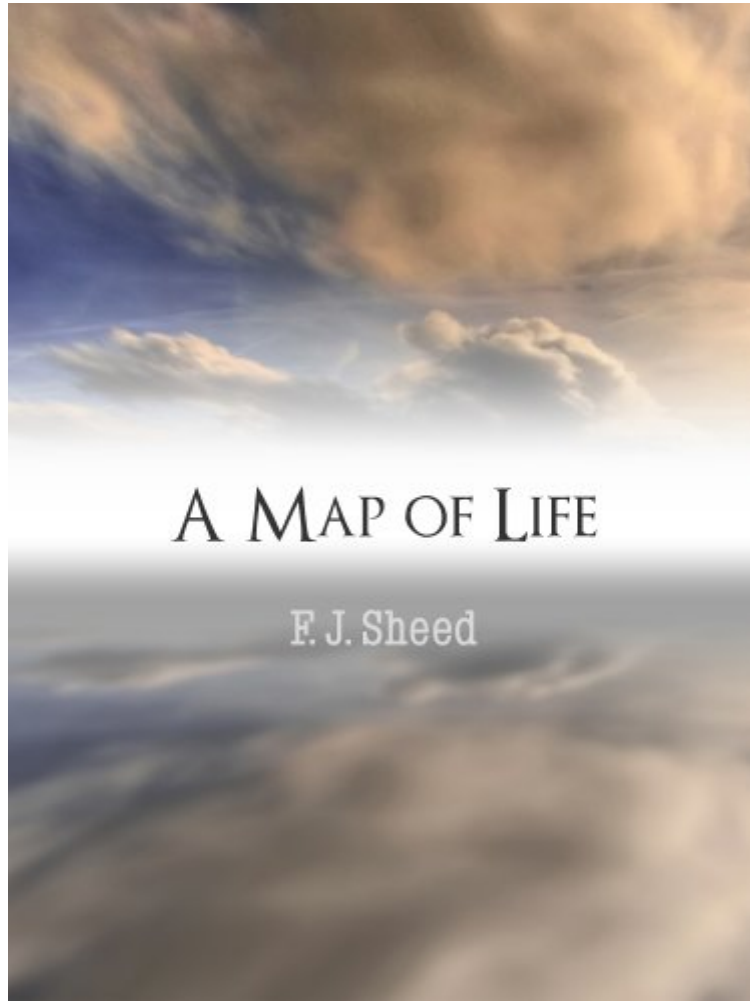




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A Map Of Life



Synopsis

Apart from the revelation of God we cannot know with certainty what is the purpose of our existence as man, the only thing left for the one who does not believe in such a revelation is to choose an object of life: to decide for himself what he will use his life for. But given the myriad possibilities before every man, the chances are that he will choose the wrong one and so spoil his life: and if he is in a position to control the destinies of others, whether as a king or a dictator or simply as the father of a family, the disaster will be very great: and the more zealous and energetic he is, the greater will the disaster be. In no case is intelligent living--that is, living consciously for the true purpose of our being--possible to us unless we are told by God what the purpose is. It is, therefore, the very highest act of our intellect thus to grasp the revelation of God, since this is knowledge that we must have, and knowledge that we must either be told or do without. It is foolish to stigmatize this acceptance as a denial of freedom or a form of intellectual suicide. The object of thought is truth: if a particular piece of truth is necessary, can be known with certainty by the teaching of another, and cannot be known otherwise, then a man is really acting suicidally in rejecting the truth merely because he did not find it for himself. He is preferring the exercise of the means to the attainment of the end. If a man knows what knowing means, he cannot even think he knows man's true purpose save through the revelation of God. And so he cannot direct his own life rightly. Nor can he help others. Here the philanthropist might say: "I am a practical man doing the immediate job. Whether there is a God or not, here is a man suffering, here is a wrong to be righted": but this is not practical, this dashing at the job without the necessary preliminary theorizing. For if you do not know what men are--that is, are for--how do you know what is good for them? That thing is good for any being which helps it to achieve the true purpose of its nature. How can you help men to that, if you do not know what their true purpose is?

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Customer Reviews

First of all I would like to admit that I have hardly heard the name of Frank Sheed. My bias when I choose Catholic books is for the authors who are either priests, Saints or well-known theologians of current generation. But this Book has surprised me in more than one ways. The greatest plus point of these book is that it is easily "digestible" and is not "preachy". Considering the knowledge of today's man, the author has written this book. It tells about the belief of the Catholic Church very succinctly. My only regret is that I didn't read this book early on.

Frank Sheed's book (A Map of Life) answers the big questions: Why are we here? Where are we going? How do we get there? in an easy-to-grasp small book. It's not a fast read because it forces one to think...hard and meditate on some deep concepts; but it flows beautifully. The beginning of each chapter includes a brief summary of those before it...to keep one up to speed, so to speak. I cannot recommend it highly enough, and would like to order a million copies and just hand them out on a street corner.

This is an excellent book by Frank Sheed. My complaint is not with the book but with this kindle edition. I have the paperback and purchased this kindle edition so that I could read in bed. Only the first four chapters plus chapter 11 (The Supernatural Life) are included in this version. There are 14 chapters in the original book. Disappointed.

This book's main flaw is that it is an incomplete version of the print book. There are 4 chapters in the Kindle version and 14 in the printed edition. Other than that, Frank Sheed's writing is clear and concise.

I was impressed with the value and readability of this book as well as the relevance to modern day life. Easily one of the most easily understood books on theology. Perks one's interest to go further in this discipline

Sheed pioneered evangelization and apologetics among laymen. He is an incredible author....very simple/understandable but profound in his writing. Whether you're a seasoned theologian or just starting out....get this book.

This is the one book to start with if you want to deepen your understanding of the Faith, or if you are not a Catholic and you want to know what it's all about.

Of the material that is presented... I love and appreciate... HOWEVER, This is not the complete book. There are or should be 14 chapters. This is only the first 4. Shame on Kindle.

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