



Beliefs and Practices

JOHN GARDNER HUGHES

Gnosticism Beliefs And Practices Religious Beliefs And Practices

John A Saliba



Gnosticism Beliefs And Practices Religious Beliefs And Practices:

Gnosticism John Glyndwr Harris,1999 Harris former head of the religious studies department at Gwent and author of scholarly volumes on religious topics introduces the basic ideas and practices of Gnosticism a system of religious and philosophical beliefs which was widely embraced in the earlier centuries of Christianity Distributed by ISBS Annotation copyrighted by Book News Inc Portland OR

Psychedelic Mystery Traditions Thomas Hatsis,2018-09-11 A comprehensive look at the long tradition of psychedelic magic and religion in Western Civilization Explores the use of psychedelics and entheogens from Neolithic times through Antiquity the Middle Ages and the Renaissance to the Victorian era and beyond Reveals how psychedelics were integrated into pagan and Christian magical practices and demonstrates how one might employ a psychedelic agent for divination sex magic alchemy communication with gods and more Examines the role of entheogens in the Mysteries of Eleusis in Greece the worship of Isis in Egypt the Dionysian mysteries and the magical practices of the Thessalian witches as well as Jewish Roman and Gnostic traditions Unbeknownst or unacknowledged by many there is a long tradition of psychedelic magic and religion in Western civilization As Thomas Hatsis reveals the discovery of the power of psychedelics and entheogens can be traced to the very first prehistoric expressions of human creativity with a continuing lineage of psychedelic mystery traditions from antiquity through the Renaissance to the Victorian era and beyond Describing how when and why different peoples in the Western world utilized sacred psychedelic plants Hatsis examines the full range of magical and spiritual practices that include the ingestion of substances to achieve altered states He discusses how psychedelics facilitated divinatory dream states for our ancient Neolithic ancestors and helped them find shamanic portals to the spirit world Exploring the mystery religions that adopted psychedelics into their occult rites he examines the role of entheogens in the Mysteries of Eleusis in Greece the worship of Isis in Egypt and the psychedelic wines and spirits that accompanied the Dionysian mysteries The author investigates the magical mystery traditions of the Thessalian witches as well as Jewish Roman and Gnostic traditions He reveals how psychedelics were integrated into pagan and Christian magical practices and demonstrates how one might employ a psychedelic agent for divination magic alchemy or god and goddess invocation He explores the use of psychedelics by Middle Eastern and medieval magicians and looks at the magical use of cannabis and opium from the Crusaders to Aleister Crowley From ancient priestesses and Christian gnostics to alchemists wise women and Victorian magicians Hatsis shows how psychedelic practices have been an integral part of the human experience since Neolithic times

Perspectives on New Religious Movements John A. Saliba,2016-10-06 This book provides a dispassionate analysis of new religious movements charting their growth and examining them from a variety of perspectives sociological psychological legal and theological Saliba then questions whether or not membership harms those who join these new movements and assesses the charge that they brainwash their adherents

The New Thought Movement in Healthcare Gabriel Andrade,2025-05-17 This book delves into the evolution of the New Thought

Movement and its pervasive influence on modern healthcare The book begins by tracing the roots of the New Thought Movement originating in the 19th century emphasizing the power of the mind in healing and personal development Over time this philosophy morphed into the contemporary positive thinking industry becoming a significant component of Western self help culture The book explores how these ideas have become a contentious point in today s culture wars polarized between supporters who credit it for personal empowerment and critics who highlight its limitations and potential harm Central to the discussion is an in depth analysis of the New Thought philosophy s impact on the healthcare industry While acknowledging the potential benefits such as motivating patients to adopt healthier lifestyles and fostering a sense of personal agency the book critically examines how this philosophy s emphasis on mental positivity can lead to victim blaming It argues that oversimplifying health issues by attributing them solely to personal mindset obscures the multifaceted reality of health particularly the significant role of social determinants of health and systemic inequities This critique underscores how attributing illness to insufficient positive thinking can perpetuate stigma and neglect the socio economic and environmental factors critical for understanding and addressing health challenges By offering a nuanced perspective the book aims to catalyze discussions on integrating mindful optimism with a holistic acknowledgment of the complexities inherent in healthcare striving for a more balanced and equitable approach

