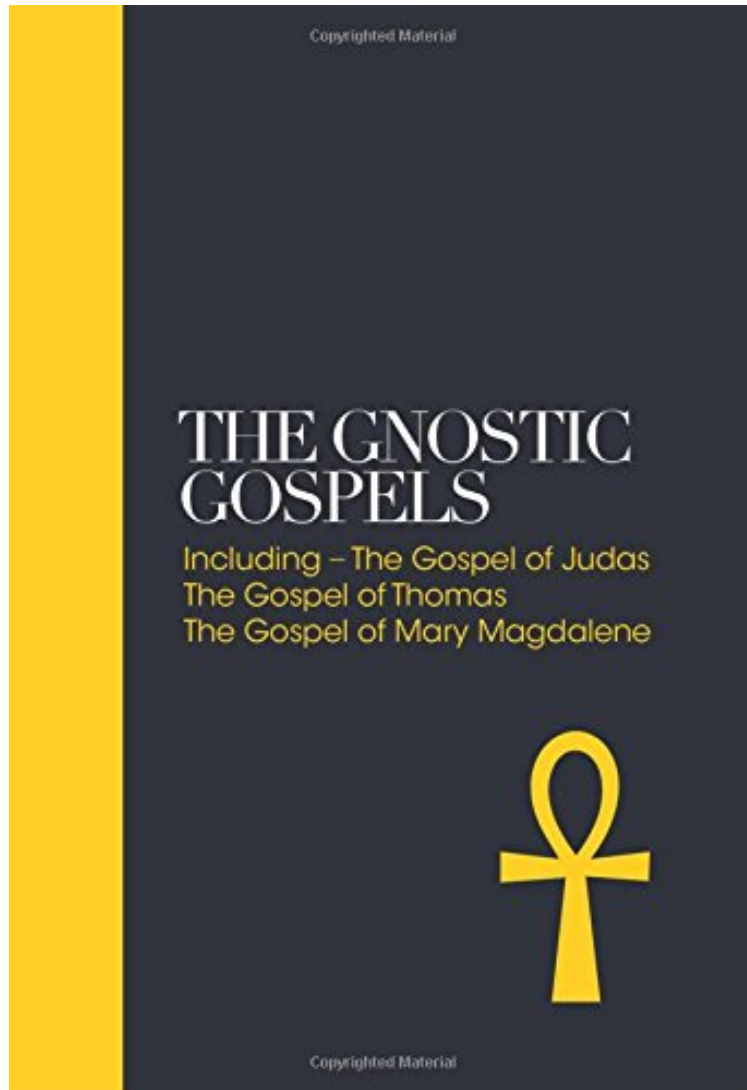


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The Gnostic Gospels: Including the Gospel of Thomas, the Gospel of Mary Magdalene (Sacred Texts)

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Alan Jacobs, Vrej Nersessian : The Gnostic Gospels: Including the Gospel of Thomas, the Gospel of Mary Magdalene (Sacred Texts) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Gnostic Gospels: Including the Gospel of Thomas, the Gospel of Mary Magdalene (Sacred Texts):

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review helpful. Interesting (but difficult content) from a different perspective of the Christian faith that could have used some footnotes! By Charles T Franklin This was my first introduction to the actual Gnostic Gospels. I have read articles and books ABOUT them and read excerpts, but never actually read them up close and personal. This book allowed me to do that. After reading it, I can see why many of the books were not accepted into the New Testament. The Gnostic Gospels were a challenge to read—paradoxes, ambiguity, etc., but then again what would you expect? It was interesting to read how others interpreted the words and thoughts of Christ. Of the Gnostic Gospels I liked "The Gospel of Thomas", "The Gospel of Mary Magdalene" and "The Greatest Human Evil is the Forgetfulness of God". In this edition, Alan Jacobs does a great job at portraying language in as simple of a concept as you can get with Gnostic literature. The words are written in verse form, which aids in reading comprehension and taking the time to digest the content. This edition lacked footnotes or any textual aids whatsoever, which would have helped with comprehension (at least a little!). I was stuck wondering what an aeon was and who the beings were in the book. It was really confusing. A brief historical overview is provided at the beginning of the texts, but it doesn't provide enough information. 13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Less is More By Paula Marvally Alan Jacobs has made a life-long study of the subject of mysticism and the way in which it manifests throughout all religions and philosophies around the world. His latest offering is no exception and is a personal transcription of the Gnostic Gospels, which form one of a series of Sacred Texts taken from around the globe, published by Watkins Publishing. In this first volume of two (the remaining extended one will be published a little later in the year), Jacobs includes The Gospel of Thomas, The Gospel of Mary Magdalene, The Gospel of Philip, The Sophia of Jesus Christ and The Gospel of Truth, amongst others. Although he is true to the essence of the nondualist philosophy of the gospels, Jacobs adds his own poetic flavour by composing free verse in keeping with modern diction and linguistic style. Moreover, by presenting the gospels in an accessible and elegant format, their mystical message is all the powerful and moving. I highly recommend this literary gem, particularly as it is produced as a pocket book, one which can be slipped away somewhere and then read at leisure or on the move, as a reminder of our essential nature in the hubbub of our daily lives.

The selections made in this volume shed light on these esoteric doctrines revealing intimate conversations between Jesus and his Disciples. The Gospel of Mary Magdalene throws new light on his relationship with this favourite disciple. The Gospel of Thomas contains concentrated mini-parables, containing deep inward and symbolic meaning, many of which are not found in the New Testament. The texts chosen are relevant to many of the perplexities of contemporary life and deal with the questions of good and evil, sin and suffering and the path to salvation.

About the Author Alan Jacobs has made a lifelong study of mysticism and is a regularly published author and poet. He is the editor of Poetry for the Spirit and Tales from Rumi and the beautiful poetic translations of The Upanisads also in this series. The Reverend Doctor Vrej Nersessian is the curator of the Christian Middle East section at the British Library. He is a senior priest at the Armenian Apostolic Church, holds a doctorate in Theology from Kings College London and is a world authority on Christian Middle East as well as an author of a number of significant works.