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GOD AND REASON IN THE MIDDLE AGES

Between 1100 and 1600, the emphasis on reason in the learning and intellectual life of Western Europe became more pervasive and widespread than ever before in the history of human civilization. This dramatic state of affairs followed the long, difficult period of the barbarian invasions, which ended around A.D. 1000 when a new and vibrant Europe emerged. Of crucial significance was the invention of the university around 1200, within which reason was institutionalized and where it became a deeply embedded, permanent feature of Western thought and culture. It is therefore appropriate to speak of an Age of Reason in the Middle Ages, and to view it as a forerunner and herald of the Age of Reason that was to come in the seventeenth century.

The object of this book is twofold: to describe how reason was manifested in the curriculum of medieval universities, especially in the subjects of logic, natural philosophy, and theology; and to explain how the Middle Ages acquired an undeserved reputation as an age of superstition, barbarism, and unreason.

Edward Grant is Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History and Philosophy of Science and Professor Emeritus of History at Indiana University. He is the author of *The Foundations of Modern Science in the Middle Ages: Their Religious, Institutional, and Intellectual Contexts* (Cambridge University Press, 1996); *Planets, Stars, & Orbs: The Medieval Cosmos* (Cambridge University Press, 1994); *Mathematics and Its Applications to Science and Natural Philosophy in the Middle Ages* (Cambridge University Press, 1987), and numerous other books and articles. He was awarded the George Sarton Medal of the History of Science Society in 1992.

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*To Sydelle,
once again*

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