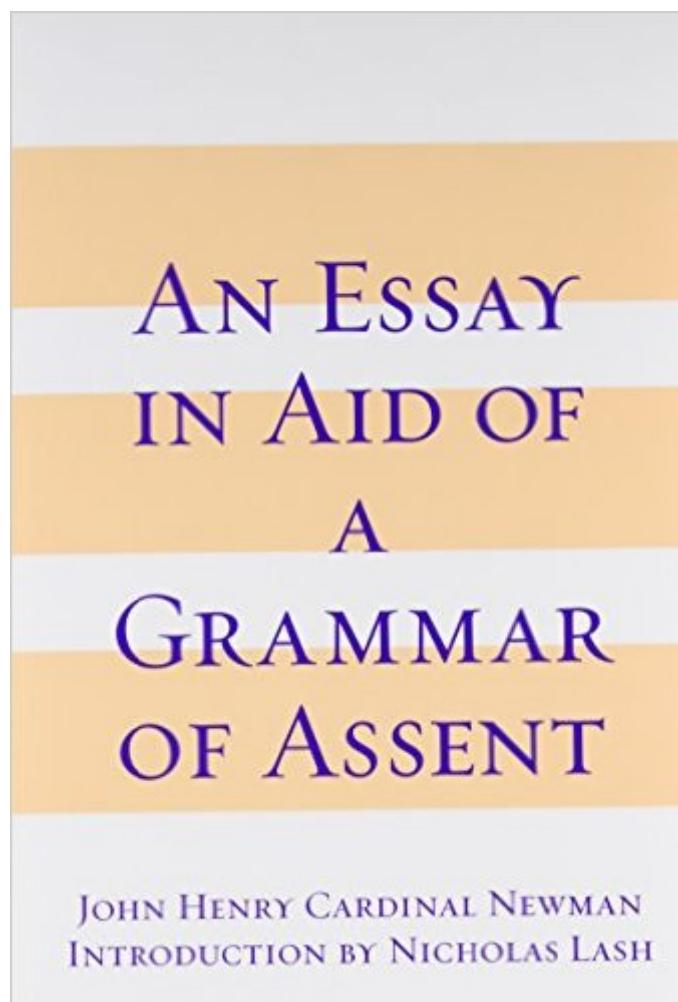


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An Essay In Aid Of A Grammar Of Assent



Synopsis

This classic of Christian apologetics seeks to persuade the skeptic that there are good reasons to believe in God even though it is impossible to understand the Deity fully. First written over a century ago, the Grammar of Assent speaks as powerfully to us today as it did to its first readers. Because of the informal, non-technical character of Newman's work, it still retains its immediacy as an invaluable guide to the nature of religious belief. An introduction by Nicholas Lash reviews the background of the Grammar, highlights its principal themes, and evaluates its philosophical originality.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

John Henry Newman (1801-1890) was an English Anglican cleric and a leader of the Oxford Movement; he converted to Catholicism in 1845 and eventually became a Cardinal. He wrote many influential books, such as *Apologia Pro Vita Sua* (An Image classic), *The Idea Of A University: Defined And Illustrated*, *Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine*, etc. This book was first published in 1870. He states that "These so-called first principles, I say, are really conclusions or abstractions from particular experiences; and an assent to their existence is not an assent to things or their images, but to notions, real assent being confined to the propositions directly embodying these experiences." (Pg. 69) Later, he adds, "A dogma is a proposition; it stands for a notion or for a thing; and to believe it is to give the assent of the mind to it... It is discerned, rested in, and appropriated as a reality, by the religious imagination; it is held as a truth, by the theological intellect." (Pg. 93) He asserts that "Theology may stand as a substantive science, though it be

without the life of religion; but religion cannot maintain its ground at all without theology." (Pg. 109) He argues that "by believing the word of the Church...

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