

Essential Gnostic Scriptures Paperback

The Gnostic BibleThe Everything Gnostic Gospels BookThe Gnostic GospelsThe Gnostic Gospels of JesusThe Nag Hammadi ScripturesThe Secret Book of JohnThe Gnostic DiscoveriesThe Secret Teachings of JesusThe Gnostic ScripturesThe Complete Idiot's Guide to the Gnostic GospelsThe Gospel of the Unknown JesusEssential Gnostic ScripturesThe Gospel of ThomasThe Secret History of the GnosticsThe Excluded Books of the Bible - UpdatedMary Magdalene's DreamingThe Gnostic GospelsThe Gospel of PhilipGnostic Writings on the SoulThe Fall of Sophia Willis Barnstone Meera Lester Elaine Pagels Marvin W. Meyer Marvin W. Meyer Marvin W. Meyer Joseph Lumpkin J. Michael Matkin Richard J. Hooper Marvin Meyer History Academy Andrew Phillip Smith Sean Casteel Steven Strong Elaine H. Pagels Violet MacDermot

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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

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

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 griset 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

this ancient gnostic text can be a companion for your own spiritual quest the secret book of john is the most significant and influential text of the ancient gnostic

religion part of the library of books found in nag hammadi egypt in 1945 this central myth of gnosticism tells the story of how god fell from perfect oneness to imprisonment in the material world and how by knowing our divine nature and our divine origins that we are one with god we reverse god s descent and find our salvation 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 now you can experience and understand this foundational teaching even if you have no previous knowledge of gnosticism this skylight illuminations edition presents the most important and valued book in gnostic religion with insightful yet unobtrusive commentary it provides deeper insight into the understanding that in gnosticism the distinction between savior and saved ceases to exist you must save yourself and in doing so save god

on the 60th anniversary of the discovery of ancient gnostic texts at nag hammadi a leading scholar explains the historical significance and continuing influence of these alternative views of christianity suppressed by the early church

in december 1945 two egyptian fellahin digging for natural fertilizer in the Nile river valley unearthed a sealed storage jar the jar proved to hold treasure of an unexpected sort a collection of some fifty two ancient manuscripts most of which reflect the teachings of a mystical religious movement we call gnosticism from the greek word gnosis knowledge the texts are also with few exceptions christian documents and thus they provide us with valuable new information about the character of the early church and about the gnostic christians within the church in this volume marvin w meyer has produced a new english translation for general readers of four of the most important and revealing of these early christian texts the secret book of james the gospel of thomas the book of thomas and the secret book of john

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

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 da vinci 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

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

the people we ve come to call gnostics were passionate advocates of the view that salvation comes through knowledge and personal experience and their

passion shines through in the remarkable body of writings they produced over a period of more than a millennium and a half willis barnstone and marvin meyer have created a translation that brings the gnostic voices to us from across the centuries with remarkable power and beauty beginning with texts from the earliest years of christianity including material from the nag hammadi library and continuing all the way up to expressions of gnostic wisdom found within islam and in the cathar movement of the middle ages the twenty one texts included here serve as a compact introduction to gnosticism and its principal ideas and they also provide an entrée to the pleasures of gnostic literature in general representing as they do the greatest masterpieces of that tradition

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 mandaeen manichaeen 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

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 phillip 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 mandaeans 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

why were these sacred texts hidden from the world for centuries this newly updated volume is as fascinating as the da vinci code and holy blood holy grail and yet the knowledge contained within has been hidden for centuries the gnostic gospels were written from the second to the fourth century ce but were denounced as heresy by orthodox christians in the middle of the second century most of the gnostic writings use christian terminology and offer traditions about jesus that were considered secret hidden from the many who constitute what came to be called the catholic church however the catholic church declared possession of books denounced as heretical to be a criminal offense but in upper egypt someone possibly a monk from a nearby monastery took the banned books and hid them from destruction in a jar where they remained buried for almost 1 600 years the discovery of the fifty two gnostic texts at nag hammadi demonstrated that early christianity was far more diverse than nearly anyone expected this has changed forever the way we perceive the life of jesus christ and his secret teachings why does the church want to keep this information from the faithful did judas consciously do the will of god when he betrayed jesus to the romans and thus has history judged christ s betrayer too harshly did jesus love mary magdalene in a decidedly physical and even sexual way was she his favorite disciple much preferred over an envious group of male followers did jesus have foreknowledge of a future generation one that would be beset by wars and political turmoil are we to await the coming of a new breed of children prophesied in both the gnostic scriptures and by the prophet nostradamus author sean casteel reveals the shocking truth about the early days of christianity and how the church decided that the secret teachings of jesus undermined the hierarchy of the church

in mary magdalene s dreaming steven strong and evan strong continue their esoteric journey tracing the origins of religion that they began their first book constructing a new world map strong and strong examine the gnostic scriptures detailing the words and deeds of mary and jesus recently found at nag hammadi

this ancient gnostic text can be a companion for your own spiritual quest the gospel of philip is one of the most exciting and accessible of the gnostic texts found at nag hammadi in egypt in 1945 the source of dan brown s intriguing speculations about mary magdalene in his best selling novel the da vinci code the gospel of philip draws on ancient imagery the natural world the relationships between women men and family the ancient distinctions between lord and servants free people and slaves and pagans jews and christians to offer us insight into the spiritual interpretation of scripture that is at the foundation of christianity the gospel of philip annotated and explained unravels the discourses parables and sayings of this second century text to explore a spiritual non literal interpretation of the bible along with his elegant and accurate new translation from the original coptic andrew phillip smith probes the symbolism and metaphors at the heart of the gospel of philip to reveal otherwise unrecorded sayings of jesus fragments of gnostic mythology and parallels to the teachings of jesus and paul he also examines the joyful imagery of rebirth salvation and mystical union in the bridal chamber that was the pursuit of christian gnosticism now you can experience this ancient gospel even if you have no previous knowledge of early christianity or gnostic thought this skylight illuminations edition provides important insights into the historical context and major themes of the gospel of philip and gives you a deeper understanding of the gospel s overarching message deciphering our own meaning behind the symbols of this world increases and enriches our understanding of god

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

there is a delicate distinction between these two sentences to find the others in oneself and to find oneself in the others in the higher sense it means you are that tat tsvam asi above all in the highest sense it means to recognize oneself in the world and to understand that saying of novalis from the disciple at sais one was successful he lifted the veil of the goddess at sais but what did he see miracle of miracles he saw himself to find oneself not in egoistic inwardness but selflessly in the outer world that is true self knowledge rudolf steiner rudolf steiner is perhaps best known for his influence and wisdom in the fields of education agriculture medicine science and art it is often forgotten that it was as a spiritual teacher that he made these contributions unfortunately while his immediate students had the advantage of steiner as a personal guide to their inner lives later readers have had only his written works to guide them steiner however did give a few lectures on inner development especially on beginning a path of practice this book now collects these lectures some of which have never been in english for the first time it also contains a number of the basic meditations and exercises shared by steiner with his students here readers will find descriptions of various practical exercises including exercises for the moral qualities that students must develop and for the various qualities of consciousness that inner development requires this book is not only for beginners wherever you are on the path this book will be your companion

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