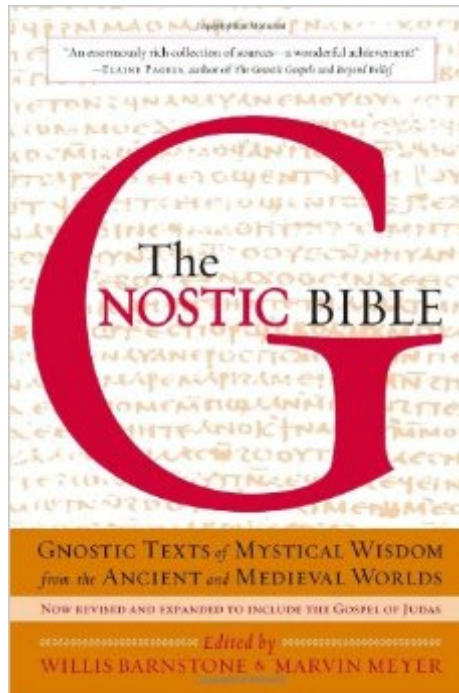


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The Gnostic Bible: Revised And Expanded Edition



Synopsis

Gnosticism was a wide-ranging religious movement of the first millennium CE "with earlier antecedents and later flourishings" whose adherents sought salvation through knowledge and personal religious experience. Gnostic writings offer striking perspectives on both early Christian and non-Christian thought. For example, some gnostic texts suggest that god should be celebrated as both mother and father, and that self-knowledge is the supreme path to the divine. Only in the past fifty years has it become clear how far the gnostic influence spread in ancient and medieval religions "and what a marvelous body of scriptures it produced. The selections gathered here, in poetic, readable translation, represent Jewish, Christian, Hermetic, Mandaean, Manichaean, Islamic, and Cathar expressions of gnostic spirituality. Their regions of origin include Egypt, the Greco-Roman world, the Middle East, Syria, Iraq, China, and France. Also included are introductions, notes, an extensive glossary, and a wealth of suggestions for further reading.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is the most comprehensive collection of Jewish (e.g. Book of Baruch by Justin), Christian (e.g. Songs Of Pearl), Hermetic, Mandaean, Manichaean (Mani's incomplete works, but still great works. You will be amazed by Mani's 'similarities' with Jesus & at some point he was quite very popular!), Zoroastrian, Pagan, Gnostic Gospels (e.g. Gospel of John, Gospel Of Thomas, Gospel Of Mary Magdalene, Gospel Of Philip, etc), other Nag Hammadi Books (e.g. On The Origin Of The World, The Letter Of Peter To Philip, etc), Islamic & Cathar books all in one volume by far. These various books span from the first century & some are being translated here into English for the first time!

Professors Willis Barnstone & Marvin Meyer do make a very strong case and convincing argument that "The Gospel Of John" differs significantly from the Gospels of Mark, Luke & Matthew [In its framework, individual episodes it relates to & particularly in the way it represents the voice of Jesus] and hence its inclusion in "Gnostic Bible". This is an eye opener book on the great variety of religious views & theology : translated in English with extensive helpful introductions (who wrote the book or gospel, when was it written & under what circumstances was it written), very informative footnotes & interpretations of these different books! Tit for tat attacks against each other in the Gnostic Gospels is also very interesting (Cathars against the sacrament of Eucharist, 'the doubting Thomas' in Synoptic Gospels against Jesus's 'twin brother' in Gospel of Thomas writing the Gospel, etc) [putting a human face in the whole religion thing!].

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