

Hieromonk Silouan. *Wisdom Songs: A Book of Wisdom Chapters in Five Centuries*. New York, NY: Theotokos Press, 2011. 528 pp. Paperback \$32.

For anyone not familiar with the ancient patristic genre *Kephalaia*, hermit Priest-monk Silouan provides an inviting, tantalizing, and, in the end, captivating introduction. In five Chapters called *Centuries*, each consisting of a chain of 100 one-page reflections- all interdependent and yet independent- he offers his mystical reflections in the themes of: the Name, the Song of Songs, Wisdom, Glory, and Stillness. Drawing on the Bible, on Orthodox liturgy, even on the Gospel of Thomas, Fr. Silouan writes in beautiful and paradoxical images that captivate, but then liberate, the processes of the mind in order to make way for the reasons of the heart. His sentences become paintings that teach by their beauty. The effect of contemplating these “Wisdom Songs” was like a blending of *Lectio Divina* and Koan practice. In reading, one finds oneself being read. In contemplating Wisdom one is embraced by Wisdom. In the end, one knows (and knows deeply) without knowing just how. This book is most highly recommended.

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