

# Essential Gnostic Scriptures Paperback

The Gnostic Bible The Gnostic Bible The Everything Gnostic Gospels Book The Gnostic Scriptures The Gnostic Gospels of Jesus The Gnostic Gospels The Nag Hammadi Scriptures The Secret Book of John The Gnostic Discoveries The Gospel of Thomas The Secret History of the Gnostics In the Shadow of the Temple The Legacy of Hans Jonas Mary Magdalene's Dreaming Polemical Encounters The Quest First Century Gnosticism The Gnostic Gospels The Secret Teachings of Jesus Essential Gnostic Scriptures Willis Barnstone Willis Barnstone Meera Lester Joseph Lumpkin Marvin W. Meyer Elaine Pagels Marvin W. Meyer Marvin W. Meyer History Academy Andrew Philip Smith Oskar Skarsaune Hava Tirosh-Samuelson Steven Strong Olav Hammer Gerard van Groningen Elaine H. Pagels Marvin Meyer The Gnostic Bible The Gnostic Bible The Everything Gnostic Gospels Book The Gnostic Scriptures The Gnostic Gospels of Jesus The Gnostic Gospels The Nag Hammadi Scriptures The Secret Book of John The Gnostic Discoveries The Gospel of Thomas The Secret History of the Gnostics In the Shadow of the Temple The Legacy of Hans Jonas Mary Magdalene's Dreaming Polemical Encounters The Quest First Century Gnosticism The Gnostic Gospels The Secret Teachings of Jesus Essential Gnostic Scriptures *Willis Barnstone Willis Barnstone Meera Lester Joseph Lumpkin Marvin W. Meyer Elaine Pagels Marvin W. Meyer Marvin W. Meyer History Academy Andrew Philip Smith Oskar Skarsaune Hava Tirosh-Samuelson Steven Strong Olav Hammer Gerard van Groningen Elaine H. Pagels Marvin Meyer*

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

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 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 also included are introductions notes an extensive glossary and a wealth of suggestions for further reading

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

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

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

as discussed in the da vinci code long buried and suppressed the gnostic gospels contain the secret writings attributed to the followers of jesus in 1945 fifty two papyrus texts including gospels and other secret documents were found concealed in an earthenware jar buried in the egyptian desert these so called gnostic writings were coptic translations from the original greek dating from the time of the new testament the material they embodied poems quasi philosophical descriptions of the origins of the universe myths magic and instructions for mystic practice were later declared

heretical as they offered a powerful alternative to the orthodox christian tradition in a book that is as exciting as it is scholarly elaine pagels examines these texts and the questions they pose and shows why gnosticism was eventually stamped out by the increasingly organised and institutionalised orthodox church

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

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

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

gnosticism has travelled a fascinating path from the manichaeans in persia between the 3rd and 7th centuries 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 the revival of gnosticism extends further than these 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 the secret history of the gnostics is not simply an authoritative account of one sect's practical beliefs and customs it is in effect a manifesto an appeal to those inspired by or drawn to the gnostic faith not to forget its origins

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

hans jonas 1903 1993 was one of the most creative and original jewish thinkers of the twentieth century this volume offers a retrospective of jonas's life and works by bringing together historians of modern germany judaica scholars philosophers bioethicists and environmentalists to reflect on the meaning of his legacy today from a historian of religions who wrote a path breaking monograph on gnosticism jonas turned to the philosophy of nature extending his existential philosophy and phenomenological analysis to include all forms of life unique among twentieth century jewish philosophers jonas argued for the possibility of a genuinely symbiotic relationship between humanity and nature which he believed had been suppressed by modern technology jonas spoke against the human domination of nature on the basis of jewish sources especially the bible and lurianic kabbalah and he was among the

first to define the ethical challenges that modern technology poses to humanity

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

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

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

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

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