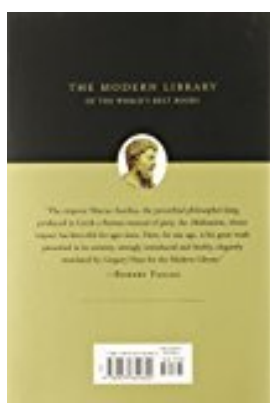


# [PDF] Meditations: A New Translation (Modern Library)

Marcus Aurelius, Gregory Hays - pdf download free book

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#### Books Details:

Title: Meditations: A New Translatio  
Author: Marcus Aurelius, Gregory Hay  
Released: 2002-05-14  
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#### Description:

One measure, perhaps, of a book's worth, is its intergenerational pliancy: do new readers acquire it and interpret it afresh down through the ages? The *Meditations* of Marcus Aurelius, translated and introduced by Gregory Hays, by that standard, is very worthwhile, indeed. Hays suggests that its most recent incarnation--as a self-help book--is not only valid, but may be close to the author's intent. The book, which Hays calls, fondly, a "haphazard set of notes," is indicative of the role of

philosophy among the ancients in that it is "expected to provide a 'design for living.'" And it does, both aphoristically ("Think of yourself as dead. You have lived your life. Now take what's left and live it properly.") and rhetorically ("What is it in ourselves that we should prize?"). Whether these, and other entries ("Enough of this wretched, whining monkey life.") sound life-changing or like entries in a teenager's diary is up to the individual reader, as it should be. Hays's introduction, which sketches the life of Marcus Aurelius (emperor of Rome A.D. 161-180) as well as the basic tenets of stoicism, is accessible and jaunty. --*H. O'Billovich*

**Review** "The emperor Marcus Aurelius, the proverbial philosopher-king, produced in Greek a Roman manual of piety, the *Meditations*, whose impact has been felt for ages since. Here, for our age, is his great work presented in its entirety, strongly introduced and freshly, elegantly translated by Gregory Hays for the Modern Library."

—Robert Fagles

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