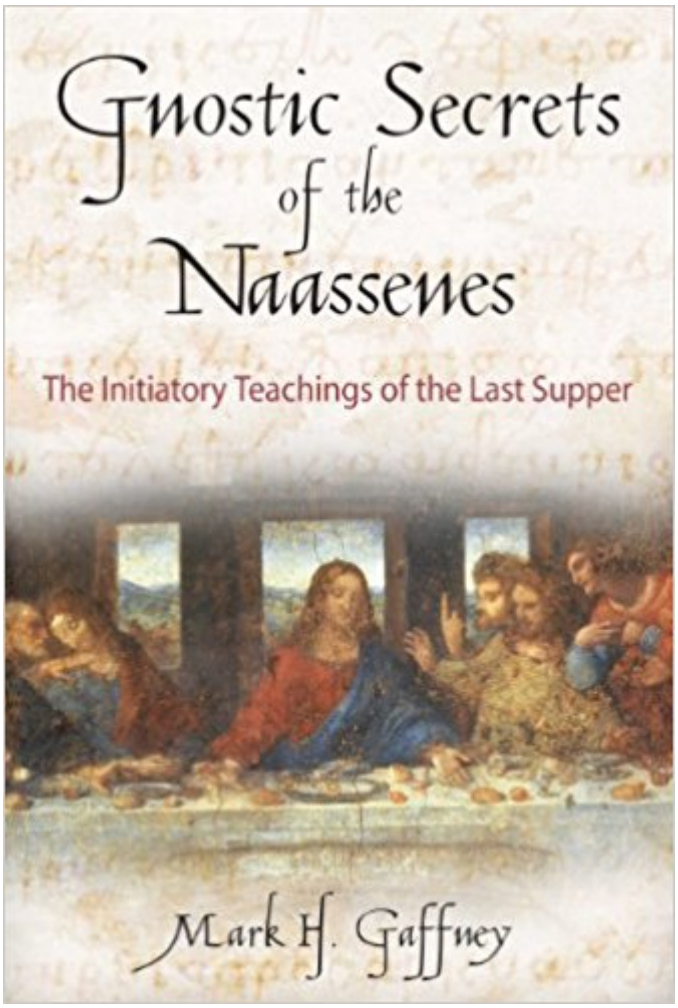
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Gnostic Secrets Of The Naassenes: The Initiatory Teachings Of The Last Supper



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Synopsis

Reveals the hidden meaning of the Grail and a secret Christian doctrine for achieving higher consciousnessÃ¢â ¬Â¢ Shows that Gnosticism is not a derivative of Christianity but the revelation of the true message of JesusÃ¢â ¬Â¢ Describes the ancient relationship between water and spiritÃ¢â ¬Â¢ Explains the doctrine of immanence taught by Jesus at the Last SupperÃ¢â ¬Â¢ Features the translated source text from The Refutation of All Heresies by Bishop Hippolytus, the only existing record of the Naassene SermonIn the third century C.E., the Catholic Bishop Hippolytus composed A Refutation of All Heresies in which his chief target was the Gnostic sect the Naassenes, whose writings included a recounting of JesusÃ¢â ¬â„¢ actual teachings at the Last Supper. Contrary to Church attacks, the Naassenes were not a heretical derivative of Christianity but the authentic foundation and purveyor of ChristÃ¢â ¬â„¢s message. In fact, much of what passes as Christianity has nothing to do with the original teachings of its founder.The message recorded in the Naassene Sermon was intended for an inner circle of disciples who were prepared for advanced initiation into JesusÃ¢â ¬â„¢ wisdom teachings. The Grail discussed therein was not an actual chalice but a symbol of the indwelling of the divine. The teachings involved the awakening of spirit and included practices aimed at restoring the soulÃ¢â ¬â„¢s lost connection with God. Immanence, in the true sense intended by Jesus, thus allows for spiritual attainment in this life by ordinary individuals without the intermediary of Church or priest. This was the real meaning of the Last Supper and why the Naassenes believed that Jesus was the fulfillment of all the Mystery traditions.

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Mysticism

Customer Reviews

". . . an amazing work. . . . It offers a recreation of the original teachings of the Naassenes and shows a deep knowledge of the esoteric traditions at the heart of all the world's religions. . . . revealing that at its heart early Christianity had a living Yoga centered round the awakening of the divine within." (Robert Burns, New Dawn, Nov-Dec 2004)Ã¢â ¬Å“Luckily for us, books such as GaffneyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s are now bringing God out of Heaven and putting Him where He belongs: in our world, and in us.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Janet Brennan, Fate, May 2005)". . . tying together some very diverse materials into a coherent and logical system of cosmology." (Institute for Hermetic Studies, October 2004)". . . one book that not only makes the spiritual connections between East and West, but exposes some of the reasons why modern Christianity lacks some of the power that it was originally infused with. . . . a book that you'll want to take back off the shelf again and again because it's that important." (Mark Williams, The Midwest Book Review, Apr 2005)

