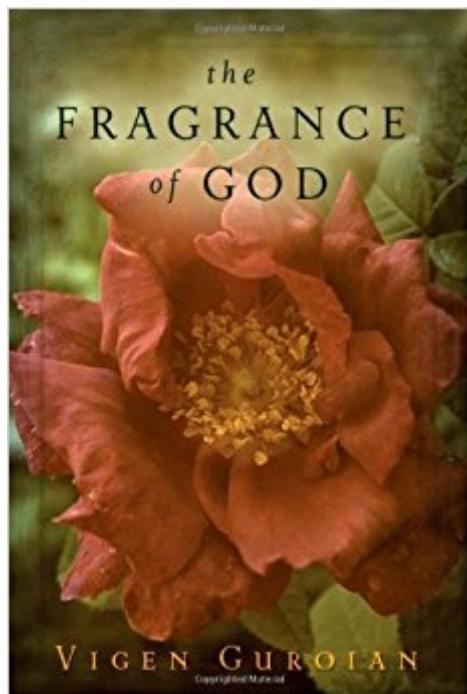


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The Fragrance Of God



Synopsis

In this literary gem Vigen Guroian chronicles not merely the changing seasons but the course of his own life as he and his family move from Maryland to a new home near the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. Leaving the old garden behind and cultivating another garden become an emblem of our journey through life, marked as it is by both bitter losses and sweet new blessings. While deeply personal, *The Fragrance of God* vividly unfolds the great biblical themes of the grandeur of God's creation, the senses as "paths" to experiencing God, and the garden as a "place" of birth, death, and renewal. Laced throughout with quotations from Guroian's beloved church fathers and replete with theological reflection, *The Fragrance of God* will lead readers down a path of deeper insight into the creation and the Creator.

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Customer Reviews

Dallas Morning News "A remarkable distillation of a man's insight after seasons of toil and delight in many gardens • a reverently tended bed of wisdom drawn from poetry, legend, the Bible, and years of musing." Christianity Today "A lovely slim volume. . . A reasoned yet passionate window into why gardening is true soul-work." LOGOS: Journal of Eastern Christian Studies "If Vigen Guroian did not exist, it would be necessary for Orthodox theology in North America to invent him." Bill McKibben • author of *The End of Nature* "Vigen Guroian's fine book is proof that Christians would do well to spend more time outdoors, in the one great megachurch that operates as a planet-scale museum of divine intent." Lee May • author of *Gardening*

Life and My Father's Garden "Vigen Guroian, a gifted storyteller, shares his own constant passion for digging in the dirt amid life's many changes, reminding us of the universal power and appeal of gardening, that wondrous journey toward our own Paradise rich with plants, stories, beauty, peace, and spirituality." Roberta C. Bondi • author of *Memories of God* "This is a lovely book, shimmering with the very beauty of God." *The Washington Post* "Some gardeners like to show off their dahlias or tomatoes. Vigen Guroian prefers to speak of garden relationships • connections to his ancestors and the days of his youth, with the natural order of the world, with his centuries-old religious heritage." Barbara Brown Taylor • author of *When God Is Silent* "Even those with no dirt under their fingernails may find comfort and challenge in this testament to the resilience of divine life." *The Washington Times* "A book that's a must when one has time to ponder, to think over the quotes from various literature greats, obscure saints and Armenian folk tales." Frederica Mathewes-Green • author of *The Open Door* "Earthy in all the best senses, The Fragrance of God recalls us to the beauty of creation. Guroian is expert at demolishing the kind of spirituality that gets overly spiritualized; he reminds us that God fills and blesses this blooming, growing, changing world."

In this literary gem Vigen Guroian chronicles not merely the changing seasons but the course of his own life as he and his family move from Maryland to a new home near the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. Leaving the old garden behind and cultivating another garden become an emblem of our journey through life, marked as it is by both bitter losses and sweet new blessings. While deeply personal, "The Fragrance of God" vividly unfolds the great biblical themes of the grandeur of God's creation, the senses as "paths" to experiencing God, and the garden as a "place" of birth, death, and renewal. Laced throughout with quotations from Guroian's beloved church fathers and replete with theological reflection, "The Fragrance of God" will lead readers down a path of deeper insight into the creation and the Creator.

Whether or not you are a gardener, you will love this book. Guroian demonstrates that the physical world is certainly part of God's creation -- "...and it is good."

I love the vision of "smelling God". This book reminds me to use all of my senses when trying to know God. I found the book to be easy to relate to but also stretched my thinking using images that I was familiar with. I understand the joys of gardening and this book only expands that experience. I love the writing and the concept.

Love this book in the past four months, I've purchased over ten copies to give to friends. They've each drawn something special from its contents.

I confess that I love gardening and I love thoughtful writing on theology. I am forever changed by reading about Mary mistaking Christ as the gardener! The theological implications are enormous. It left the scent of Christ in my living room...

Currently circulating friends's summer reading lists.

The author knows God and knows Nature. You will appreciate Spring like never before if you read this glorious book. Simply delightful! It belongs on every sensitive reader's short list of Must Reads.

This book grows on a person. I liked it and will like it more. I gave it to gardeners I know who, in turn, really liked it. It puts gardening in contemporary play and worship reminding the one who gardens of the first commission to tend the garden, and so, also of the Master Gardener. Lovely. Probably one of the books I'll re-read annually.

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