

In The Secret Depths 3

The ancient, anonymous author of *THE BOOK OF PRIVY COUNSELING* (14th century) was a wise and experienced spiritual mentor. He wrote to help a younger traveler succeed on the spiritual journey toward loving Jesus more and more.

God is never far from any of us, as Scripture affirms (*Acts 17:27*). But our author says that from our perspective God appears to come and go. This He does not do capriciously or by chance, but with purpose.

Why does He do this? His purpose is that both God's presence and absence prepare and shape me in the secret depths of my spirit, for *His* work. Even when I feel no enthusiasm for Him, I am learning patience.



Coffee/tea thought: "Make no mistake about this, God may at times withdraw sweet emotions, joyful enthusiasm, burning desires. But He never withdraws His grace from those He has chosen... Of this I am certain." -- *THE BOOK OF PRIVY COUNSELING*

John

Ref: *THE CLOUD OF UNKNOWING* and *THE BOOK OF PRIVY COUNSELING*. Anonymous author, 14th century England. Edited by William Johnston (1973). ISBN 0-385-03097-5

在隐秘的深处3

《隐秘辅导之书》（14世纪）的作者是一位有智慧的老练的属灵辅导。他写书的目的是要辅导一名年轻的基督徒在属灵的道路上长进，越来越爱耶稣。

神离我们不远，就像圣经宣告的那样（使徒行传17:27）。但作者说在我们的感觉里，神好像时近时远。这都不是偶然的，都有他的目的。

他为何这样做？他的目的是借此预备和塑造我，叫我灵命长进，好成就他的工。甚至在我对他不火热时，我在学习忍耐。

随想：“不要搞错了，神有时会收回甜蜜的感情，喜乐的火热，燃烧的渴慕。但他从不会从他所拣选的人收回他的恩典……我确信。”——《隐秘辅导之书》

史建恩