



Unseen Warfare

Nicodemus the Hagiorite , Theophan the Recluse (Editor) , E. Kadloubovsky (Translator) , G.E.H. Palmer (Translator)

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This spiritual classic was written by Lorenzo Scupoli, a sixteenth-century Venetian priest. Immensely popular in its own day, it was ranked by Francis de Sales with the Imitation of Christ. In the general rapport between Western and Eastern Christendom, it reached Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain, who first recognized its immense spiritual worth, and later, in the nineteenth century, Theophan the Recluse, both of whom edited and translated the work.

Rich in its references to the teachings of the saints and Fathers, Unseen Warfare combines the insights of West and East on that spiritual combat which is the road to perfection and the stripping away of all that militates against it. Staretz Theophan wrote in his foreword, "the arena, the field of battle, the site where the fight actually takes place is our own heart and all our inner man. The time of battle is our whole life."

Unseen Warfare is a perfect complement to the Philokalia.

Unseen Warfare Details

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Author : Nicodemus the Hagiorite , Theophan the Recluse (Editor) , E. Kadloubovsky (Translator) , G.E.H. Palmer (Translator)

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From Reader Review Unseen Warfare for online ebook

Jason Caywood says

This is a great book. I found it remarkable for the insights and helpful observations on what is involved in walking with integrity with God through the many trials one faces. This is one of those gems that most Christians do not know about but is worth the time to meditatively read and reflect upon.

Charles says

A great spiritual work, many hard writings to accept, but very spiritual useful carefully with prayer

Alice says

The classic Lenten read for the Orthodox Christian. Not lightweight, but essential.

Margaret says

Very practical clear direction to help identify & conquer the enemy, whether it be within or without

Robert Nicodemo says

Scuopoli, by itself is more than enough recommendation, particularly considering some of the greatest saints of more recent centuries, who read it with great benefits. Now, what I am tackling at this moment is the same book, as reviewed-rewritten by Nicodemus the Hagiorite, and Theophan the Recluse, both Oriental saints, giving this review the Byzantine slant that would be necessary for that Christian mentality. Excellent the original, and excellent the review. One will benefit reading either book, but more beneficial reading both.

Theresa says

An incredible book, written for monks, about the internal struggles of ascetic practice in the Christian context.

Gregory Korbut says

Wow. Too much to even think about in the first pass. Need to go back to basics and then come at this work again with a better foundation.

Davoud Taghavi says

"...how great is God's desire to enter your heart, to gain there a final victory over your enemies, who are His enemies also, you cannot help feeling an ardent desire to receive Him into yourself, in order that He should accomplish in you such a deed in actual fact." -pg 227

"It happens sometimes that while the soul languishes in this state of coolness and absence of taste for anything spiritual, the enemy attacks with greater vigour, inciting evil thoughts, shameful impulses and seductive dreams. His aim is to provoke hopelessness from the sense of being abandoned by God and to make a man give up struggle, and incline towards something passionate, in order to lead him back with ease into the vortex of sinful life. Being aware of this, stand firm. Let waves of sin roar away from the heart; as long as your heart is filled with aversion to sin and with desire to be faithful to God...So stand firm, inspired by the certainty that this storm will soon be over and with it your dryness will leave you...if you endure this time of trial and temptation, you will come out of it with greater knowledge of your own weakness, greater humility, and a stronger conviction that God's help is always ready at hand." -pg 246

This version of Unseen Warfare, the classic by the catholic mystic Lorenzo Scupoli, is really a resynthesizing by Nicodemus of Mount Athos upon its translation into Greek from Latin and was again refashioned by St.Theophan the Recluse when it was translated into Russian from Nicodemus's greek edition. As such, each of the two significantly changed Scupoli's work adding their own insights and intuitions. St.Theophan's version of the work, perhaps the latest and most popular, is filled with references and quotes from the Philokalia and is essentially an eastern orthodox instruction manual on the spiritual life. A must have!

John says

I keep going back to this book!!

William Tu says

Most helpful book, with a lots of good spiritual advice and information. Very helpful to any Orthodox Christian, or to any believers in Jesus Christ.

Jon Sedlak says

This book reminds me of so many spiritually nourishing works by the English Puritans which I studied in my early twenties. I felt at home from cover to cover. In so many ways this book is nourishing because it's very practical and very pastoral, which is (not so surprisingly) uncommon among so-called "Orthodox" books. Instead of being bored, as is often the case with me familiarizing myself with officially "Orthodox" literature, this work recharged my spiritual batteries.

