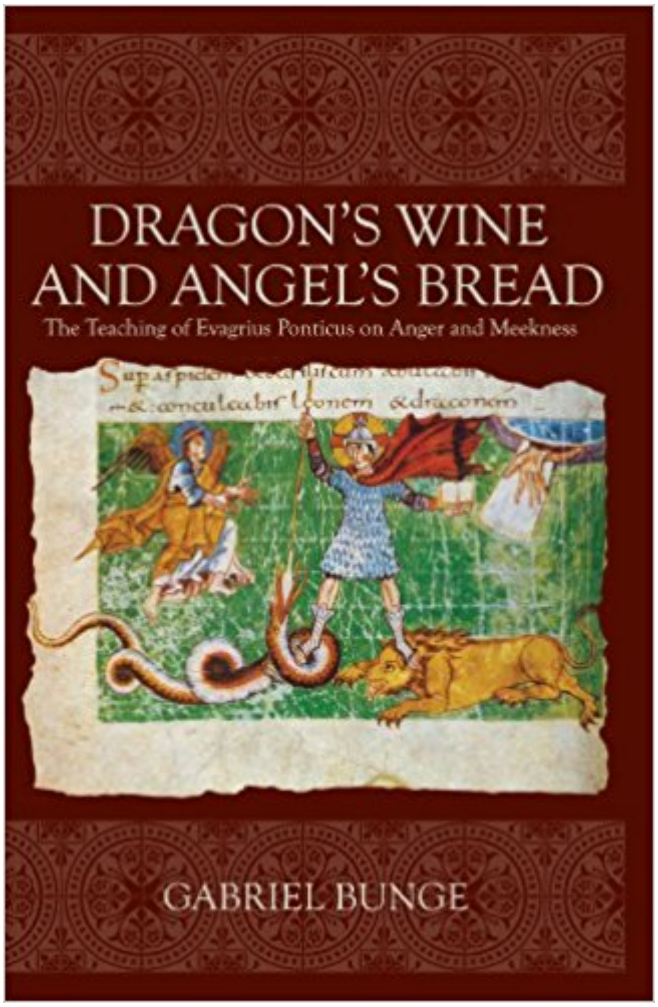
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Dragon's Wine And Angel's Bread: The Teaching Of Evagrius Ponticus On Anger And Meekness



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Synopsis

Evagrius Ponticus (343 399 AD) spent sixteen years in the desert of Egypt, where he gained the gift of insight into the human soul. His writings influenced the theology of John Cassian, Diadochus of Photike, Maximus the Confessor, and Palladius. Evagrius image of the human being, profoundly biblical, allowed for a perceptive understanding of anger, its causes, consequences and cures. His major study on the topic not ordinarily coveredin works of theology appears here in the English language for the first time and offers timeless wisdom on struggling with this passion.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The author Father Gabriel Bunge, OSB, possesses a thorough knowledge of patristic literature and is known worldwide for his writings on contemplative prayer. The translator Anthony P. Gythiel is the Professor of Medieval Renaissance, Reformation, and Patristics studies at Wichita State University. He has translated numerous books that deal with the theology of the early Christian East, including The Mystery of the Trinity and The Compassion of the Father, by Boris Bobrinskoy, also published by SVS Press.

This book is about anger, the root causes. It is truthful and will make the reader search inward for their own root causes of anger. It will make the reader face their own inner demons and see how outward forces mock the human when their worst qualities rule their souls. One will not be the same after reading it.

Until I stumbled across this book because of an SVS ad on a social media site, I had never heard of Gabriel Bunge and all I knew about Evagrius Ponticus is that he was an ancient monk.Now, after reading it, I am very sorry I hadn't started reading Evagrius Ponticus earlier in my life. He was a remarkably deep and introspective thinker. As a monk in Egypt in the late 4th century, he wrote about issues like anger, wrath, bad dreams, and psychology all analyzed through the lens of Christian Theology, his personal mystical experiences, and platonic philosophy.As a window into 4th century monastic thought, this book is thoroughly engaging and very interesting. As a practical guide to living a Christ-like life apart from the terrible influence of personal anger, this book is indispensable. I have read other self help books in my life about anger and attitude, but none of them can even compare to Evagrius Ponticus' thought as illuminated by the learned Gabriel Bunge. This book has been so helpful to me and has given me the right, Christian vision to help deal with the roots and causes of anger.

Yeah!

A learned devotional book grounded on the most important figure for Christian spirituality all times. I write learned devotional in the sense of making a great spiritual leader available to many more than a relative little group of university researchers without compromising its value. Bunge widens perspectives to and makes available Evagrius Ponticus' thought in the specific context of the relationship between spiritual development towards pure concept less prayer and the inner forces of the human psyche as understood by the same Evagrius. As a leader for "meditation" groups in my local church, this sort of literature helps me make available a long Christian tradition claiming intimate communion with God beyond the subjects ideas of God and ideas of itself in the secularized, and may times eclectic, context of Swedish parish folk. I'm only sorry that neither Evagrius nor this type of literature based on Evagrius is available in Swedish.

Didn't find it to be what I was looking for.

This was not in a simple monk-style simplistic form. Not an easy read, but I got through it. I bought it for my college age son. He reads it slowly as well., as it is not an entertaining book. You can still glean the concept from it .

An exceptionally challenging book for me, given anger and short-temperedness is a struggle of mine; but a book I am so glad I read.This is an exceptionally readable, so thanks to Fr Gabriel Bunge OSB and Anthony P. Gythiel who translated it from the German, examination of the teaching of the fourth-century ascetic Evagrius Ponticus on anger (the Dragon's Wine) and meekness (the Angel's Bread).Evagrius Ponticus' teaching is firmly rooted in Scripture and, as Fr Bunge OSB s...more An exceptionally challenging book for me, given anger and short-temperedness is a struggle of mine; but a book I am so glad I read.This is an exceptionally readable, so thanks to Fr Gabriel Bunge OSB and Anthony P. Gythiel who translated it from the German, examination of the teaching of the fourth-century ascetic Evagrius Ponticus on anger (the Dragon's Wine) and meekness (the Angel's Bread).Evagrius Ponticus' teaching is firmly rooted in Scripture and, as Fr Bunge OSB shows, his teaching brings out the warnings against and consequences of anger in all its forms: physical, mental, emotional and spiritual, and the fact that falling in and partaking of the Dragon's Wine of anger leads to us being less than what we were created to be: we are not the unified body and soul God created us to be.As mentioned, this was a challenging book for me, and perhaps all the more challenging as two other books I am reading ('The Ladder of Divine Ascent' and 'Bread & Water, Wine & Oil: An Orthodox Christian Experience of God') as well as some talks I have listened to have also brought out the issue of the human being not existing as a true and complete union of body, mind and soul.But there is no despair, no dwelling on the negatives only, for, as always, there is the Grace of God to help us work on and develop the virtues, of which meekness as the antidote to anger is the one Evagrius describes. And, in Christ, there is that hope of the development of the virtues, and that call to live as we were created: in a true and loving union with the Blessed Trinity. Through the Grace of God, I pray I may make that journey.

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