

# **THEOPHANIES; A BOOK OF VERSES**

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Theophanies; a book of verses by Evelyn Underhill

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**EVELYN UNDERHILL**

**THEOPHANIES; A  
BOOK OF VERSES**



# THEOPHANIES

A BOOK OF VERSES

BY

EVELYN UNDERHILL



" Every visible and invisible creature  
is a theophany or appearance of God."  
*John Scotus Erigena.*

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1916

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FOR HILDA

*Sweet fennel in our garden grows,  
White lavender, and herb of grace.  
Cat-mint and thyme its edges close ;  
It is a green and silver place  
Where marjoram, basil, maudlein, cicely  
Make scented melody.*

*There rosemary and balm are found  
Wherewith the wounds of life are healed ;  
There humble woodruff mats the ground  
And boards the magic of the field.  
The holy vervein, byssop, bergamot  
Give blessing to the plot.*

*Those hasty hearts that hurry by  
The coloured borders to applaud  
Know not the hidden worlds that lie  
Within these narrow coffers stored ;  
Yet, to the gentle touch of those who seek,  
The herbs in fragrance speak.*

*Then in the prudent mind's defence  
Of welded thought, a breach is made  
And down the alley-ways of sense  
Strange poignant dreams the soul invade—  
News from beyond our stubborn ramparts blown,  
And here in perfume known.*

v

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*Those ramparts, they are builded tall ;  
But we a secret gate possess  
That opens in the outer wall  
What time its living latch we press :  
A little emerald gate, that sets us free  
Within eternity.*

## NOTE

MANY of the following poems have already appeared in the pages of *The Quest*, *The Nation*, *The New Weekly*, *The Challenge*, and *The Westminster Gazette*. "Prayer" is reprinted from the *Blinded Soldiers' and Sailors' Book*, and "William Shakespeare" from *A Book of Homage to Shakespeare*. All these are now republished by kind permission of the editors concerned.





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