

Teresa of Jesus: Interior Castle

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Diploma thesis

Abstract

This thesis seeks to understand the most important text of Teresa of Jesus -'*Interior Castle*' which is considered one of the most important books of Spanish mysticism. This understanding should be achieved by using both theological and phenomenologico-hermenutical commentaries. The main topics of this thesis are religious and mystical experience, mystical transformation and intersubjectivity. Motivated by the possibility of gaining the understanding of the text as a whole, I firstly try to present the meaning of particular chapters.

The Interior Castle leads from incorrect/false understanding (of one's self, reality and God) to the right or true one. This true understanding is made possible by reaching the mystical marriage between God and man based on full and conscious living of their mutual, intersubjective relationship. The reaching of mystical intersubjectivity provides the possibility of transgressing from knowing the reality as it appears to be to knowing the reality as it is.

Keywords

Teresa of Jesus; Teresa of Avila; Interior Castle; Christianity; Religious Experience; Mystical Experience; Mysticism; Mystical Transformation; Intersubjectivity; Frohlich Mary; Lonergan Bernard; Ahlgren Gillian; Steinbock Anthony