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Two Books Give Counsel on Love and Meditation

"THE ART OF LOVING," by Erich Fromm [Harper, 133 pages, \$2.75].

"THE ART OF MEDITATION," by Joel S. Goldsmith [Harper, 154 pages, \$2.50].

Reviewed by Alfred C. Ames

As expounded in the two books listed above, the arts of loving and meditation have nothing common or unimportant about them. Both, rather, are arts in which growth and mastery are universal needs all too infrequently filled because too seldom rightly dealt with.

Erich Fromm is both a psychologist of penetration and a writer of ability. The word "love," cheapened tho it is by smutty and sentimental handling, he uses without embarrassment. His book on the subject is one of dignity and candor, of practicality and precision. All the principal objects of love are discussed helpfully: parent, brother, spouse, child, self, and God.

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Fromm's view of the way we live now is by no means flattering. He thinks love rare in our society. But he is anything but a mere scold. He analyzes both the prevailing kinds of relationships and the potential ones we might experience if we were free to love. He not only analyzes, but gives liberating counsel on how the possibilities of love may be realized.

Tho he writes with great understanding of love of God, Fromm himself does "not think in terms of a theistic concept." Joel Goldsmith does. This writer gives contemporary expression to the mystical affirmation that God is indwelling, nearer than lands or feet, a very present help.

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Goldsmith lacks Fromm's distinction of style and his universal accessibility. Only a prepared minority is likely to be able to read his book with any satisfaction. But

those who are ready to give heed will discover Goldsmith with joy. It will not be joy in brilliance of style or novelty of insight, but in thoroughness of conviction in the reality and power and sufficiency of God. Such conviction is an impressive thing, and for those able to share in it a most strengthening one. Goldsmith effectively sets aside distractions and insistently calls on one to be still and know the inexpressible, which of course is reflected, in human life, in loving.

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