GNOSTICISM / CHRISTIANITYIn the third century C.E. the Catholic bishop Hippolytus composed A Refutation of All Heresies, which chiefly targeted the Naassenes, a Gnostic sect whose writings included a recounting of JesusÃ¢â ¬â„¢ actual teachings at the Last Supper. Ironically, Hippolytus includes this key Ã¢â ¬Å“hereticalÃ¢â ¬Â• text in Book 5 of his condemnation--now referred to as the Naassene Sermon--which would otherwise have been lost to us. Contrary to the denouncements of the Church, the sermon shows that the Naassenes were not a heretical derivative of Christianity but instead were purveyors of ChristÃ¢â ¬â„¢s authentic message. In Gnostic Secrets of the Naassenes Mark Gaffney deciphers the message recorded in the highly symbolic Naassene Sermon, a lesson intended for an inner circle of disciples who were prepared for advanced initiation into JesusÃ¢â ¬â„¢ wisdom teachings. These teachings address the awakening of spirit and include practices aimed at restoring the soulÃ¢â ¬â„¢s lost connection to God. Most important, however, is their revelation of the central truth of immanence--the indwelling of the Divine as symbolized by the Grail. According to the Naassenes, immanence in the true sense intended by Jesus allows for spiritual attainment by ordinary Christians in this life without the intermediary of Church or priest. This was the real meaning of the Last Supper and why the Naassenes believed that Jesus was the fulfillment of all the Mystery traditions. MARK H. GAFFNEY is the author of Dimona: The Third Temple? and The First Tree of the Day. He lives in Oregon

Excellent work to gain more depth of understanding for those already somewhat grounded in Gnostic history, philosophy and theology. Without an introduction, it might prove too much. I've read and written about Gnosticism for decades and found myself challenged. But also pleasantly surprised to discover there were actual Gnostic documents, in this case the Naassene Sermon, that had been found, translated and analyzed without all the judgements of heresy that have marred or destroyed such material throughout history.I admit to a sense of incompletion when I finished reading the book. I can ascribe that to a few different sources. 1) The essence of Gnosticism has to be personally experienced; no book, no matter how inspired, can get that across; I get from Gaffney that it can be experienced, but I still have to do the work. 2) This is deep stuff, all originally in now dead languages; it requires pondering. 3) There has been so much misinformation, intentional and otherwise of the subject of the teachings of Jesus that many old (and erroneous) ideas have to go before they can be replaced with the Gnostic vision of Immanence. The "jealous" God of the Old Testament has to be retired before the God Within can take Its place. Mark Gaffney's work is a giant step in the right direction.

A most interesting book, which posits that Christianity missed the core of the teachings which Jesus left behind in it's scramble toward orthodoxy and consolidation of power during the Council of Nicea and later such meetings.The author makes a pretty fair argument that the Gnostic concept of immanence was an essential part of the message which Jesus wanted to pass on to his followers. In particular, the teachings of the branch of Gnostic called the "Naasseenes" were most closely in tune with this current in Jesus' philosophy, and the Last Supper can be seen as a metaphor for the initiatory process which potentially make each of us recognize the spark of the divine within us. Of course, such knowledge would make the Roman Catholic Church teachings unnecessary, hence the casting of Gnostic teachings into the "outer darkness".I appreciated that the author did not shy away from showing how Pagan teachings influenced the early Christian church and that he does that without apology. I also appreciated the footnoting, which allowed me to verify the quotes. I don't have an extensive library of Gnostic teachings, but if you have a bible, and the most important of the biblical apocrypha texts, you can do this as well. But it is not necessary, and you can read the book with relish without them.I will say that on occasion that I did not agree with what the author extrapolated based on a given texts, sometimes he reaches a bit far in my opinion. But overall I agreed with him and I think this would be an excellent book to read if you are liberal Christian, a student of comparative religion, or a member of an Earth-centered faith. I'm going to donate my copy to the local Unitarian Universalist Church library.

This book is about a gnostic sermon from early Christianity. The sermon was totally preserved, ironically, by a heresiologist name Hippolytus seeking to refute gnostic heresy.The author attempts to interpret the symbology of the sermon by drawing from Old Testament scripture, pagan literature, gnostic writings and even Eastern religion. What the reader ends up getting is a very broad view of humankind's effort to "know" the Divine. Such "gnosis" is available to every person as taught by Jesus (and many other mystics both East and West) at the Last Supper. Anyone can have a direct experience of the Divine Mystery and do so without a mediator such as the church or priest/bishop. This is in keeping with the spirit of gnosticism.Any discussion of the Last Supper always involves a discussion of the Grail. The Grail represents the Divine Presence in matter. This is the teaching of immanence. If indeed Divinity is present in matter, then the Divine is accessible for all. Rather than emphasizing the great gulf between humans and God (which is what orthodoxy teaches), gnosticism emphasizes the closeness of God. The kingdom of heaven is within you. The message and mission of Jesus is to make us conscious of the Divine within each of us. And the cup as receptacle reminds us that we are receptacles of the Divine.I wouldn't recommend this book as a first book on gnosticism. I would recommend reading first "Jesus and the Lost Goddess" by Freke and Gandy, as well as "The Gnostic Gospels" by Pagels and "Gnosticism" by Hoeller.I give it four stars instead of five because the author had several opportunities to delve into the meaning of immanence and its implications for us, but left it a bit short. If indeed the Divine is present in matter there are enormous implications for us as individuals, and for the organized church. An extended commentary on this would have been a great addition to this book. Nevertheless, I recommend this book as a great addition to your gnostic library.

Gaffney is one of the most wonderful writers on the subject of Gnosticism.Clear and concise, intelligent and intuitive, he is among the best .... you will pick his books up time and time again... and then understand why the world is the way it is.

Absolutely brilliant work; excellent referencing to back-up his claims. This is really a work that you have to go over several ties because of the provocative nature of the author's claims. A book that will go to the top shelf of my library.

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