

Essential Gnostic Scriptures Paperback

The Gnostic BibleThe Everything Gnostic Gospels BookThe Gnostic BibleThe Gnostic GospelsThe Gnostic DiscoveriesThe Secret Book of JohnThe Gnostic Gospels of JesusThe Nag Hammadi ScripturesThe Secret History of the GnosticsThe Gnostic ScripturesIn the Shadow of the TempleThe Gospel of the Unknown JesusThe Gospel of ThomasPolemical EncountersThe QuestGnostic Writings on the SoulThe Complete Idiot's Guide to the Gnostic GospelsSpirituality and the OccultThe Gospels of MaryThe Legacy of Hans Jonas *Willis Barnstone* Meera Lester *Willis Barnstone* Elaine Pagels Marvin W. Meyer Marvin W. Meyer Marvin W. Meyer Andrew Phillip Smith Joseph Lumpkin Oskar Skarsaune Richard J. Hooper History Academy Olav Hammer J. Michael Matkin Brian Gibbons Marvin W. Meyer Hava Tirosh-Samuelson

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the most comprehensive collection of gnostic literature ever published this volume is the result of a unique collaboration between a renowned poet translator and a leading scholar of early christian texts

the books of the bible are not the only ancient writings to tell the stories of jesus and his followers other gnostic texts have also

been found as well the everything gnostic gospels book provides an overview of gnosticism and the historical figures who are believed to be the authors thomas james mary magdalene and others this accessible guide explores the following questions what do gnostics believe who were the authors of the gnostic gospels how are the bible scriptures and gnostic gospels different how are they the same how were official christian texts chosen learn about the different versions of christianity that battled for supremacy in the first centuries after the death of jesus this entertaining and educational book describes each of the gnostic gospels providing insight into the turbulent times of early christianity as well as the renewed contemporary interest in these mysterious writings

a collection of gnostic texts spanning centuries geographical locations and cultural traditions a wonderful achievement elaine pagels author of the gnostic gospels 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

selected by the modern library as one of the 100 best nonfiction books of all time the gnostic gospels is a landmark study of the long buried roots of christianity a work of luminous scholarship and wide popular appeal first published in 1979 to critical acclaim winning the national book award and the national book critics circle award the gnostic gospels has continued to grow in reputation and influence over the past two decades it is now widely recognized as one of the most brilliant and accessible histories of early christian spirituality published in our time in 1945 an egyptian peasant unearthed what proved to be the gnostic gospels thirteen papyrus volumes that expounded a radically different view of the life and teachings of jesus christ from

that of the new testament in this spellbinding book renowned religious scholar elaine pagels elucidates the mysteries and meanings of these sacred texts both in the world of the first christians and in the context of christianity today with insight and passion pagels explores a remarkable range of recently discovered gospels including the gospel of thomas and the gospel of mary magdalene to show how a variety of christianities emerged at a time of extraordinary spiritual upheaval some christians questioned the need for clergy and church doctrine and taught that the divine could be discovered through spiritual search many others like buddhists and hindus sought enlightenment and access to god within such explorations raised questions was the resurrection to be understood symbolically and not literally was god to be envisioned only in masculine form or feminine as well was martyrdom a necessary or worthy expression of faith these early christians dared to ask questions that orthodox christians later suppressed and their explorations led to profoundly different visions of jesus and his message brilliant provocative and stunning in its implications the gnostic gospels is a radical eloquent reconsideration of the origins of the christian faith

the gnostic discoveries opens with a thrilling adventure story the discovery of the ancient papyri at nag hammadi hidden in sealed jars and lost for centuries the papyri have revealed much about early christianity including alternative views that were suppressed by the early church author marvin meyer traces the history and impact of this great find on the church right up to our current beliefs and popular cultural fascination with this officially suppressed secret knowledge about jesus and his followers marvin meyer is one of the foremost scholars on gnosticism the nag hammadi library and texts about jesus outside the new testament he is griset professor of bible and christian studies and director of the albert schweitzer institute at chapman university orange california among his more recent books are the gospels of mary the gospel of thomas the hidden sayings of jesus the gnostic bible and secret gospels essays on thomas and the secret gospel of mark the author s concise presentation will appeal to many readers meyer writes clearly bringing both the people and the times of the early gnostic writings to life and making them accessible to scholar and layperson alike publishers weekly

the secret book of john the gnostic gospel annotated explained decodes the principal themes historical foundation and spiritual contexts of this challenging yet fundamental gnostic teaching drawing connections to christianity buddhism hinduism kabbalistic

judaism and sufism davies focuses on the mythology and psychology of the gnostic religious quest he illuminates the gnostics ardent call for self awareness and introspection and the empowering message that divine wholeness will be restored not by worshiping false gods in an illusory material world but by our recognition of the inherent divinity within ourselves book jacket