Understanding New Religious Movements John A Saliba,2004-09-08 Discussions of any religion can easily raise passions But arguments tend to become even more heated when the religion under discussion is characterized as new Divisions around the study of new religious movements NRMs or cults or nontraditional or alternative or emergent religions are so acute that there is even controversy over what to call them John Saliba strives to bring balance to these discussions by offering perspectives on new religions from different academic perspectives history psychology sociology law theology and counseling This approach provides rich descriptions of a broad range of movements while demonstrating how the differing aims of the disciplines can create much of the controversy around NRMs The new second edition has been updated and revised throughout and includes a new foreword by noted historian of religion J Gordon Melton For classes in religion or the social sciences or for interested individuals Understanding New Religious Movements offers the most objective introduction possible

ARCHAEOLOGY & THE NEW TESTAMENT Edward D. Andrews,2023-03-05 Archaeology the New Testament is the perfect book for those interested in the world of the New Testament and the history of early Christianity This comprehensive volume brings together the latest discoveries and research from the field of archaeology to provide a unique perspective on the material culture of the ancient world and its contributions to our understanding of the biblical text Each chapter is organized thematically providing a comprehensive overview of the ways in which archaeology can enhance our understanding of the New Testament With its interdisciplinary approach to the past this book is a valuable resource for scholars and students of archaeology biblical studies and related fields as well as for general readers with an interest in the history and culture of the ancient world By reading Archaeology

the New Testament you will gain new insights into the world of the first century CE and the development of the history of Christianity from its beginnings up to the present day

What is Gnosticism? Karen L. King, 2003 A study of gnosticism examines the various ways early Christians strove to define themselves in a pluralistic Roman society while questioning the traditional ideas of heresy and orthodoxy that have previously influenced historians *Gnosticism, Platonism and the Late Ancient World* Kevin Corrigan, Tuomas Rasimus, 2013-07-25 This Festschrift honors the life and work of John D Turner Charles J Mach University Professor of Classics and History at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln on the occasion of his 75th birthday Professor Turner's work has been of profound importance for the study of the interaction between Greek philosophy and Gnosticism in late antiquity This volume contains essays by international scholars on a broad range of topics that deal with Sethian Valentinian and other early Christian thought as well as with Platonism and Neoplatonism and offer a variety of perspectives spanning intellectual history Greek and Coptic philology and the study of religions *The Gnostic New Age* April D. DeConick, 2016-09-27 Gnosticism is a countercultural spirituality that forever changed the practice of Christianity Before it emerged in the second century passage to the afterlife required obedience to God and king Gnosticism proposed that human beings were manifestations of the divine unsettling the hierarchical foundations of the ancient world Subversive and revolutionary Gnostics taught that prayer and mediation could bring human beings into an ecstatic spiritual union with a transcendent deity This mystical strain affected not just Christianity but many other religions and it characterizes our understanding of the purpose and meaning of religion today In *The Gnostic New Age* April D DeConick recovers this vibrant underground history to prove that Gnosticism was not suppressed or defeated by the Catholic Church long ago nor was the movement a fabrication to justify the violent repression of alternative forms of Christianity Gnosticism alleviated human suffering soothing feelings of existential brokenness and alienation through the promise of renewal as God DeConick begins in ancient Egypt and follows with the rise of Gnosticism in the Middle Ages the advent of theosophy and other occult movements in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and contemporary New Age spiritual philosophies As these theories find expression in science fiction and fantasy films DeConick sees evidence of Gnosticism's next incarnation Her work emphasizes the universal countercultural appeal of a movement that embodies much more than a simple challenge to religious authority

