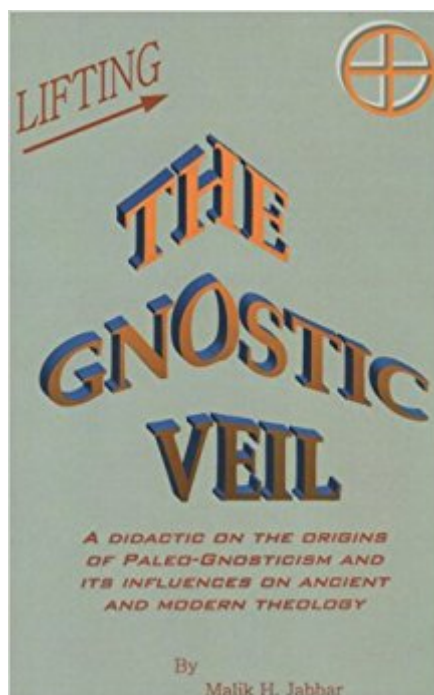


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Lifting The Gnostic Veil



Synopsis

Our world is not what it seems to be. The religious systems of the Ancients followed a two-tier pattern that ran in parallel; each tier or level of interpretation designed to mesh with and nurture the aspirations of the adherents in accordance with their diverse inclinations, desires and hopes. One tier, the exoteric, accepted religious doctrine literally, and the other path, the esoteric, looked upon religious doctrine as essentially symbolism. For those who sought comforting spiritual explanations for their existence beyond the mundane, and craved solace for their natural fears of death, there was the exoteric level of religion, garnished with utopian fantasies and exalted promises of rewards and life stretching far into boundless eternity a heaven or paradise reserved for those religious devotees that were pure in heart and unquestioning in their faith. On the other hand, for those of more inquiring and skeptical minds, motivated more by a desire to overcome their doubts, and to verify the dictates of their creeds rationally - and additionally, exhorted by a passion to find the hidden truth, there was the avenue of Esotericism or The Mysteries as called by some. In reality, a matrix of answers that inevitably led to more questions, and quizzical solutions that engendered new puzzles; but nevertheless an intriguing system that gave sustenance and challenge to those individuals whose rational minds thirsted and craved for logic. So we have the exoteric path that tends to test and lead us by faith, and the esoteric path that tends to test and lead us by intellect or science, although the science is veiled under layers or degrees of mystical symbolism. Whether we follow the path of faith or science, we all, one would think, are desirous of the truth - but this is not so! There are many that would rather avoid the truth because of the emotional burdens or pain associated with it. There are people who will never, ever submit to a truth that runs contrary to their traditional religious beliefs no matter how many thousands of facts are presented in support of the verifiable truth. This is due, in great part, to the social programming that I have alluded to in Chapter One of the book. Another problem is fear, fear of losing social direction or affiliation - because if one admits or acknowledges that his or her life's cherished traditions are based on lies and/or misconceptions, hence an illusion where does one go from that point forward where then lies the meaning and purpose of life? Actually their fears, though understandable, are in fact unwarranted; because in most cases if one has the courage to abandon his or her illusions, one discovers that the illusion was, in fact, a blackened veil, a cloak of darkness that effectively obscured the bright and healing rays of intellectual enlightenment, which when attained, inevitably leads to emotional and spiritual comfort. Be that as it may, historically, the majority, the masses have always favored illusion over truth just as people generally favor flattery over criticism. Most people prefer being emotional comfortable, even if that comfort is bought by turning a blind eye to some uncomfortable

realities.

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Customer Reviews

clear and excellent analysis. . . .appreciate the fact that the author doesn't get wrap in religious emotional appeal. . . .very empowering readthe authors insightful application of logic based on historical analysis is respectful of the mythological foundations of most (if not all) religions. If the gnostic thinking in the past was as clear and succinct, then no wonder the churches felt it was important to suppress(or hide it from the commoners) itmost will find it to be an interesting and though provoking read

Strongly recommend this as a must read for every Christian who takes the bible literally and whose beliefs are based on faith without questioning, trusting what your clergy is teaching you, and gaining insight into all of Christianity's teachings, dogma, rhetoric, and beliefs. Very well written!

So few reviews of this book and I understand why. A book such as this is beyond a mere review. What I pen here isn't so much a review - it is more of gratitude to the author for making this work accessible. The book - really the entire series - deserves a full reading to really grasp and appreciate what the author has assembled. This is a book that finds you on your personal journey of discovering truth. I might be wrong but I don't think it far-fetched to say that there probably isn't another series of books like it. Sure, there are countless numbers of books that deal with the subject of religion - and I've certainly read my share of them, but what makes this one unique is that it

attempts to explain plainly, the how and the why there is "religion" in the first place. Jabbar somehow manages to do this without creating a new philosophy or interpretation of religion. He lays out the verifiable facts that any serious student will be able to confirm on their own. Note also that this book and the others are not thousands of pages in length. How he managed to pack so much research and detail into so few pages is a feat in itself. I can guarantee this, you may not like what he writes, but you'll learn something that might just spark your curiosity to learn more.

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