in the gnostic gospels of jesus world renowned gnostic literature expert marvin meyer presents every known gnostic gospel and jesus text gathered together in one book included are the gospel of thomas the gospel of philip and the gospel of mary along with lesser known texts like the secret book of john which some scholars regard as the second part of the new testament gospel of john detailed notes from meyer explain everything the reader needs to know to understand the text the texts in the gnostic gospels of jesus present an image of jesus as the ultimate wisdom teacher who scandalized listeners by his radical egalitarianism and his insistence on living the message he taught marvin meyer is the foremost expert on the nag hammadi texts and texts about jesus outside the new testament he is gret professor of bible and christian studies co chair of the department of religious studies and director of the albert schweitzer institute at chapman university orange ca marv is one of the original secret gospels scholars who has done an enormous amount of work to bring these texts to light all of his research on the nag hammadi texts is having an incredible impact on our knowledge of early christian history it is virtually redefining it dr elaine pagels princeton university

the nag hammadi scriptures edited by marvin meyer is the most complete up to date one volume english language edition of the renowned library of gnostic manuscripts discovered in egypt in 1945 which rivaled the dead sea scrolls find in significance it includes the gospel of thomas the gospel of mary and the recently discovered gospel of judas as well as other gnostic gospels and sacred texts this volume also includes introductory essays notes tables glossary index etc to help the reader understand the context and contemporary significance of these texts which have shed new light on early christianity and ancient thought the compilation of ancient manuscripts that constitute the nag hammadi scriptures is a discovery that challenges everything we thought we knew about the early christian church ancient judaism and greco roman religions

learn more about the myths practices history and recent resurgence of gnosticism as a gnostic scholar seeks to answer why this

christian mystical movement has inspired the likes of dan brown and philip pullman the secret history of the gnostics offers long awaited illumination on the mystical movement that teaches gnosis knowledge of god as opposed to unquestioning faith acclaimed author andrew philip smith delves into the myths and practices of this ancient movement exploring its popularity during 2nd century ad its subsequent decline under the weight of orthodoxy in the church and its present day resurgence gnosticism has travelled a fascinating path from the manichaeans in modern persia between the 3rd and 7th centuries ad to the triumphs and tragedies of the cathars in southern europe between the 12th and 14th centuries to finally today s mandaean in iraq however as the author points out the revival of gnosticism extends further than these narrow sects offering inspiration to a legion of literary figures including dan brown and philip pullman gnosticism s emphasis on personal over organized religion in keeping with the doctrine of the early christian era during which it thrived has found particular resonance with today s multicultural world in addition to discussing the gnostic gospels and the sect s practical beliefs and customs the secret history of the gnostics is also in effect a manifesto an appeal to those inspired by or drawn to the gnostic faith not to forget its origins

to understand some of the basic beliefs of gnosticism let us start with the common ground shared between gnosticism and modern christianity both believe the world is imperfect corrupt and brutal the blame for this according to mainstream christianity is placed squarely on the shoulders of man himself with the fall of man adam the world was forever changed to the undesirable and harmful place in which we live today however gnostics reject this view as an incorrect interpretation of the creation myth according to gnostics the blame is not in ourselves but in our creator the creator of this world was himself somewhat less than perfect and in fact deeply flawed and cruel making mankind the children of a lesser god the parallel between sophia and mary magdalene in gnostic theology cannot be overstated sophia was the handmaiden of the supreme god carrying the life force which was the emanation of god she carried the truth within her which she offered to adam the truth was offered up to set him free mary was the consort of jesus carrying the imparted knowledge and possibly his life force in the form of a child she revealed to the apostles the truth jesus personally and intimately gave to her alone we will see this stated clearly in the gospel of mary magdalene later in this book

oskar skarsaune makes a fresh contribution to our understanding of the development of the early church in its practice e g

worship baptism and eucharist and doctrine e g scripture christology pneumatology this book offers the new perspective that christians were in ongoing and deep conversation with jews during the early centuries leading up to constantine the common perception of a drastic parting of the ways after the destruction of jerusalem in 70 a d has tended to distort our understanding of the succeeding decades and centuries of jewish and christian history notwithstanding the fact that there were points of bitterness and strife the relationship is better viewed as that of a younger and older sibling there is much evidence of interaction between the early christians and rabbinic judaism both at the level of leadership and laypeople and this left its impression on the church skarsaune gives us numerous fascinating episodic and topical glimpses into this untold story

a collection of the most profound and poetic teachings attributed to jesus from extra canonical texts arranged by subject and with a general introduction

