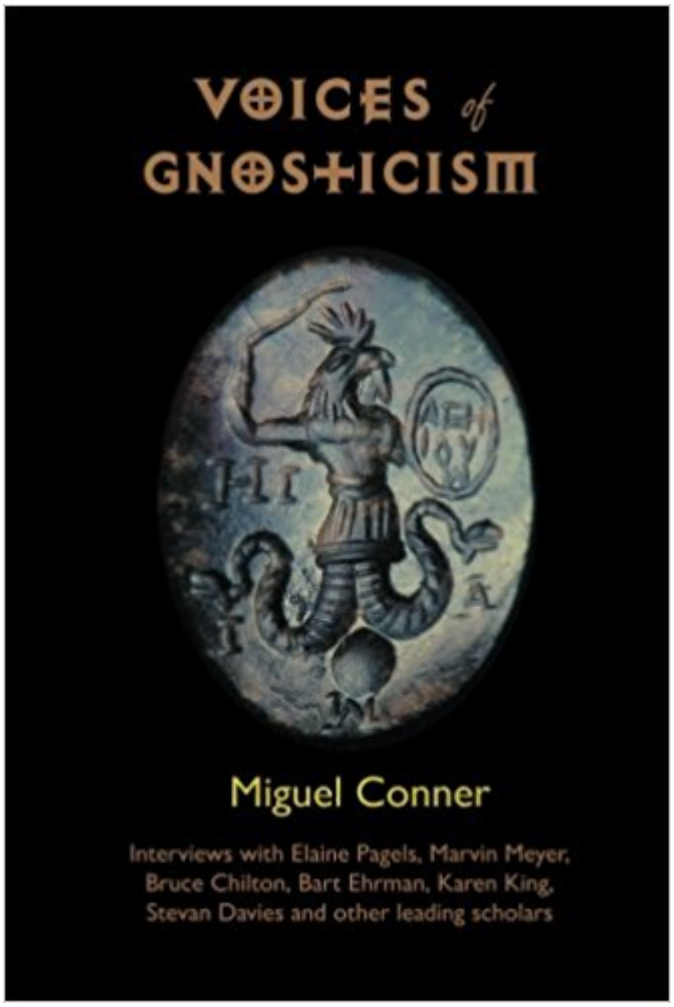
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Voices Of Gnosticism: Interviews With Elaine Pagels, Marvin Meyer, Bart Ehrman, Bruce Chilton And Other Leading Scholars



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Synopsis

For several years, Miguel Conner has engaged the most prominent writers and scholars on Gnosticism and early Christianity on Aeon Byte Gnostic Radio. These interviews with 13 leading scholars represent one of the best ways to get to know ancient Gnosticism, the movement that has inspired Dan Brown, Philip Pullman, Philip K. Dick and The Matrix movies. Read what the best minds have to say about the Gnostic sects, the Gospel of Thomas, the Gospel of Judas, Mary Magdalene, heresy, the origins of Gnosticism, and the original teachings of Jesus. Elaine Pagels * Marvin Meyer * Bart Ehrman * Bruce Chilton * Stevan Davies * David Fideler * Birger Pearson * John Turner * Einar Thomassen * Jason BeDuhn * Karen King * Jane Schaberg * April DeConick Ã¢â ¬Å“Gets at the Gnostics as they were, not as many people today would like them to be.Ã¢â ¬Â• Bruce Chilton, author of The Way of Jesus and Rabbi Paul Ã¢â ¬Å“Aeon Byte is one of the most exciting and far-seeing programs in the world of Webcasting.Ã¢â ¬Â• Richard Smoley, author of Forbidden Faith, The Dice Game of Shiva, and Inner Christianity Ã¢â ¬Å“A great help to all who possess an interest in and/or devotion to the Gnostic tradition. Warmly recommended!Ã¢â ¬Â• Stephan Hoeller, author of Gnosticism: New Light on the Ancient Tradition of Inner Knowing and Jung and the Lost Gospels Ã¢â ¬Å“An invaluable resource for those interested in the history and continuing relevance of Gnosticism.Ã¢â ¬Â• Sean Martin, author of The Gnostics: The First Christian Heretics, The Cathars, and The Knights Templar Ã¢â ¬Å“Sophia and her aeonic friends should be delighted.Ã¢â ¬Â• Marvin Meyer, author of The Gospel of Thomas: The Hidden Sayings of Jesus, The Gospels of Mary Ã¢â ¬Å“You are holding in your hands a Gnostic gem, a book that contains the rich wisdom of thirteen world-renowned scholars who study Gnosticism and the classical world.Ã¢â ¬Â• April D. DeConick, author of The Thirteenth Apostle

