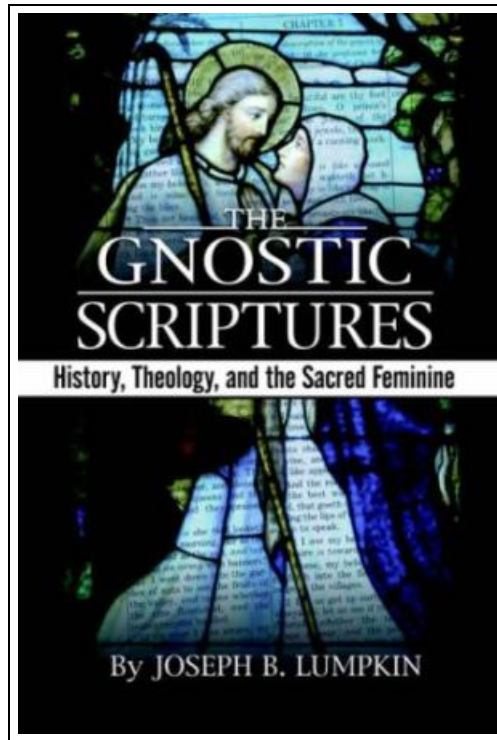


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(Fern Bailey)

THE GNOSTIC SCRIPTURES: HISTORY, THEOLOGY, AND THE SACRED FEMININE



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Fifth Estate. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 284 pages. Dimensions: 9.2in. x 6.1in. x 0.7in. Sophia spoke: I entered into the midst of the cage which is the prison of the body. And I spoke saying: He who hears, let him awake from his deep sleep. Then Adam wept and shed tears. After he wiped away his bitter tears he asked: Who called my name, and from where has this hope arose in me even while I am in the chains of this prison And I (Sophia) answered: I am the one who carries the pure light; I am the thought of the undefiled spirit. Arise, remember, and follow your origin, which is I, and beware of the deep sleep. Sophia would come to be considered a force or conduit of the Holy Spirit, in part due to the fact that the Holy Spirit was also considered a feminine and creative force from the Supreme God. The Gospel of Philip echoes this theology in verse six as follows: In the days when we were Hebrews we were made orphans, having only our Mother. Yet when we believed in the Messiah (and became the ones of Christ), the Mother and Father both came to us. Gospel of Philip. As the emerging orthodox church became more and more oppressive to women, later even labeling them occasions of sin, the Gnostics countered by raising women to equal status with men, saying Sophia was, in a sense, the handmaiden or wife of the Supreme God, making the soul of Adam her spiritual offspring. Jesus said: If those who lead you say to you: Look, the Kingdom is in the sky, then the birds of the sky would enter before you. If they say to you: It is in the sea, then the fish of the...



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