

Extracts from Raimund Lull's writings

Why are multitudes so ignorant as to travel away into distant lands to seek thee, carrying evil spirits with them, if they depart laden with sin? The pilgrims are so deceived by false men, whom they meet in taverns and churches, that many of them, when they return home, show themselves to be far worse than they were when they set out on their pilgrimage. He would find thee, O Lord; let him go forth to seek thee in love, loyalty, devotion, faith, hope, justice, mercy, truth; for in every place where these are, there art thou. Blessed then are all they who seek thee in such things. The things that a man would find he should seek earnestly, and he must seek in the place where they may be found. If then the pilgrims would find thee, they must carefully seek thee; and they must not seek thee in the images and paintings of churches, but in the hearts of holy men, in which thou dwellest day and night. The mode and the way to find thee stands within the power of man, for to remember thee, to love thee, to honor, to serve thee; to think of thine exalted dignity and of our own great wants - this is the occasion and the way to find thee if we seek thee. Often have I sought thee on the cross, and my bodily eyes have not been able to find thee, although they have found thine image there and a representation of thy death. And when I could not find thee with my bodily eyes, I have sought thee with the eye of my soul, and thinking on thee, my soul found thee; and when it found thee, my heart began immediately to warm with the glow of love, my eyes to weep, my mouth to praise thee. How little profits it the pilgrims to roam the world in quest of thee, if when they have come back from their pilgrimage, they return again to sin and folly.