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Customer Reviews

This is a wonderful and very readable collection of interviews with thirteen leading scholars in Gnostic studies - including Elaine Pagels, Marvin Meyer, Karen King, April DeConick and other internationally recognized authorities on Gnostic tradition. For several years, Miguel Conner has engaged the most prominent writers and scholars on Gnosticism and early Christianity on his AeonByte Gnostic Radio show, a weekly internet audio podcast. The interviews published here represent some of the best of his many broad-ranging conversations.If you have ever thought it might be interesting to sit down for an informal converstation with "the people who write these books on Gnosticism" -- the books you will find widely referenced and recommended on The Gnosis Archive (gnosis.org) -- then you will very much enjoy this book. While the interviews are animated by the personal commitment each of these scholars feels for Gnostic tradition, they also reveal the wide range of perspectives that now focus on Gnostic studies. These interviews provide one of the best ways to get to know ancient Gnosticism, as seen through the eyes of its best informed modern students. This is fun, easy, and informative reading.

When I read "Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited" in the "Product Details" section for this book, I was hoping this wasn’t some fancy way of saying I could loan it to as many friends as I wanted, but only with a password which expired in 14 days - or some other nonsense such as this. As it turns out, it means just what I was hoping: you can read it with any program that supports the AZW file format.Kudos to the author/publisher for not putting digital rights management (DRM) controls on this book. Several weeks ago, I swore off ever buying another book with DRM from because it prevented me from being able to load it into my library manager - Calibre - and read it with Calibre’s internal reader.As for the content of the book, itself, as a relatively new student of Gnosticism (BTW, I make no apologies to Professor Pagels for the use of this term), I found it extremely invaluable. By bringing together some of the most knowledgeable people on this subject and, in an interview format in which the interlocutor appears to be as knowledgeable as his guests, I was able to grasp the differences between the various Gnostic traditions, the subtlety of which, until now, had mostly confused me.For one who might be swimming in all the books on Gnosticism, wondering which way

to go, Voices gives you a very good sense of who you might want to read next. For my part, I will be avoiding Professors Pagels and King (two individuals who seem not to recognize that Gnostic Christianity is different enough from Orthodox Christianity to deserve its own category) and, instead, moving in the direction of folks like Professors Meyer and DeConick whose views, while starkly different on the role of Judas, both serve to enlighten the reader on some of the core beliefs of Gnosticism.

This is a very readable entry point to contemporary issues in the study of Gnosticism. Thirteen top scholars are interviewed -- thanks to this informal format we learn what these experts really think in their own uncensored words. There's little agreement here, so be prepared to make up your own mind!Special attention is offered to Mary Magdalene, the controversial Gospel of Judas, as well as to incredibly fascinating sects of early Christianity that eventually all but disappeared from history. Thanks to the discovery of ancient texts like those found at Nag Hammadi in Egypt, we have a whole new perspective on the earliest generations of Jesus devotees. Voices of Gnosticism helps us lay readers get a handle on who these people were and what they really believed.

A thorough book describing the history and evolution of early Christianity and the Nostic

I'm sure this was a difficult volume to assemble. Each of the contributors has a slightly different take on what the editor is asking of them. All are recognized authorities, and the editor makes a valiant attempt to hold things together and provide linkage so taken as a whole the reader is treated to a useful range of modern scholarship on the compelling subject of early Christian thought.

This is a hit or miss book in my opinion dont get me wrong its good.I have read almost all of the books discussed in this book and was well familiar with the books and particular subjects that were the topics of the interviews.Some interviews are very insightful some are rather lackluster as well as the questions asked lacked depth, but other times it really shines. why i say its hit or missFor example the if you read the bard d ehrman interview which I thought was basically a summery of every book the guy wrote with out the added biographical bits that ehrman's books are full of . It was a pretty concise summery . To be honest if you dont wan to go through all his books you could skip ehrman's books and just read this interview it sums it up nicely and gets to the major points right away . like a cliff notes .I also liked the Jacob fiddler interview someone who gets very little attention but has grasped some of the most profound spiritual messages of gnosticism.The academic stuff

bored me to tears. The pagels interview was ok i guess, left me feeling " i heard all this before " The weird part that struck me at the very end the interview the questioner compares her to tolken and she replies " i hope i end up like token" than the interview end's It's was really bizarre. i don't know what that means first of all and what does that have to do with the subject? not that theres anything wrong with tolken. it maybe says more about her than anything i suppose. some of the questions like that made me feel annoyed . but berger pilsen and marven mayer and bruce chilton interviews are really spot on! answers you wont find anywhere else .so in the end its worth the money

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