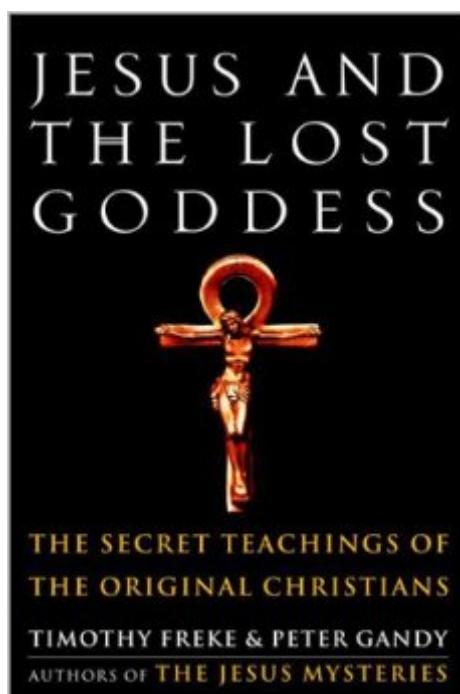


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Jesus And The Lost Goddess: The Secret Teachings Of The Original Christians



Synopsis

Why Were the Teachings of the Original Christians Brutally Suppressed by the Roman Church? Because they portray Jesus and Mary Magdalene as mythic figures based on the Pagan Godman and Goddess. Because they show that the gospel story is a spiritual allegory encapsulating a profound philosophy that leads to mythical enlightenment. Because they have the power to turn the world inside out and transform life into an exploration of consciousness. Drawing on modern scholarship, the authors of the international bestseller *The Jesus Mysteries* decode the secret teachings of the original Christians for the first time in almost two millennia and theorize about who the original Christians really were and what they actually taught. In addition, the book explores the many myths of Jesus and the Goddess and unlocks the lost secret teachings of Christian mysticism, which promise happiness and immortality to those who attain the state of Gnosis, or enlightenment. This daring and controversial book recovers the ancient wisdom of the original Christians and demonstrates its relevance to us today.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is an excellent book with much original research. Out of the three schools of thought in early Christianity: (1) Literalist (Pistis); (2) Joint Literalist-Gnostic; (3) Gnostic, Freke and Gandy are strong supporters of number (3), the Gnostic Christians. Freke and Gandy attack literalist Christianity with venom, who they accuse of hijacking early Christianity which was eclectic and tolerant, turning it into the most totalitarian nightmare the world has ever seen. This included systematic destruction of the Gnostic Christian and Gnostic Pagan intelligentsia of their day and all their powerful

knowledge they had gathered (with the destruction of the ancient, Great Alexandrian Library). Replacing it with mass ignorance and complete nonsense that was the beginning of the dark ages in the west. The book's great strength is that it "unifies" early Christian Gnostic thought, by identifying "common themes" that existed in all denominations of the Christian Gnostics, despite their "individual" differences. Describing the processes of hylic, psychic, pneumatic initiates and gnosis as the final prize for the initiate, in original Christianity. The one big criticism of the book is Freke and Gandy's denial of the historical Jesus. Just because the independent evidence is weak for the existence of an historical Jesus, it doesn't mean he didn't exist as a person. The totalitarian literalist Christians who seized power in the 4th century AD, may well have destroyed independent evidence of an historical Jesus fearing it would do damage to their ignorant vision, particularly if Jesus was a maverick style, radical individualist and a Jewish Gnostic, such as an Essene or a Therapeutae initiate and not the totalitarian figure the new powerful Christian church wanted to falsely portray.

For those who read Freke's and Gandy's earlier book, *The Jesus Mysteries*, this work is the perfect companion piece. Whereas *The Jesus Mysteries* made a good case for the pagan origins of the Christian mythology and the Gnostic origins of the early church, *Jesus and the Lost Goddess* goes one step beyond in explaining—in considerable detail—the nuts and bolts of how Gnosticism works. In effect, Freke and Gandy have done nothing less than reintroduce the ancient religion to a broader audience in an attractive package that is sure to reach even into the dusty pews of the established churches. Whether this will prove to be a good or bad thing is yet to be determined. In any case, *Jesus and the Lost Goddess* does a good job explaining precisely how Gnosticism works and how the Jesus story might be interpreted in the light of Gnostic mythology. In this, it presents a thought-provoking and fascinating look at a movement whose time has come and gone and, perhaps, come again. And, it manages to do this in a considerably more user friendly manner than most books on the subject, including Elaine Pagel's excellent work *The Gnostics* (which, while it does an admirable job explaining the history of the movement, does not do as well explaining it) and herein lies its greatest strength: it manages to bring the very complex and often confusing concepts within Gnosticism down to a laymen's level. While it can be on occasion a tedious read (Freke and Gandy sometimes slip in a few \$25 words) and a bit obtuse at points, anyone who makes it all the way through should have a pretty good working knowledge of this ancient belief system that manages to seem both ancient and modern at the same time.

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