

Original Sin and the Making of the Western World

By Elaine Pagels

Original sin is one of the most fundamental concepts in Western culture. It is the idea that all humans are born with a sinful nature due to the sin of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. This concept has had a profound impact on our understanding of ourselves, our world, and our relationship with God.

In *Original Sin and the Making of the Western World*, Elaine Pagels argues that original sin is not a universal truth but rather a culturally constructed concept that has been used to shape Western society for centuries. Drawing on a wide range of sources, from the Bible to the works of Freud and Nietzsche, Pagels shows how the concept of original sin has been used to justify everything from the Crusades to the Holocaust.



Born Bad: Original Sin and the Making of the Western World by James Boyce

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language : English
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Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 208 pages



Pagels argues that the concept of original sin is based on a misunderstanding of the Bible. She points out that the story of Adam and Eve is not a literal account of history but rather a symbolic tale that teaches about the dangers of pride and disobedience. Pagels also argues that the concept of original sin has been used to create a sense of guilt and shame in Western culture, which has led to a great deal of psychological and social suffering.

Original Sin and the Making of the Western World is a groundbreaking work that challenges one of the most fundamental beliefs of Western culture. Pagels's work is sure to spark debate and controversy, but it is also an essential read for anyone who wants to understand the roots of our own culture.

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"*Original Sin and the Making of the Western World* is a brilliant and provocative work that challenges one of the most fundamental beliefs of Western culture." - *The New York Times*

"Pagels's work is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand the roots of our own culture." - *The Washington Post*

"Original Sin and the Making of the Western World is a groundbreaking work that will change the way we think about ourselves, our world, and our relationship with God." - *The Los Angeles Times*

About the Author

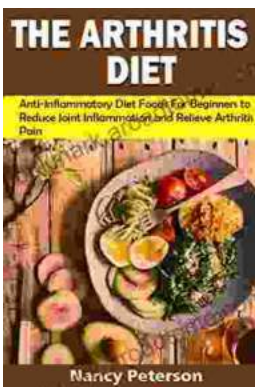
Elaine Pagels is a professor of religion at Princeton University. She is the author of several books, including *The Gnostic Gospels* and *Beyond Belief: The Secret Gospel of Thomas*.



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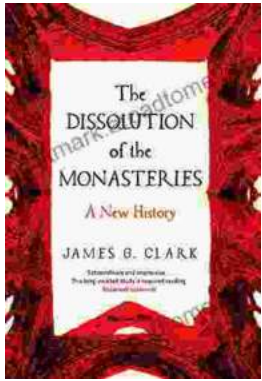
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