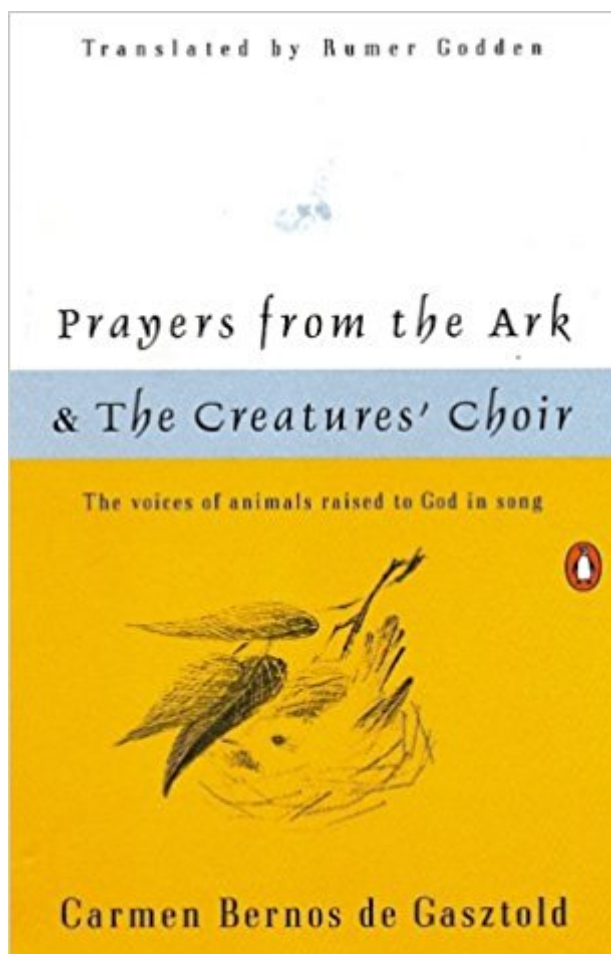


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# Prayers From The Ark And The Creatures' Choir



## Synopsis

Paperback 1976 127p. 7.75x5.00x0.40 FRENCH POETRY ABOUT PRAYERS : ANIMAL, BIRD, FISH, REPTILE, OR INSECT VOICE; HUMANS PROBLEM.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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By giving voices to animals in a series of brief addresses to God, poet Carmen Bernos De Gasztold speaks for us humans as well. The poems in *Prayers from the Ark* and *The Creatures Choir*, two books combined in one volume, are brief, poignant, touching and often humorous. For example, the Centipede begins its prayer with the words, "With innumerable little footsteps/I go through life/ but, Lord/ I can never/get to the end of myself!" The goat prays, "Lord,/ let me live as I will!/ I need a little wild freedom,/a little giddiness of heart. . ." The tortoise prays, "A little patience,/ O God,/ I am coming. . ." There is not a prayer in the book that a human could not pray as well. These poems reveal how we are spiritually akin to all these wild animal hearts. The poems were translated from French by Rumer Godden, famous for her own highly regarded novels and autobiography. Godden has written a foreword for each book, telling how she came to translate them and detailing the life of the poet. The information is fascinating in what it reveals about two creative persons, author and

translator. The book is illustrated with simple pencil drawings of the animals, and portions of the original French text are included as epigrams. I found this collection an absolute joy to read.

PRAYERS FROM THE ARK was written and published first, and the poems are in the form of prayers. THE CREATURES' CHOIR was written quite a few years later and these last poems are more like letters to God, where the animals refer to their daily problems. The author did not write sentimental verse. The poems of the animals seem to radiate with truth. I was first introduced to PRAYERS FROM THE ARK in 1977 by my sister, Susan who lent me her book. Since that time, I've purchased two copies myself, and have given several as gifts. The original book was written in French by Carmen Bernos De Gasztold, and published in 1947. The famous author, Rumer Godden discovered the work and was so impressed with the poems that she translated them into English. There are over fifty beautiful poems in this book where each animal speaks to God in his or her own voice revealing their individual traits and personalities. The Dove--"The Ark waits, Lord; it has endured. Let me carry it a sprig of hope and joy." The Dog--"No one but You and I understands what faithfulness is." The Ladybird-- "Thank You for having made me so that no one is afraid of me." This is a charming book for an adult to read and a wonderful way for a child to learn that every creature's life has dignity and purpose.

The little poems are wonderfully and tenderly translated from the French. I was hoping that this would have been in the original French.

Earth lovers take note! These charming poems will open your eyes and heart to the bird's eye view - and the mouse's, the cat's etc. of their experience of the world. Will inspire children to kindness and concern.

This is a wonderful little book that I enjoy more as an adult than I would have as a child. Carmen Bernos de Gasztold wrote delightful prayer poems from the perspective of Noah and of 53 different animals. Each of the animals, by its nature, has a distinctly human characteristic - I myself could easily identify with the hedgehog! Read, reflect, and enjoy this artfully done translation by Rumer Godden.

Excellent condition for a used book. This is the English translation version. Simple illustrations and poignantly written; not for children only but I certainly enjoy reading over and over. Recommended

for any age group.

This is my 10th copy of this book over the years - nicely presented, well done!!

I have a prejudice; I am a total animal lover. These beautiful little poems catch both the joy and the sadness and hardships of our animal friends. I don't speak French so I don't know if they would be even better in the original language but the translator has done a wonderful job of capturing the poetry. This is a beautiful work and well worth the investment.

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