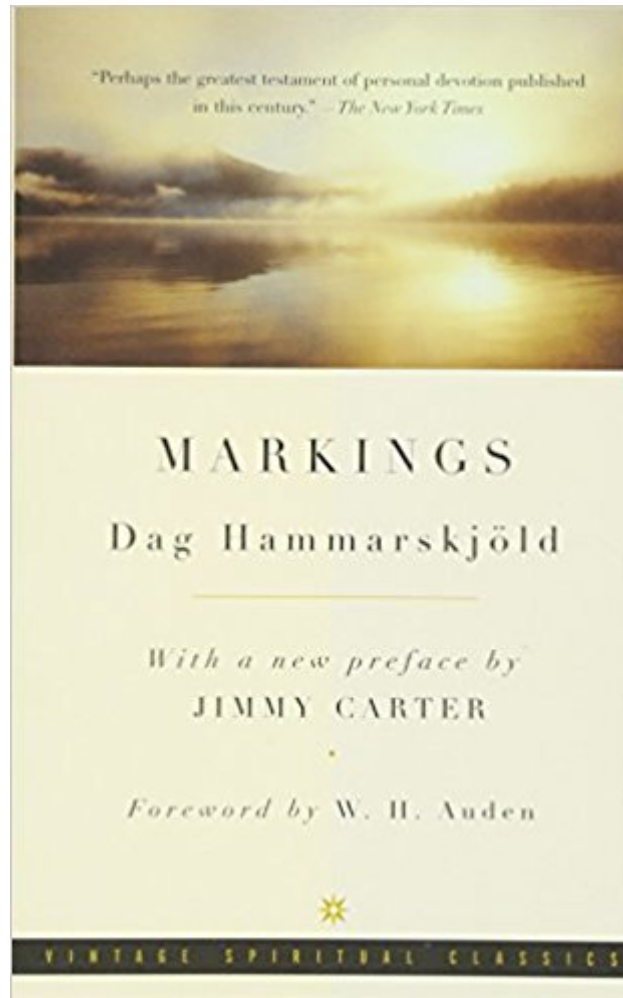




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# Markings



## Synopsis

"Perhaps the greatest testament of personal devotion published in this century." "The New York Times" A powerful journal of poems and spiritual meditations recorded over several decades by a universally known and admired peacemaker. A dramatic account of spiritual struggle, *Markings* has inspired hundreds of thousands of readers since it was first published in 1964. *Markings* is distinctive, as W.H. Auden remarks in his foreword, as a record of "the attempt by a professional man of action to unite in one life the *via activa* and the *via contemplativa*." It reflects its author's efforts to live his creed, his belief that all men are equally the children of God and that faith and love require of him a life of selfless service to others. For Hammar skjöld, "the road to holiness necessarily passes through the world of action." *Markings* is not only a fascinating glimpse of the mind of a great man, but also a moving spiritual classic that has left its mark on generations of readers.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Perhaps the greatest testament of personal devotion published in this century." "The New York Times" "The conviction when one has finished [*Markings* is] that one has had the privilege of being in contact with a great, good, and lovable man." "W. H. Auden

Dag Hammar skjöld left behind the manuscript of this book to be published after his death. It is a remarkable record of the spiritual life of a man whose public image was universally known and admired -- a record that reveals the extent of his commitment to the Way of the

Cross.Hammar skjold himself described the manuscript as a "sort of white book concerning my negotiations with myself and with God." The first entry is a poem written about 1925; the notes made during the 1940's and 1950's reflect a period of constant spiritual growth, self-questioning, and resolution; and the book ends with a poem he wrote only a few weeks before his death. In Markings Hammar skjold felt that he gave the only true profile of himself. Lacking as it does any reference to the external world, the book constitutes only half a portrait, as W. H. Auden points out in his Foreword. But as we read it, the outer image of the Secretary-General persists and heightens the sense of loneliness Hammar skjold conveys, the severity with which he marked his own spiritual conduct and measured the integrity of his soul, his conception of life as a summons, and his premonition of death. Many will read this book primarily as a unique historical document; many will find in its meditations an unusual devotional book. But, above all, almost every reader is bound to feel, with Auden, that he has had "the privilege of being in contact with a great, good, and lovable man." --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is the most illuminating book I have ever read, bar none. I have gone through over twenty copies in the past 15 years as I find them, order more, and hand them out to my loved ones or leave them in places for others to 'discover'. I learned about this book in high school and have turned to it countless times over the years in good times and in bad, over and over, and it is like a diamond - each time that I open it I am privy to another sparkle. Also, over the years, I have learned more and more about Dag Hammar skjold. I have since read his biography by Urquhart and other pieces of a biographical nature by other Hammar skjold fans and devotees. His example, as a civil servant and soldier of peace, have inspired my own pacifism, and his example has led me to more 'vistas of insight' than any other. Dag Hammar skjold was a unprepossessing Swedish civil servant when his name was selected to and vetted and eventually elected to become the second Secretary-General of the United Nations. Kofi Annan, a successor of his, called him the 'lodestar' of his profession. He did more to build the stability and future of a peaceful world than anyone I am aware of before or since. And without fanfare. But his was a lonely existence, punctuated with episodes of depression and spiritual yearning as he struggled to make sense of his duty and life. He thought about death often; it is reflected in this, his most intimate and searching journal. It was only published after his death while on a mission of peace to the Congo. He died in a fireball over an Africa he was trying desperately to understand, and heal. He died too early. He is mourned by those who knew him, friends and enemies - they all attended his funeral and said words that surely he would never have expected. I urge anyone who has read this book to find and read his biography by Urquhart and