[A Layman's Guide To](#) C. Jack Trickler, 2010-02-04 This history of the origins and development of Christian denominations is in layman's language Readers will not become bogged down in technical or archaic terms Begin by reading about the Christian groups denominations that developed in the time between Jesus crucifixion and the formal origins of the Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches Learn how the Roman empire came to accept Christianity as its religion of the cooperation and struggles between the Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches and how that led to their separation Read about how the Black Death the Crusades the struggles within the Roman Catholic Church led some church leaders such as Martin Luther to attempt to reform the church and how those attempts led to The Reformation That opened

the door to England declaring that the Church of England the Anglican Church is the true Christian church John Calvin laid the ground work for what became the Presbyterian and the Reformed churches Then came the Huguenots and the Walloons and the Puritan Pilgrims who came to America and evolved into such as the Congregationalists Back in England the Quakers experienced persecution that encouraged them to move to America John Wesley began what evolved into Methodism The American Revolution caused American churches of English origin to separate from their English roots and to become such as the Episcopalians and the Methodists Read about the history of the many denominations that have come into being in The United States There are the numerous Christian churches the Unitarians Spiritualist churches Mormons Adventists Jehovahs Witnesses Christian Science Pentecostalism and many independent non denominational churches It is fascinating history and all in laymans language **The Nag Hammadi Library for travellers** , The All Complete Guides team comprises a dedicated group of experts who specialize in creating comprehensive resources for travel city exploration and language learning Our experts have journeyed to every corner of the globe from the bustling streets of the world s most vibrant cities to the serene landscapes of hidden destinations Their extensive travel experiences ensure that each guide is packed with practical tips insider knowledge and must see attractions making every trip an unforgettable experience Gnosticism and the New Testament PHEME PERKINS,1993 The gnostic writings found at Nag Hammadi have stimulated much controversy about the relationship between early Christians and the diverse religious movement of the first three centuries Perkins fills the New Testament student s need for a guide to recent developments in scholarship with a helpful survey that addresses the origins of Gnosticism its relationship to Judaism Redeemer myths and New Testament hymns and other relevant topics

Unsafe Sects Roger E. Olson,2023-08-29 For some decades American and other culture has been obsessed with cults But what does cult mean How should a religious group be identified as a cult Who joins cults and why These and other questions are answered in this book It provides a basic introduction to cults unsafe sects especially from an orthodox Christian perspective Here readers will also find accounts of the author s personal experiences of cults **Theory and Practice of Yoga** Knut A. Jacobsen,2018-08-14 This collection of original essays provides fascinating insights into yoga as a historical and pluralistic phenomenon flourishing in a variety of religious and philosophical contexts They cover a wide variety of traditions and topics related to Yoga Classical Yoga S khya Tantric Yoga Bhakti Yoga the Guru Indic Islamic traditions of Yoga Yoga and asceticism in contemporary India and the reception of Yoga in the West The essays are written by eighteen professors in the field of the history of religions most of them former graduate students of Gerald James Larson Larson is Rabindranath Tagore Professor Emeritus Indiana University Bloomington Professor Emeritus Religious Studies University of California Santa Barbara an internationally acclaimed scholar on the history of religions and philosophies of India and one of the world s foremost authorities on the Samkhya and Yoga traditions The publication is in honour of him

History of Spiritual Practices Nicky Huys,2025-10-05 History of Spiritual Practices takes readers on an enlightening

journey through the evolution of spiritual beliefs and practices across cultures and time From ancient rituals to modern mindfulness techniques this book delves into the rich tapestry of human spirituality It explores various traditions highlighting key figures milestones and transformative experiences that have shaped spiritual practices worldwide Readers will discover the connections between different belief systems and the common threads that unite humanity's search for meaning With insightful analysis and captivating stories this book invites both seekers and scholars to reflect on the profound impact of spirituality on individual lives and society as a whole Whether you are new to the topic or well versed in spiritual traditions this comprehensive exploration offers a fresh perspective on the essence of belief and its enduring presence in our lives

