

William Johnston was initiated into the life of prayer in a Jesuit novitiate in Ireland. Over twenty years a missionary in Japan, he has not only dialogued with the masters and disciples of Zen but also has learnt the lessons and techniques of Zen and practised them in Zen meditation halls. He has not moved out of Western Christian traditions in prayer, but believes that the procedures of Zen could be employed to effect a much-needed revival of that Christian tradition. His penetrating grasp of that tradition was of course clear from his earlier book, The Mysticism of the Cloud of Unknowing.

William Johnston was initiated into the life of prayer in a Jesuit novitiate in Ireland. He has shown his fine grasp of Western tradition in his monograph, The Mysticism of the Cloud of Unknowing. Over twenty years a missionary in Japan, he has dialogued with the masters and disciples of Zen and, in Zen meditation halls, has learnt their lessons and practiced their techniques. While he holds fast to his Christian patrimony, he feels that the procedures of Zen could well be employed to effect a much-needed revival of the Christian contemplative tradition.