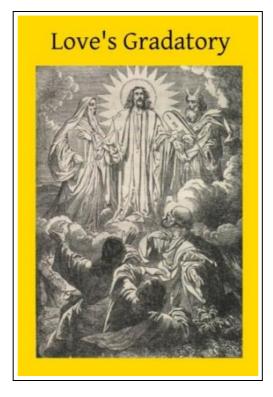
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Createspace, United States, 2014. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Large Print. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English. Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand ******. After a biography of Blessed John Ruysbroeck we come to the heart of the books itself. THIS book touches the culminating point of the trilogy formed by the three treatises addressed by the author to the same person. Certain indications prove this to have been Margaret of Meerbeke, Precentor in the Convent of the Poor Clares at Brussels. The manuscripts do not contain any precise affirmation on this point, it is true, but the title of chapter xii., Of Celestial Melodies, seems to allude to the charge filled by the Religious in her Convent. Besides, the whole of the treatise sufficiently shows that the writer is address ing one person in particular, and the counsels that he gives her, although applicable to any soul aspiring to perfection, belong more particularly to the Religious state. The form and name of the book is by no means new in mystical literature. The mysterious ladder which appeared to Jacob, flying from the anger of his brother Esau, has often served to illustrate the way to be travelled by the soul from earth to Heaven. This illustration is found in use from times of primitive Christianity-witness the Acts of St. Perpetua and St. Felicity. St. Benedict makes use of it in his Rule where he speaks of twelve degrees of Humility, and St. John Climacus at a later date develops the same thought in his book entitled the Ladder of Holiness. But it was, perhaps, principally from St. Bonaventura that Blessed John Ruysbroeck borrowed the idea of spiritual steps. His object, like that of the Seraphic Doctor, is to raise a ladder of Sanctity, of which the seven rungs, or...



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