of Saint John of the Cross is one of my all-time favorite books of poetry. If you want to understand the source of the writings of San Juan de la Cruz, you should read a bit of his history and the circumstances under which much of his poetry was written. It will amaze you.

Everyone is aware of John of the Cross's Dark Night of the Soul, but his poetry is so uplifting and beautiful. The ballads of the Trinity are something of a prayer, like a ballet of words. I read it at least five times to get the whole effect.

If you love St. John of the Cross you love his poetry. He is considered Spain's greatest poet and his poems are deep spiritual encounters with God. You will contemplate for hours...

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

Cross Stitch: for Beginners - Cross Stitch Patterns - Cross Stitch Guide - Cross Stitch Explained for

Starters (Cross Stitch Books for Dummies - Cross Stitch Tips - Cross Stitch 101) Flame of Love: Poems of the Spanish Mystics St. John of the Cross And St. Teresa of Avila The Poems of St. John of the Cross Cross Words with 4 - 5 letters: Mini Cross Words Cross Training: Top 100 Cross Training WOD's with Pictures! Uncle John's Bathroom Reader Plunges into the Universe (Uncle John Presents) Uncle John's UNCANNY 29th Bathroom Reader (Uncle John's Bathroom Readers) Uncle John's Canoramic Bathroom Reader (Uncle John's Bathroom Reader) Uncle John's Weird, Weird World: EPIC (Uncle John's Bathroom Reader) Classical Piano Solos - First Grade: John Thompson's Modern Course Compiled and edited by Philip Low, Sonya Schumann & Charmaine Siagian (John Thompson's Modern Course for the Piano) Uncle John's Fully Loaded 25th Anniversary Bathroom Reader (Uncle John's Bathroom Reader) Uncle John's Heavy Duty Bathroom Reader (Uncle John's Bathroom Reader) Produccion Porcina, John Gadd descubre/ John Gadd Discovers Pig Production: Lo Que Los Libros De Texto No Cuentan/ What the Text Books Don't Tell You (Spanish Edition) Lord John and the Private Matter: A Novel (Lord John Grey Book 1) Flesh and Blood: a John Jordan Mystery Book 3 (John Jordan Mysteries) Blood of the Lamb: a John Jordan Mystery Book 2 (John Jordan Mysteries) Uncle John's Facts to Go Show Biz Blunders (Uncle John's Facts to Go Series Book 18) Uncle John's Bathroom Reader Quintessential Collection of Notable Quotables: For Every Conceivable Occasion (Uncle John's Bathroom Readers) The Later Works of John Dewey, Volume 4, 1925 - 1953: 1929: The Quest for Certainty (Collected Works of John Dewey) Blood Oath: a John Jordan Mystery Book 11 (John Jordan Mysteries)

[Dmca](#)