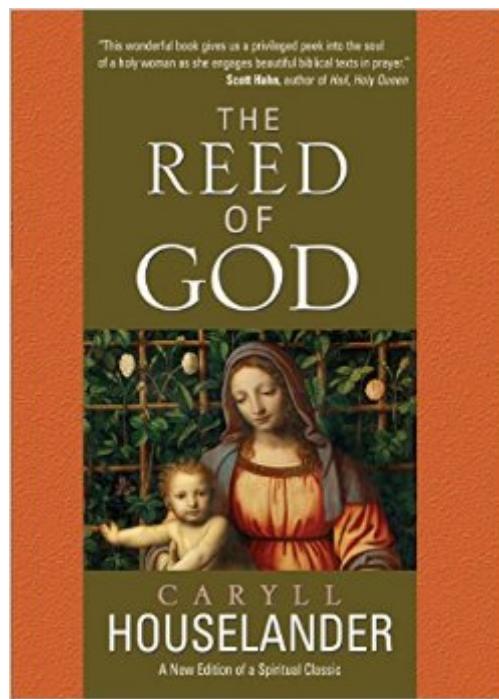


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# The Reed Of God



## Synopsis

First published over half a century ago, Caryll Houselander's *The Reed of God* is a spiritual classic that deserves to be rediscovered by a whole new generation of readers. Houselander's beautiful and profound mediation depicts the intimately human side of Mary, Mother of God, as an empty reed waiting for God's music to be played through her. She shares her insightful and beautiful vision of Mary on earth, Mary among us, Mary as a confused but trusting teenager whose holiness flowered with her eternal "Yes."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a beautiful little book (replete with poetic and mystical passages of real beauty and full of joy) which should really be regarded as a classic- a kind of extended love poem to Christ; "It is impossible to know God, even through the sense of Absence, without falling in love with him". Any biographical notices I have read of Caryll Houselander refer to her as a modern mystic and I can well believe this to be the case, having read this book. In this book, the significance of our Lady as Christ bearer (Theotokos - God bearer, as known to our eastern brethren) is that she teaches us also to be Christ bearers: "The one thing that she did and does is the one thing that we all have to do, namely, to bear Christ into the world". But not only in this book full of mystical insight, I found myself very much taken by her penetrating insights into human nature, describing Pilate as "the weak and timid civil servant" and seeing the "aesthetic sense" as "a kind of deeply buried inherited memory of innocence, like an old man's memory of his nursery". This is a wonderfully practical non-sentimental/non-treacle understanding of the Blessed Virgin's role in salvation history. But this

does not mean it is not devotional - it is in the right sense so much that one is almost startled by what Houselander draws from the simple fact of Mary's motherhood: "He was completely her own, utterly dependent upon her: she was His food and warmth and rest, His shelter from the world, His shade in the Sun. She was the shrine of the Sacrament, the four walls and the roof of His home".

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