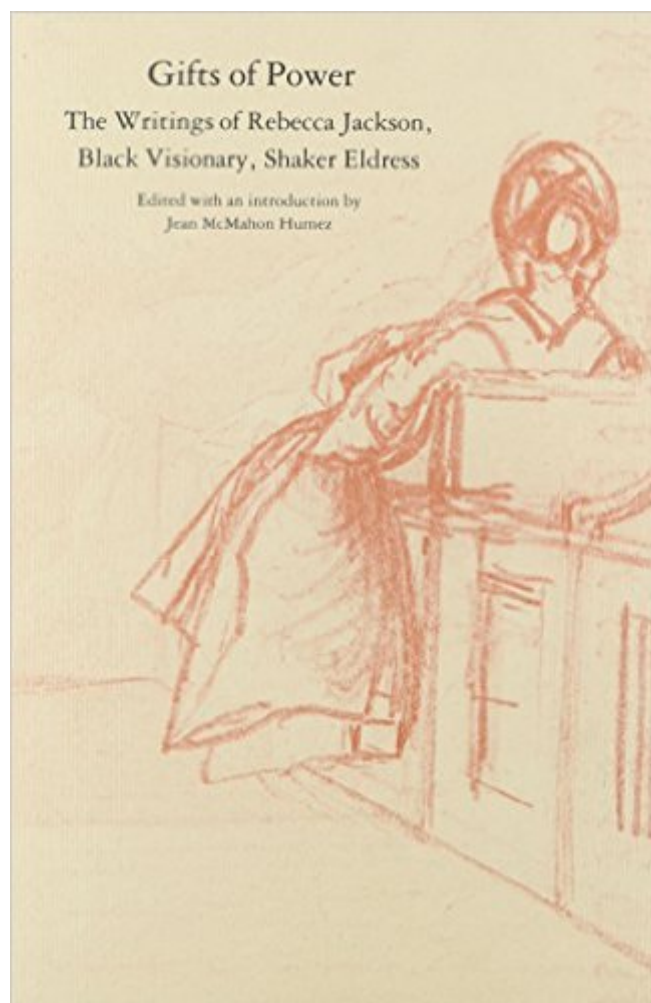


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Gifts Of Power: The Writings Of Rebecca Jackson, Black Visionary, Shaker Eldress



Synopsis

Book by Jean McMahon Humez

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jean McMahon Humez' "Gifts Of Power" collects the writings of Mother Rebecca Cox Jackson, whose career as preacher and Shaker leader spanned from 1830 until her death in 1871. Though the book contains a lot of detail some might find superfluous, the whole story Rebecca Jackson gives of her life and the spiritual experiences that shaped it is most interesting to read. One sees that at the beginning of her career Rebecca, a black women from Philadelphia, was a part of the Methodist Episcopal Church in her youth and was involved in "Holiness" prayer meetngs during the 1820s. This part of her career is particularly interesting for the way in which we see that Rebecca, as a result of the Holiness movement's highly participatory nature, was able to write down detailed visions of the coming of Heaven and the Day Of Judgement. These are blended in a facinating way with imagery taken from a woman's everyday life in Jackson's time. Many of her early visions realted closely to Jesus's miracles, but there was also many dreams of such mundane things as quilts, cakes, rain, and deaths of her relatives. Rebecca's writing style was immediate, dramatic, and intensely touching. Later, she decribed the strains preaching was having on her married life as she moved into intense prayer as Methodists criticised her ministry as a black woman preaching a false doctrine. In response, we see that Jackson focused clearly and sincerely on trying to live the life of Jesus, especially after visiting the Shakers in 1836. The next part of "Gifts Of Power" deals

with the way in which Rebecca, though troubled, found the Shakers.

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