Gnosticism: A Note on the Philosophical School Pons Malleus, 2025-07-10 In an age flooded with information and noise where the material and measurable often overshadow the inner and ineffable a rediscovery of Gnosticism offers a strikingly modern relevance This book is an invitation to journey into a philosophical worldview that defied the orthodoxies of its time and perhaps still defies those of our own Gnosticism often misunderstood or dismissed as a heretical fragment of early Christian history is far more than a set of outlawed scriptures or esoteric rituals It is a mode of thought a way of being and a profound challenge to the prevailing paradigms of existence knowledge and salvation At its heart Gnosticism confronts a perennial human condition the deep sense that the world as we experience it is somehow not as it should be that we are exiles in a cosmos that conceals more than it reveals Gnostics dared to name this unease to mythologize it and to systematize it into a metaphysical framework that combined ancient mythology Platonic philosophy and radical introspection For the Gnostics the material world was not merely flawed but fundamentally alien a creation of lesser powers a prison of the soul Salvation they claimed comes not from belief or obedience but through gnosis direct transformative knowledge of the divine spark within This book does not aim to romanticize Gnosticism nor to reduce it to a single unified doctrine It is neither a defense of Gnosticism nor an attack on its critics Rather it is an attempt to understand it as a living breathing philosophical tradition complex diverse and internally contested The reader will encounter the major themes of Gnostic thought the demiurge and the pleroma the fall of Sophia the cosmic drama of entrapment and awakening and the radical anthropology that sees the human being not as a sinner to be redeemed but as a divine fragment to be remembered We will examine Gnosticism in its historical context arising in the melting pot of Hellenistic religious ferment drawing from Jewish mysticism Persian dualism and Greek metaphysics We will explore the writings of key Gnostic texts from the Apocryphon of John to the Gospel of Thomas and consider the philosophical implications of their often cryptic and poetic insights At the same time we will trace the influence of Gnostic ideas through the centuries in the mystics of medieval Europe the dissenting sects of the Renaissance and even in modern existential and psychological thought Why does Gnosticism endure Perhaps because it speaks to a timeless intuition that the path to truth lies not in submission to external authority but in awakening to something buried within In a world increasingly dominated by systems that reduce human beings to data points and citizens to

consumers the Gnostic refusal to accept appearances at face value is not just subversive it is necessary I invite you to suspend your assumptions to read not only with your intellect but with your inner ear Gnosticism may not offer clear answers but it poses questions that remain uncannily alive It calls us to remember to seek and above all to know *The Secret History of the Gnostics* Andrew Philip Smith,2016-09-22 Andrew Phillip Smith is editor of The Gnostic and the author of several books on Gnosticism esotericism and early Christianity including the first ever dictionary of Gnosticism He has also written for New Dawn Fortean Times and the Guardian **One God in One Man** C. T. Benedict,2007 This book aims to enlighten the readers to the reasons and arguments for believing in the existence of God Jesus Christ is the true Messiah and to disprove the unfounded and blasphemous allegations made against Christ and the Universal Church by some fictional writers who have attempted to ridicule Christ and to reduce the standing of the Gospel to a product of political forces which allegedly operated to determine as to which text should be included in the Canon and which should be edited out rather than considering the Gospel as the literal work of God Jesus' Death in New Testament Thought: Two-Volume Complete Edition David A. Brondos,2018-07-16 Jesus Death in New Testament Thought is unlike anything written on the subject to date It represents a radical break with the traditional models or theories of atonement based on ideas such as penal substitution participation in Christ and the Christus Victor motif claiming that all of these ideas as commonly understood are foreign to New Testament thought On the basis of his analysis of second temple Jewish thought Brondos demonstrates that for Jews in antiquity what atoned for sins and led people to be declared righteous in God s sight was not sacrifice suffering or death in themselves but the renewed commitment to living in accordance with God s will which they manifested by means of their sacrificial offerings and at times their willingness to endure suffering and death out of faithfulness to that will According to the thought of Jesus first followers in accordance with a divine plan conceived of before the ages in Jesus God had sent his Son in order to establish around him a community of people fully committed to practicing the love justice solidarity and righteousness associated with God s will for all Jesus dedication to this task led to confrontation and conflict with the powers and authorities of his day who sought to silence him by having him put to death Because he stood firm and remained faithful to that task rather than backing down from it he was crucified on a Roman cross Paradoxically however in this way he laid the basis for the existence of the community God had desired from the start stamping it forever as one to which no one could truly belong without assuming the same firm commitment to Jesus and everything for which he had lived and died Those who form part of this community living out of faith under Jesus as their risen Lord come to practice God s will as redefined through Jesus and on that basis are forgiven and accepted as righteous by God Thus by giving up his life out of love for others in faithfulness to the task his Father had given him Jesus has attained the redemption reconciliation cleansing and justification of those who now live under his lordship as members of the worldwide community of believers from all nations that God has established through him and his death in fulfillment of the promises that God had made of old to his people

