

## *Introduction*

I was eighteen years old when the phrase “God is love” appeared in my religious experience. That principle remains the one constant in my years of spiritual adventure.

Even a casual reader of mystic poetry and literature will be aware of the connection between sensual passion and the divine. King Solomon and his wives — Rada and Lord Krishna, St. John of the Cross and his beloved, Rumi longing for Shams, The Church as the bride awaiting the return of her groom — are a few examples that link physical ecstasy with enlightenment. It is a perfect metaphor and much more. It is a reality.

Sensuality does not replace or even complement spirituality. Being spiritual is by its nature emotional, tactile, sensitive, intuitive, loving, receiving, giving and all of the other actions and sensations we would roll up under the heading of sensual.

The pieces in this book are meant to be much more than light love poems or erotic stimulation. In reading them, I hope you’ll experience my vision of rapture, longing, laughter and social consciousness. These are not intended to be simply pretty words in artful forms. In conception and composition they are sincere revelations and reflections on my experience of life.

It is my hope that this collection touches you in a special way, but I will also be content if you find them simply pleasurable.

Enjoy!

Chrystine Julian