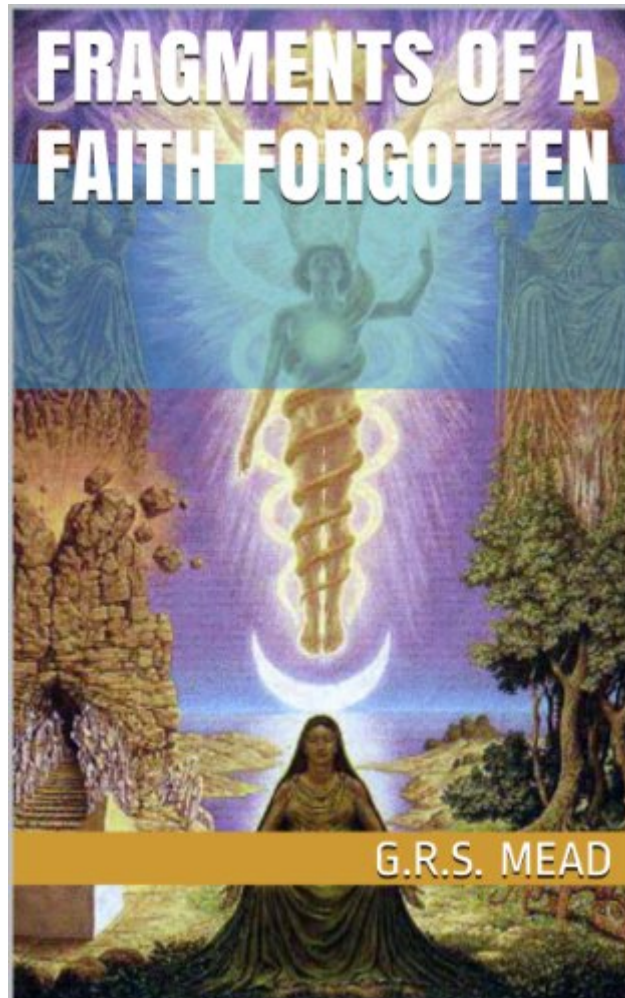


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Fragments Of A Faith Forgotten



Synopsis

This is one of the best books about the Gnostics written prior to the Nag Hammadi discoveries. G.R.S. Mead, who also translated the Pistis Sophia, summarizes what was known about the Gnostics at the turn of the 20th century. At that time, a better picture of the Gnostics was emerging, based on several papyri which had been recently discovered. Although there had been a lot of academic research on this subject, most of the key works were in German or French. Therefore this book and *The Gnostics and Their Remains* are the only two major books in English on this subject currently in the public domain. It was becoming increasingly obvious that early Christianity was a wide spectrum of sects, the record of which had been subsequently forgotten or suppressed by the Church. The Gnostics had deep connections with ancient Mystery religions, Pythagoreanism, Hinduism and other ancient beliefs. Most of the sacred texts of Gnosticism were long lost or survived only in small quotes. Mead draws on information provided both by the Early Church Fathers hostile to Gnosticism, and the available corpus of actual Gnostic documents at the time, cryptic and fragmentary as it was. He includes excerpts from previously untranslated manuscripts, and extensive summaries of the Pistis Sophia and the writings of the critics of Gnosticism. This book is required reading for anyone who wants to understand Gnosticism and the development of early Christianity.

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Customer Reviews

Nobody will read through Mead's text but use it episodically to check on or find specific information. And there is no lack of it. Mead has patiently accumulated all the information he could gather on side-track Christianity with all its many shades. The variations on the theme of non-orthodox Christianity are incredibly profuse, as even a birds-eye view of the book reveals. This online version is however not as easy to handle as could be expected.

This is a book I own in hard copy and Kindle. It is a book to open your mind to other possibilities. Really a great read.

A very good translation and compilation of the original text. Makes it much easier to follow and understand.

Biblical knowledge from the perspective of inner reflection instead of searching outside oneself for the Truth. The Truth is within us, not in external worship.

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