

# The Consolations Of Philosophy

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written in the 6th century the consolation of philosophy is the best known and most profound work of the christian theologian and philosopher st boethius he composed this great work while he was unjustly imprisoned directly before his unlawful execution consequently the consolation which takes the form of a dialogue between boethius and lady philosophy discusses a variety of important and weighty issues including ethics the nature of god god s relationship to the world the problem of evil and the true nature of happiness in particular an often emphasized and key theme throughout the book is the importance of both loving god and developing virtue because it is written in dialogue form the literary qualities of the book are somewhat light which contrasts with the occasionally weighty topics it discusses the consolation of philosophy was enormously influential on medieval and renaissance christianity statesmen poets historians philosophers and theologians all read and studied it extensively moreover it remains even today an important and instructive book both compelling and illuminating the consolation of philosophy is profitable for all readers and comes highly recommended description from ccel org ccel boethius consolation.html april 18 2012

in the consolation of philosophy translated by walter john sedgefield boethius presents a poignant exploration of the nature of happiness fate and the human condition during his unjust imprisonment written in the early sixth century this philosophical treatise takes the form of a dialogue between boethius and lady philosophy who personifies wisdom the work is characterized by its blend of classical philosophy and poetic expression reflecting the intellectual currents of late antiquity and the early medieval period through its compelling arguments and lyrical prose boethius navigates themes of fortune virtue and the transience of power ultimately seeking solace in reason and divine order amidst personal despair boethius a roman philosopher and statesman was profoundly influenced by his own societal upheaval and the challenges of his time particularly the decline of the roman empire his deep engagement with both platonic and aristotelian thought shaped his worldview making the consolation of philosophy a seminal work that has resonated through the ages boethius s rich background in philosophy rhetoric and sacred literature underscores his

desire to reconcile faith and reason this timeless philosophical narrative is a must read for anyone seeking to understand the intricacies of human suffering and the pursuit of true happiness boethius's insights remain relevant today offering a thoughtful roadmap for readers grappling with existential questions in a turbulent world sedgefield's translation captures the essence of boethius's work making it accessible for contemporary audiences embrace this profound journey toward peace and enlightenment

composed while its author was imprisoned this book remains one of western literature's most eloquent meditations on the transitory nature of earthly belongings and the superiority of things of the mind slavitt's translation captures boethius's energy and passion seth lerer places boethius's life and achievement in context in his introduction

why else does slippery fortune change so much and punishment more fit for crime oppress the innocent written in prison before his brutal execution in ad 524 boethius's the consolation of philosophy is a conversation between the ailing prisoner and his nurse philosophy whose instruction restores him to health and brings him to enlightenment boethius was an eminent public figure who had risen to great political heights in the court of king theodoric when he was implicated in conspiracy and condemned to death although a christian it was to the pagan greek philosophers that he turned for inspiration following his abrupt fall from grace with great clarity of thought and philosophical brilliance boethius adopted the classical model of the dialogue to debate the vagaries of fortune and to explore the nature of happiness good and evil fate and free will this edition includes an introduction discussing boethius's life and writings a bibliography glossary and notes

to pleasant songs my work was erstwhile given and bright were all my labours then but now in tears to sad refrains am i compelled to turn thus my maimed muses guide my pen and gloomy songs make no feigned tears bedew my face then could no fear so overcome to leave me companionless upon my way they were the pride of my earlier bright lived days in my later gloomy days they are the comfort of my fate for hastened by unhappiness has age come upon me without warning and grief hath set within me the old age of her gloom white hairs are scattered untimely on my head and the skin hangs loosely from my worn out limbs aeterna press

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this carefully crafted ebook the consolation of philosophy translated by h r james m a is formatted for your ereader with a functional and detailed table of contents

consolation of philosophy latin consolatio philosophiae is a philosophical work by boethius written around the year 524 it has been described as the single most important and influential work in the west on medieval and early renaissance christianity and is also the last great western work of the classical period anicius manlius severinus boëthius commonly called boethius c 480 524 or 525 ad was a philosopher of the early 6th century he was born in rome to an ancient and prominent family which included emperors petronius maximus and olybrius and many consuls his father flavius manlius boethius was consul in 487 after odoacer deposed the last western roman emperor boethius of the noble anicia family entered public life at a young age and was already a senator by the age of 25 boethius himself was consul in 510 in the kingdom of the ostrogoths in 522 he saw his two sons become consuls boethius was imprisoned and eventually executed by king theodoric the great who suspected him of conspiring with the eastern roman empire while jailed boethius composed his consolation of philosophy a philosophical treatise on fortune death and other issues the consolation became one of the most popular and influential works of the middle ages

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boethius best known work is the consolations of philosophy written during his imprisonment by far the most interesting example of prison literature the world has ever seen it is a dialogue between philosophy and boethius in which the queen of sciences strives to console the fallen statesman the main argument of the discourse is the transitoriness and unreality of all earthly greatness and the superior desirability of the things of the mind there are evident traces of the influence of the neo platonists especially of proclus and little if anything that can be said to reflect christian influences

the consolation of philosophy has been described as the single most important and influential work in the west on medieval and early renaissance christianity and is

also the last great western work of the classical period written while boethius was in prison awaiting execution the work consists of a dialogue in alternating prose and verse between the author lamenting his own sorrows and a majestic woman who is the incarnation of his guardian philosophy the woman develops a modified form of neo platonism and stoicism demonstrating the unreality of earthly fortunes then proving that the highest good and the highest happiness are in god and reconciling the apparent contradictions concerning the existence of everything

unjustly imprisoned and waiting to die boethius penned his last and greatest work consolation of philosophy an imaginary dialogue between himself and philosophy personified as a woman reminiscent of dante in places boethius s fiction is an ode to philosophy cum socratic dialogue joel relihan s skillful rendering smoother to the modern ear than previous translations preserves the book s heart rending clarity and boethius s knack for getting it just right listen to him on fortune we spin in an ever turning circle and it is our delight to change the bottom for the top and the top for the bottom you may climb up if you wish but on this condition don t think it an injustice when the rules of the game require you to go back down consolation of philosophy recalls the transience of the material world the eternality of wisdom and the life of the philosopher boethius was deeply influenced by the platonist tradition and this piece is one of the more powerful and artful defenses of a detachment that feels almost buddhist for anyone who s felt at odds with the world consolation is a reminder that the best things in life are eternal boethius must be right the book is just as meaningful today as it was in the sixth century when he wrote it eric de place

excerpt from the consolation of philosophy of boethius the book called the consolation of philosophy was throughout the middle ages and down to the beginnings of the modern epoch in the sixteenth century the scholars familiar companion few books have exercised a wider influence in their time it has been translated into every european tongue and into english nearly a dozen times from king alfred s para phrase to the translations of lord preston causton ridpath and duncan in the eighteenth century the belief that what once pleased so widely must still have some charm is my excuse for attempting the present translation the great work of boethius with its alternate prose and verse skilfully fitted together like dialogue and chorus in a greek play is unique in literature and has a pathetic interest from the time and circumstances of its composition it ought not to be forgotten those who can go to the original will find their reward there may be room also for a new translation in english after an interval of close on a hundred years about the publisher forgotten books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books find more at forgottenbooks.com this book is a reproduction of an important historical work forgotten books uses state of the art technology to digitally reconstruct the work preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy in rare cases an imperfection in the original such as a blemish or missing page may be replicated in our edition we do however repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve

the state of such historical works

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