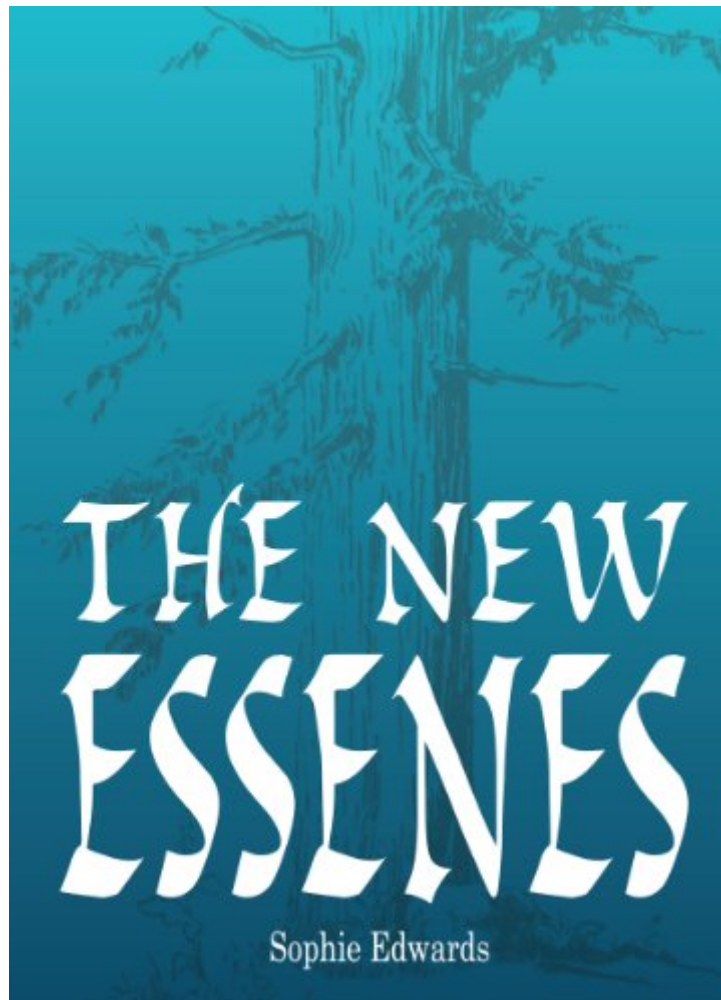


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The New Essenes



Synopsis

North West Shore of the Dead Sea at Qumran - in what is known today as The West Bank. Little is known about the people who created these scrolls. Pliny the Elder, Roman geographer, mentions that "On the Western Shore of the Dead Sea are settled the Essenes ..." and they are mentioned by Jewish historian, Josephus and philosopher, Philo of Alexandria. All three contemporary writers speak of the Essenes with great admiration. Having distanced themselves from the corrupt practices of the Temple priests in Jerusalem the Essenes followed their leader to live a strict ascetic life in the desert - preparing for the expected end times and a new world order. The community was greatly admired for the way they shared everything in common. The discovery of the Scrolls in 1947 was hailed as the greatest manuscript find of the age. These were the only writings which have survived from a period which saw the beginnings of Christianity and modern Judaism. They were the oldest extant Biblical scrolls. The discovery created enormous interest in Qumran and the Essenes. Excavation showed a well ordered, self sufficient community where the scribes must have spent many hours daily working on the scrolls. This book is inspired by the beautiful poetic translations of Biblical and other ancient texts by Edmond Bordeaux Szekely. We owe him a great debt, not only for the translations but for being among the pioneers to introduce the idea of wholistic health through living in harmony with nature. We can learn to draw from the well of Ancient Wisdom. We need moments of peace and quiet in this age of restless activity. "For how can the carpenter build in the midst of a whirlwind?... Peace dwells in the heart of silence: Be Still and know I am God."

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