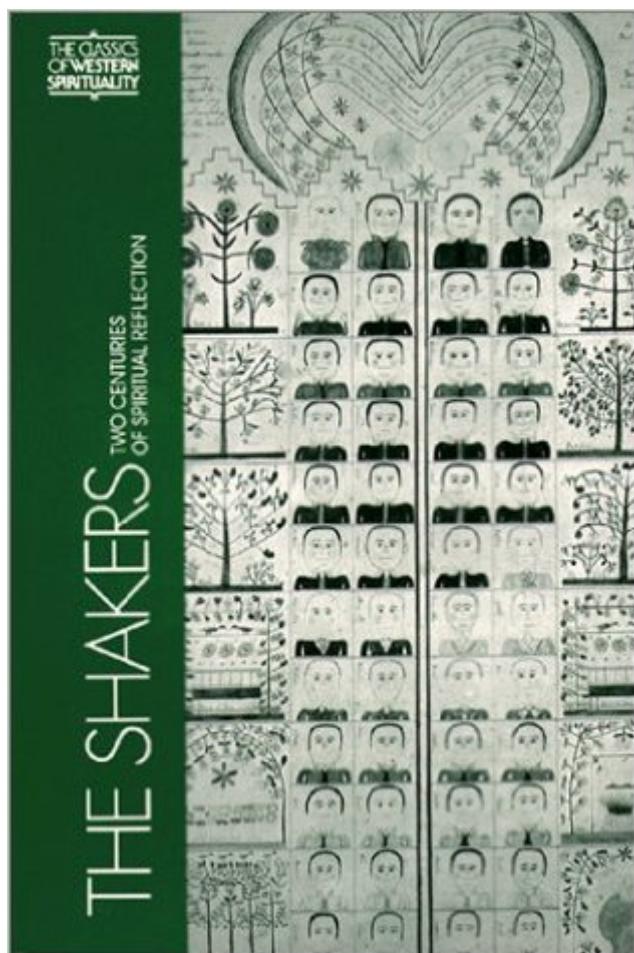


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# The Shakers: Two Centuries Of Spiritual Reflection (Classics Of Western Spirituality (Paperback))



## Synopsis

Discusses the theology of the Shaker religion and examines the attitudes of the Shakers toward celibacy and community.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The Shakers: Two Centuries of Spiritual Reflection" is an excellent effort at understanding Shaker beliefs. The book, from its introduction by Gertrude M. Soule, flows very well and gives good detail of the key aspects of Shaker life throughout the nineteenth century. The first writings are a testimony to how Shaker community served to give experience of the Divine to each Believer and direction to his/her life. There is an excellent description of Joseph Meacham's viewpoint of how Shakerism relates to the life of Christ, and there are several other simple but effective sources later in the book. The next section deals with the way in which Shakers lived out their lives within the context of the Gospel and how Shaker theology was related to the ideal of Christ and Wisdom of earlier sects. Indeed, the whole chapter shows Shaker theology possessed a mystical spirit based on the idea of the Light of God and the discernment of spirits. This area shows how Shakers taught "to make the way of God their occupation" and how Shaker writers believed themselves illuminated by the divine Spirit. The third chapter "Sharing The Christlife" turns the focus away from theological matters to practical Shakerism and the observation of a religious life. Here we see the character of celibate communalism that was a fundamental Shaker doctrine and how the interests of each Believer must

be the interest of all. Shakers felt the Spirit led them into this order, and in the fourth chapter we see a return to theological reflection.

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