



On the Mystical Life: The Ethical Discourses, Vol. 2: On Virtue and Christian Life (Popular Patristics)

St. Symeon the New Theologian

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This is the second of a three-volume series translating The Ethical Discourses into English for the first time. Where Volume I presented St Symeon's treatments of the Church, the sacraments, and the 'Day of the Lord,' in this collection the reader finds him addressing the traditional language of Eastern Christian asceticism in the light of his message. Apatheia, or 'dispassion,' the ancient term for freedom from sinful passion, is insisted on by Symeon as denoting the real possibility of a transfigured life. Elsewhere, he takes up the role of the tools of asceticism, i.e., fasting, vigils, poverty, etc., in order to underline their function as instruments enabling conformity to the Cross of Christ. Other discourses dwell on the character and signs of the saint, on faith and love, and on ascetic retreat. Throughout, St Symeon anticipates the great fourteenth-century movement of Byzantine hesychasm, as well as the monastic renaissance of eighteenth-century Athos and nineteenth-century Russia. On the Mystical Life is part of the POPULAR PATRISTIC SERIES.

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