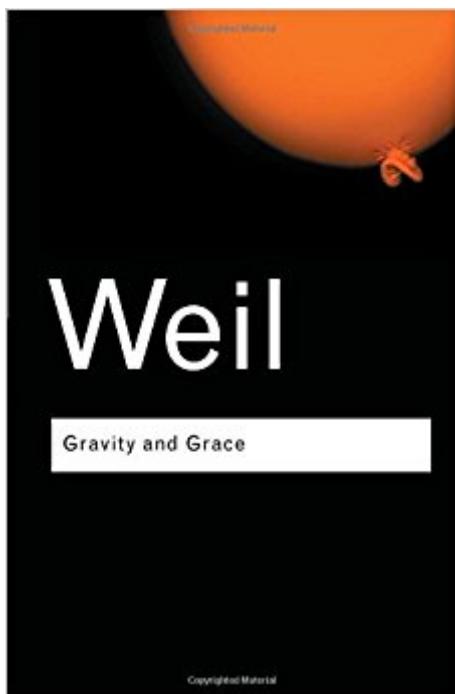


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Gravity And Grace (Routledge Classics) (Volume 41)



Synopsis

Gravity and Grace was the first ever publication by the remarkable thinker and activist, Simone Weil. In it Gustave Thibon, the farmer to whom she had entrusted her notebooks before her untimely death, compiled in one remarkable volume a compendium of her writings that have become a source of spiritual guidance and wisdom for countless individuals. On the fiftieth anniversary of the first English edition - by Routledge & Kegan Paul in 1952 - this Routledge Classics edition offers English readers the complete text of this landmark work for the first time ever, by incorporating a specially commissioned translation of the controversial chapter on Israel. Also previously untranslated is Gustave Thibon's postscript of 1990, which reminds us how privileged we are to be able to read a work which offers each reader such 'light for the spirit and nourishment for the soul'. This is a book that no one with a serious interest in the spiritual life can afford to be without.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

'Time and again she pierces the veil of complacency and brings the reader face to face with the deepest levels of existence.' - Church Times'At the twilight of a century whose accelerated history has led to the rise and fall of so many idols, this book increasingly appears like a message from eternity.' - Gustave Thibon'One of the most profound religious thinkers of modern times.' - The Twentieth Century, 1961'We must simply expose ourselves to the personality of a woman of genius, of a kind of genius akin to that of the saints.' - T. S. Eliot'The light Simone shines makes everything seem, at once, reassuringly recognizable and so luminous as to be heavenly.' - Malcom

Muggeridge'In France she is ranked with Pascal by some, condemned as a dangerous heretic by others, and recognized as a genius by all.' - New York Times Book Review'The best spiritual writer of this century ... she said it was her vocation to stand at the intersection of Christians and non-Christians. She thus becomes the patron saint of all outsiders.' - AndrÃ© Gide

Text: English (translation) Original Language: French --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Weil is one of the most challenging Christian voices of the modern period. It is impossible to return from the sharp blade of any of her aphorisms without shedding a little blood.

Too lofty for me.

Great book for anyone interested in mystical religions, or just Christianity in general. Basically, this book is essential for the looking at religions of all kinds with a more open mind and with more intellect.

quixotic and a little dated - the self absorption is a bit over the top

Brilliant !!!

I went through a philosophy heavy rhetoric program at UC Berkeley and never once heard Simone Weil's name. I discovered her through Stanford's Entitled Opinions podcast (which is excellent). I'm glad I did. This seems to be the book most people recommend to start with. It's pretty quick and shouldn't be too hard a read for most folks. I'd probably describe the style as aphoristic. You can pick different chapters to skip about in without losing much of an argument's thread. That said, you should totally read the whole thing. Weil's thought is complex, mystical, and challenging. This is a book that should probably be read a couple of times before any strong opinions are formed, so I'll just say this: I found her ideas to be very compelling, but I bristled a bit at her veneration of suffering. I can't wait to read more of her work.

Simone Weil is mentioned several times in the correspondence of Thomas Merton and Czeslaw Milosz (compiled in the book "Striving Towards Being"). The favorable words of these admired authors made me curious to explore Weil's work. I started with "Gravity and Grace." For those also

new to Weil's work I should point out this book is not a continuous narrative: it is a compilation of writings from the notebooks she entrusted to her friend Gustave Thibon before her death in 1943. For this reason the book reads like a series of thoughts--in some cases it seems Weil is trying to reason out a complex concept for herself in much the same way an artist might doodle or a scientist might scribble down formulas. I will admit there were parts of this book that were maddeningly confusing. However these were balanced with nuggets that I found to be entirely fresh and hopeful: "God's love for us is not the reason for which we should love him. God's love for us is the reason for us to love ourselves. How could we love ourselves without this motive?" I read "Gravity and Grace" from beginning to end, but it doesn't have to be consumed this way. In fact I will probably come back to this material repeatedly because there are many deep thoughts here that just need to be chewed over in that way. Since it is organized by topic you can pretty much dive into it wherever you like. I say go into this book with an open mind and a sufficient appetite for spiritual discovery.

Simone Weil was an intellectual and mystic. Gravity and Grace, I gave three stars, in large part, because much of what she says is beyond my capacity, intellectual (and/or spiritual). The introduction explains Weil's "philosophy" and helps in understanding the book. Weil was a complicated and wonderful person. She was from a Jewish background and, according to her, was visited by Jesus in an experiential and profound way. She prayed the "Our Father," and often experienced mystical experiences --the presence of God. She was both a lover and critic of the Catholic Church. The little I do understand shows that she was a profound thinker. Waiting for God, another book with collections of writings by her is more understandable. For those with a mystical, theological bent the book is probably worth reading. I will keep it and revisit it from time to time, using it to try and glean some of her insights in the future. Hopefully, as I grow I will be able to appreciate some of her more piercing insights.

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