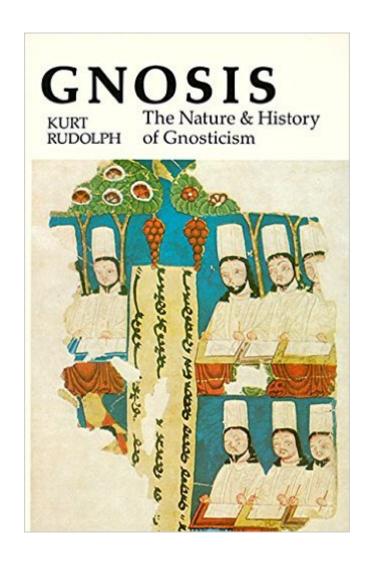
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Gnosis: The Nature And History Of Gnosticism





Synopsis

Presents a readable and appealing introduction to what otherwise might seem an inaccessible religion of late antiquity.

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[from Boating on the Catawba...in the "Musketaquid"] "The hidden significance of these fables which is sometimes thought to have beendetected, the ethics running parallel to the poetry and the history, are not soremarkable as the readiness with which they may be made to express a variety of truths. As if they were the skeletons of still olderand more universal truths than any whoseflesh and blood they are for the time madeto wear. *** But what signifies it? In themythus a superhuman intelligence uses theunconscious thoughts and dreams of men as itshieroglyphics to address men unborn. In thehistory of the human mind, these glowing andruddy fables precede the noonday thoughts ofmen, as Aurora [does]the sun's rays. The matutineintellect of the poet, keeping in advance of theglare of philosophy, always dwells in thisauroral atmosphere."-- Henry David Thoreau; *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*.* * * * * * * This work by Kurt Rudolph is the mostclearly defined, cross-referenced, andhelpfully labeled (in the margins) guide tounderstanding Gnosticism which I have so farencountered. His explanations and numerous excerptsare concise and clear, as are his numerousguides to other places in the text whichare also relevant. Rudolph also includes an excellent discussion of the discovery and significance of the Nag Hammadi Copticgnostic texts, including an excellent andclear outline of the Codices and theircontents. The book also contains remarkable photographs of the places of discovery aswell as

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