other books that analyze his journal, like the 'White Book' and others. Let's raise awareness and interest and get another biography published. 'Markings' is a fine book, originally a bestseller when it was released, that anyone of any denomination can find solace within its pages.

I purchased several Markings as 'used' for gifts and am very satisfied with all of them. The new version does not contain the same forward and I like this one better. I have a second or third printing. It is the kind of book one does not need to read sequentially but can pick up and just open it up for a few pages. A fascinating aspect is despite Hammarskjold's amazing accomplishments, none of these are in the book. Rather it is his own personal growth and spiritual journey. I highly recommend this book for one's own library and to give as gifts. It is timeless.

Very dense and awesomely inspiring. thought provoking. Makes you think - a lot - and makes you a better person for it. Lots of wisdom in a tight space and a window into quite a remarkable person as well.

This is a book of mental depth not often found on a public bookshelf. Dag Hammarskjold kept his journal consistently/regularly and then left written permission for it to be printed following his death. I found it to be, primarily, a "true profile" of the man, and then also an accurate historical document as I traced Hammarskjold's innermost thoughts connected to the history of the time. I believe this book has held our attention over so many years, because most humans on a spiritual quest can truly relate to his inner thoughts of relationship to God/ soul/ consciousness. It feels special to "know" such a good, thoughtful, God-loving and honest man; it feels wonderful, these days especially, to walk with him in his political functioning and realize how lucky we were to have had such a man in an important world government position.

This is an inspiring, moving, remarkable book written by a 20th century man who struggled with making his every day life fit with his spiritual beliefs. This summer I kept feeling that I should read this book again (first read it some 20 years ago). I had little memory of what it was about, just that I knew it was written by someone who was an important world leader. He was Secretary-General to the United Nations and died on the way to Northern Rhodesia in 1961, on his way to negotiate a cease fire between the UN and Katanga forces. This book tells almost nothing of his daily work, or of his thoughts about world events. Instead, it focuses on his struggle and changing relationship with God. Excerpts are from his diary, starting when he was a young man in 1925 and ending just a few

months before his death at the (to me!) tender age of 57. A reviewer here made comments about this being thoughts of a socialist and atheist -- clearly he did not read the book. The writings inside this awe inspiring book are from a man deeply and directly talking to his God. His concerns are for others, not for himself. When I read the book, I realized some part of me must have remembered this deep connection with God, something I, too, have longed for and have found at times (when I am open to receive!) Dag Hammersjold had been filed in my subconscious as a mentor, a teacher I could return to when I could better understand what his words were expressing. This book is a wonder to experience -- what a privilege to have been allowed to come so close to his thoughts, his soul, his own experiential experience of the Divine. It is not intended to provoke thoughts and philosophical wonderings within the mind of the reader, but instead to offer a view of someone who is connecting their soul rather than their mind, with God. Dag Hammersjold was a mystic - not a new agey kind of a guy, but a Christian mystic of the 20th century (see Thomas Kelly's books, Thomas Merton's books, and others). His diary, unlike Kelly's writings, is not filled with the joy of his spiritual connection with God -- he struggled painfully with the awareness of his own human imperfections and shortcomings. I only hope that in his last moments, he came to realize more peace and to accept and experience, first hand, God's love for him. (The only downside to this book is that the printing is old - the cover was brand new but the words are fuzzy as if they were copied from a copy...)

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