Essential Gnostic Scriptures Paperback

The Everything Gnostic Gospels Book The Gnostic Bible The Gnostic Gospels of Jesus The Gnostic Gospels The Gnostic Discoveries The Nag Hammadi Scriptures The Secret Teachings of Jesus The Secret Book of John Essential Gnostic Scriptures The Complete Idiot's Guide to the Gnostic Gospels Meera Lester Willis Barnstone Marvin W. Meyer Elaine Pagels Marvin W. Meyer Marvin W. Meyer Marvin Meyer J. Michael Matkin The Everything Gnostic Gospels Book The Gnostic Bible The Gnostic Gospels of Jesus The Gnostic Gospels The Gnostic Discoveries The Nag Hammadi Scriptures The Secret Teachings of Jesus The Secret Book of John Essential Gnostic Scriptures The Complete Idiot's Guide to the Gnostic Gospels Meera Lester Willis Barnstone Marvin W. Meyer Elaine Pagels Marvin W. Meyer Marvin W. Meyer Marvin Meyer J. Michael Matkin

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

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

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 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

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 meaning of the nag hammadi now in paperback opens the with the thrilling adventure story of the discovery of the ancient papyrii at nag hammadi muhammad ali the fellahin discovered the sealed jar he feared that it might contain a jinni or spirit but also had heard of hidden treasures in such jars greed overcame his fears and when he smashed open the jar gold seemed to float into the air to his disappointment it was papyrus fragmenst not gold but for scholars around the world it was invaluable meyer then discusses the pre christian forms of wisdom that went onto influence what christians believe today in addition some nag hammadi texts are attributed to valentinus a man who almost became pope and whose rejection changed the church in significant ways text by text 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

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

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

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

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 entr [see to the pleasures of gnostic literature in general

representing as they do the greatest masterpieces of that tradition

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

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Introduction

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