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Spirituality in the East and West Les Ages de La Vie Spirituelle

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I only know my need for you is great.
 And yet this truth that angels will deny
 Escapes fulfillment with its dawning late. (6)

where the angel reference is strictly gratuitous, having no function other than to fill out the line. Similarly there is

...remember this
 Of me: no mortal woman's fervent kiss
 Was ever born of heights angelical
 As these I give to you. (40)

Sex in these instances is being defined with reference to things "below" it and "above" it. It is rarely met and celebrated head on in the poems. And the rare times that it is the reader learns to expect a retreat (intellectualizing or a statement of passivity) in the next poem, or the next quatrain.

Altogether there is little to recommend the sonnets as a collection. Having them all together makes their imprecision, inconsistency, and slackness more obvious than their intended honesty and their occasional lyric vision.

MAUREEN SULLIVAN

SPIRITUALITY IN THE EAST AND WEST

LES AGES DE LA VIE SPIRITUELLE. By Paul Evdokimov.
 Paris: Desclee de Brouwer, 1964. 236 pp.

The author, one of the outstanding scholars of the Orthodox Church in the West, is a professor at the Saint Sergius Institute of Technology and the director of the Orthodox Center of Studies in Paris. The question this book proposes to answer is whether traditional asceticism meets the needs of today. By tracing the main currents of spirituality in the East and West the author tries to show how people of today's technical world can rediscover the way of recollection, contemplative prayer, and interior peace that dispose the soul for more profound union with God. The book is a good introduction to the spirituality of the Christian East—Egypt, Syria, Byzantium, and Russia—and at the same time an attempt to answer some of the difficulties that modern man encounters in the spiritual life.

THOMAS J. O'SHAUGHNESSY, S.J.