a provocative study of the gnostic gospels and the world of early christianity as revealed through the nag hammadi texts jesus preaches the coming of a new man the genesis of the man of knowledge in this gospel jesus describes a journey from limited to unlimited consciousness the jesus of thomas invites us to drink deeply from the well of knowledge that lies within not so that we may become good christians but so we may attain the self knowledge that will make each of us too a christ discover the original mystical teachings of jesus in the gospel of thomas the most important book left out of the bible the gospel of thomas contains the seeds of a profound mysticism that can transform our view of the universe and ourselves history academy unpacks the core teachings of the gospel in ways that can shift not only how we understand ourselves but how we view reality itself the way of thomas is packed with profound insights and practical advice for spiritual practice the gospel of thomas consists of mini parables of deep inward and symbolic meaning many of which are not found in the new testament this eye opening collection of texts sheds light on the esoteric knowledge of gnosticism revealing intimate conversations between jesus and his disciples 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 wisdom in this inspiring collection of texts is wholly relevant to our lives today addressing the questions of good and evil sin and suffering and the path to salvation in 1945 several gospels hidden since the first century were found in the egyptian desert at nag hammadi this discovery caused a sensation as the scrolls revealed the mysteries of the gnostics a movement which emerged during the formative period of christianity gnosis from the greek broadly meaning hidden spiritual knowledge was associated with renouncing the material world and focusing on attaining the life of the holy spirit many christian sects are derived from the esoteric knowledge of gnosticism this volume also includes introductory essays notes tables glossary index etc to help the reader understand the context and contemporary significance of these texts which have shed new light on early christianity and ancient thought 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 history academy represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors as well as up to date translations by award winning translators

in its historical development from late antiquity to the present western esotericism has repeatedly been the issue of polemical discourse this volume engages the polemical structures that underlie both the identities within and the controversy about esoteric currents in european history from jewish and christian kabbalah through heretical discourse and interconfessional polemics in early modernity to the legitimization of esoteric identity in modern culture the 12 chapters accompanied by an editors introduction provide a cornucopia of relevant cases that are interpreted in a framework of polemical discourse and othering this volume sheds new light on the ultimately polemical structure of western esotericism and thus opens new vistas for further research into esoteric discourse

the inspiration and insight of these gnostic writings can become a companion on your own spiritual journey just what is a soul exactly where did the idea come from how do we experience our souls two ancient gnostic texts the exegesis on the soul and

the hymn of the pearl both presented here in all new translations hold important clues to the development of the soul as a concept and reveal inspiring ways your own soul can remember and return to its unique divine purpose the exegesis on the soul depicts the soul as a feminine figure who has fallen into the corrupted world and must find her way back to the divine it is the story of the soul s struggle and redemption that will embolden your own spiritual pilgrimage the hymn of the pearl is an allegorical story about a prince sent to retrieve a precious pearl but who soon forgets his purpose and falls asleep it is a moving tale of the importance of remembering your soul s identity and calling and knowing that only you can fulfill your destiny accessible facing page commentary explains the gnostic writings for you even if you have no previous knowledge of gnosticism or early christianity additional material draws on ancient religions platonism christianity judaism islam and modern philosophical and psychological notions of the soul to place the gnostic teachings in a clear historical context by following the development of this concept through time you will more clearly perceive and respond to the divine spark found in your own soul

the birth of the christian church and what it means for modern religion and philosophy this engaging guide presents an accessible overview of the birth of the christian church using the historical works found at the famous nag hammadi site in egypt with chapters discussing each of the major and minor documents found at nag hammadi this volume also includes an overview of gnosticism and the major players revealing not only what the texts say but also what they mean renewed interest in gnosticism and the gnostic gospels is driven by interest in the nag hammadi documents the davinci code the matrix movies the kabbalah renewed interest in the divine feminine ideal and the fact that many who ve left the church are looking for new answers in the early church author is a scholar and expert who s studied with some of the top people in the field

spirituality and the occult argues against the widely held view that occult spiritualities are marginal to western culture showing that the esoteric tradition is unfairly neglected in western culture and that much of what we take to be modern derives at least in part from this tradition it casts a fresh intriguing and persuasive perspective on intellectual and cultural history in the west brian gibbons identifies the influence and continued presence of esoteric mystical movements in disciplines such as medicine science philosophy freudian and jungian psychology radical political movements imaginative literature

the gospels of mary presents english translations of the earliest and most reliable texts that shed light on mary magdalene texts that unveil her importance as jesus s beloved disciple and an apostle and evangelist in her own right a figure whose importance for christianity is only now emerging from the shadows of history after years of suppression by the early church marvin meyer s translation of the gospel of mary and several other mary related texts including passages from the new testament gospels reveals a vibrant oral tradition in which mary magdalene is not only a follower of jesus but also his companion and closest disciple an interpretive essay by esther de boer a respected scholar of the gospel of mary places meyer s translation in context marvin meyer is the foremost expert on the nag hammadi texts and the texts about jesus outside the new testament he is griset professor of bible and christian studies and co chair of the department of religious studies and director of the albert schweitzer institute at chapman university orange ca he is also the author of the gospel of thomas and the gnostic gospels of jesus an excellent compilation of all the earliest texts both gospels and apocrypha in which mary magdalene appears showing her importance to the early church and highlighting her powerful roles as disciple apostle and companion of christ susan haskins author of mary magdalene myth and metaphor

an international interdisciplinary and interreligious retrospective examination of hans jonas 1903 1993 that engages his ideas in light of existentialism utopian thought process philosophy and theology zionism and environmentalism

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Introduction

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