

Anselm Grun
Angels of Grace
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Continuum, London, 2005, £7.99

Anselm Grun, a monk of the Benedictine abbey of Munster-Schwarzach in South Germany, is a prolific writer of best-selling religious books, translated widely. 'Angels of Grace' is translated by Dinah Livingstone, and illustrated with line drawings by Penelope Harper characterising the 50 different angels. The angels, messengers of God, invite readers to receive various virtues on their journey to God. Each virtue is succinctly and tellingly described and can be read to start one's daily meditation /contemplation. Behind them is sound psychological (Jungian) knowledge, and between them they cover a wide range of human experience. For instance: Love, Reconciliation, Community, Risk, Patience, Parting, Cheerfulness, Prudence, Devotion and Compassion.

What I miss in the book is reference to the energy of the indwelling Holy Spirit, with the result that the reader could be left to try harder to go along the paths the angels point to by their own efforts. I also question the introspection involved. But I recognise that I overlook the ample Biblical evidence of God sending angel messengers who actually lead recipients to receive the messages and the power of God involved. And I hear that the New Age younger people have angels prominently in their spirituality.

Bernard SSF