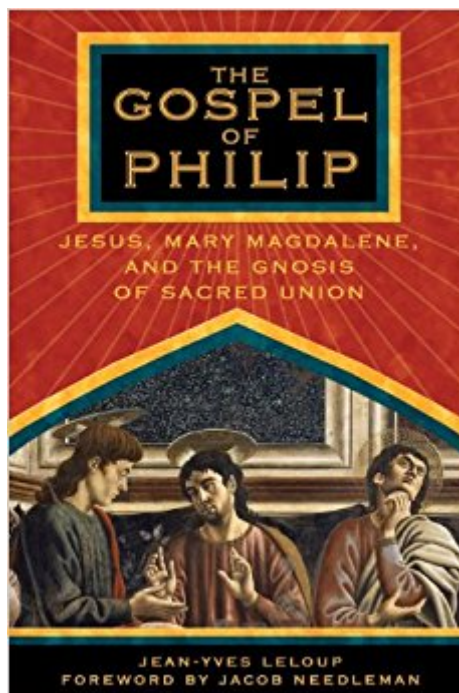




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# The Gospel Of Philip: Jesus, Mary Magdalene, And The Gnosis Of Sacred Union



## Synopsis

A new translation and analysis of one of the most controversial of the apocryphal gospels • Emphasizes an initiatic marriage between the male and female principles as the heart of the Christian mystery • Bears witness to the physical relationship shared by Jesus and Mary Magdalene • Translated from the Coptic and analyzed by the author of the bestselling *The Gospel of Mary Magdalene* (over 90,000 sold) The mainstream position of the Christian church on sexuality was perhaps best summed up by Pope Innocent III (1160-1216) when he stated that "the sexual act is so shameful that it is intrinsically evil." • Another Christian theologian maintained that the "Holy Ghost is absent from the room shared by a wedded couple." • What Philip records in his gospel is that Christ said precisely the opposite: The nuptial chamber is in fact the holy of holies. For Philip the holy trinity includes the feminine presence. God is the Father, the Holy Ghost is the Mother, and Jesus is the Son. Neither man nor woman alone is created in the image of God. It is only in their relationship with one another--the sacred embrace in which they share the divine breath--that they resemble God. The Gospel of Philip is best known for its portrayal of the physical relationship shared by Jesus and his most beloved disciple, Mary of Magdala. Because it ran counter to the direction of the Church, which condemned the "works of the flesh," Philip's gospel was suppressed and lost until rediscovered at Nag Hammadi in 1947. Orthodox theologian Jean-Yves Leloup's translation from the Coptic and his analysis of this gospel are presented here for the first time in English. What emerges from this important source text is a restoration of the sacred initiatic union between the male and female principles that was once at the heart of Christianity's sacred mystery.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The Gnostic Gospel of Philip, discovered in 1947 at Nag Hammadi, Egypt, is best known for a verse that portrays Jesus kissing Mary Magdalene on the lips. Although this is the most visual image in that gospel, the underlying message, about the sacredness of the marital union, was also controversial in early Christianity, as it established closer links to Judaism and the belief in a space of holiness that can occur in the physical act of love. Leloup, who has also written on the Gospel of Mary Magdalene, here translates Philip's gospel from the Coptic (Joseph Rowe translates Leloup's French into English) and offers a rather brief analysis of the text (he promises more in a future book). Still, what he does cover--ways to look at conception, birth, and the relationship between man, woman, and God--is well thought out and understandable to the lay reader. Most of the book is taken up with actual translation and visuals of the Coptic original from which Leloup worked. Ilene CooperCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

"This book displays new and profound facets and dimensions in the teachings of Jesus." (East and West Series, Vol. 48, No. 2, Feb 2006)â œIn this rich and lucid translation, Jean-Yves Leloup unlocks mysteries of the enigmatic bridal chamber found in the Gospel of Philip and sheds new light on their associations with Jewish esoteric tradition.â • (Margaret Starbird, author of *The Woman with the Alabaster Jar: Mary Magdalene and the Holy Grail*)â œFor scholars and seekers alike, every page of this book opens profound new dimensions in the teachings of Jesus.â • (Jacob Needleman, author of *Lost Christianity* and *The American Soul*)

This is the most beautiful story I have ever read. It is too bad they removed it from The Bible. If parents would have known this for centuries, and taught this to their children, divorce lawyers wouldn't have a business and there would be no single parent families in this country...or any other.

Of course, it everything you may want to study about theology...

I loved this book. It explained everything very CLEARLY about the writings. I find her relationship with Jesus very interesting.

This book, and its contents make one think. I find some of Phillip's relating of Jesus' words to be very relevant for today, and provide comfort. (Wherever you look, I am there . . . ). An excellent read and one that must be included for any Bible seeker.

an enlightened text that captures the true teachings of Jesus Christ regarding male and female aspects of relationship from a truly spiritual perspective regarding the nature of the purpose of God and his beloved.

The gospel of Philip is a complex piece of Gnostic literature which is probably become my favorite gospel, even beating St. John's fourth Gospel "the so-called spiritual gospel and if John's is the spiritual gospel the gospel of Philip is both the cosmic and the earthly gospel and nothing can beat it except having some extra literature attached

Very well expressed in the interpretation of the subject.

This book is very informative. You do not have to leave the house to get any books you want to read. Thanks , keep up the good work and I will continue to download your books and music.

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