Israel In Volume 1 Brondos looks to the relevant texts from antiquity to trace the background and development of these ideas His argument will leave the reader with no doubt that Jesus first followers understood the salvific significance of his death or blood in the manner just outlined and therefore that the traditional interpretations of his death that have prevailed from patristic times to the present do not reflect faithfully their thought as we find it in the New Testament In Volume 2 Brondos examines the formulaic allusions to Jesus death that we find scattered throughout the New Testament and other early Christian writings so as to demonstrate that these are precisely the ideas that lie behind those allusions At the same time through his analysis of the writings of Melito of Sardis and Irenaeus of Lyons he provides clear evidence that by the late second century ideas that are foreign to those texts began to be read back into them with the result that the original understandings of Jesus death that had developed among his first followers came to be replaced by other understandings that run contrary to their thought In his Conclusion Brondos argues that only by rejecting the traditional models of atonement and returning to the New Testament teaching on this central doctrine can the Christian church respond effectively to the crisis it faces today and bring about the restoration of the type of communities envisioned by Jesus and his first followers

Jesus' Death in New Testament Thought Volume 2: Texts David A. Brondos, 2018-04-25 Jesus Death in New Testament Thought is unlike anything written on the subject to date It represents a radical break with the traditional models or theories of atonement based on ideas such as penal substitution participation in Christ and the Christus Victor motif claiming that all of these ideas as commonly understood are foreign to New Testament thought On the basis of his analysis of second temple Jewish thought Brondos demonstrates that for Jews in antiquity what atoned for sins and led people to be declared righteous in God's sight was not sacrifice suffering or death in themselves but the renewed commitment to living in accordance with God's will which they manifested by means of their sacrificial offerings and at times their willingness to endure suffering and death out of faithfulness to that will According to the thought of Jesus first followers in accordance with a divine plan conceived of before the ages in Jesus God had sent his Son in order to establish around him a community of people fully committed to practicing the love justice solidarity and righteousness associated with God's will for all Jesus dedication to this task led to confrontation and conflict with the powers and authorities of his day who sought to silence him by having him put to death Because he stood firm and remained faithful to that task rather than backing down from it he was crucified on a Roman cross Paradoxically however in this way he laid the basis for the existence of the community God had desired from the start stamping it forever as one to which no one could truly belong without assuming the same firm commitment to Jesus and everything for which he had lived and died Those who form part of this community living out of faith under Jesus as their risen Lord come to practice God's will as redefined through Jesus and on that basis are forgiven and accepted as righteous by God Thus by giving up his life out of love for others in faithfulness to the task his Father had given him Jesus has attained the redemption reconciliation cleansing and justification of those who now live under his lordship as members of the worldwide

community of believers from all nations that God has established through him and his death in fulfillment of the promises that God had made of old to his people Israel In Volume 1 Brondos looks to the relevant texts from antiquity to trace the background and development of these ideas His argument will leave the reader with no doubt that Jesus first followers understood the salvific significance of his death or blood in the manner just outlined and therefore that the traditional interpretations of his death that have prevailed from patristic times to the present do not reflect faithfully their thought as we find it in the New Testament In Volume 2 Brondos examines the formulaic allusions to Jesus death that we find scattered throughout the New Testament and other early Christian writings so as to demonstrate that these are precisely the ideas that lie behind those allusions At the same time through his analysis of the writings of Melito of Sardis and Irenaeus of Lyons he provides clear evidence that by the late second century ideas that are foreign to those texts began to be read back into them with the result that the original understandings of Jesus death that had developed among his first followers came to be replaced by other understandings that run contrary to their thought In his Conclusion Brondos argues that only by rejecting the traditional models of atonement and returning to the New Testament teaching on this central doctrine can the Christian church respond effectively to the crisis it faces today and bring about the restoration of the type of communities envisioned by Jesus and his first followers

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