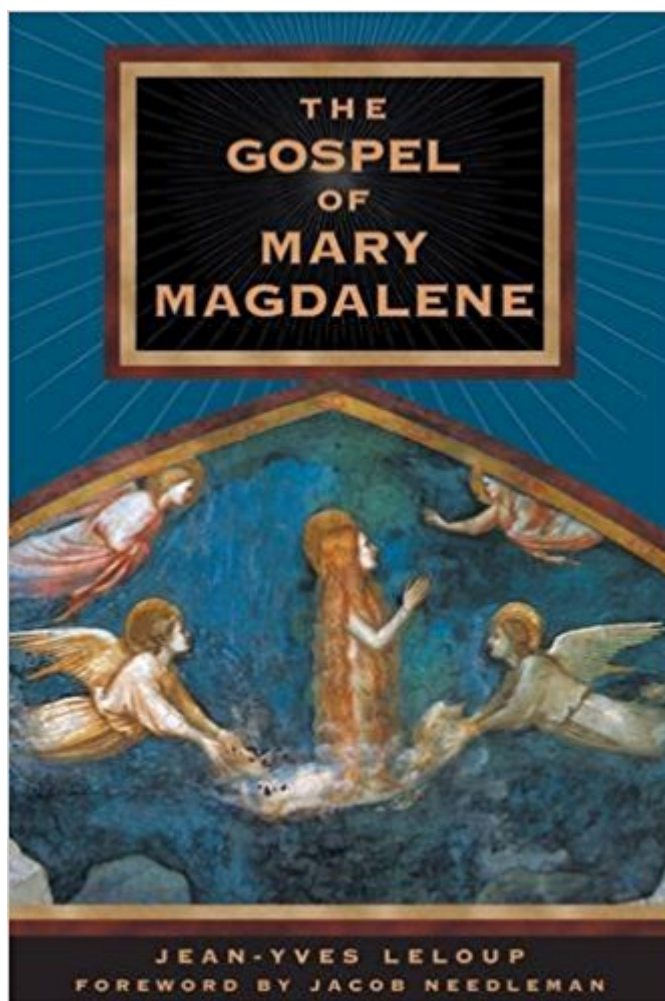


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# The Gospel Of Mary Magdalene



## Synopsis

Restores to the forefront of the Christian tradition the importance of the divine feminine  
• The first complete English-language translation of the original Coptic Gospel of Mary, with line-by-line commentary  
• Reveals the eminence of the divine feminine in Christian thought  
• Offers a new perspective on the life of one of the most controversial figures in the Western spiritual tradition  
Perhaps no figure in biblical scholarship has been the subject of more controversy and debate than Mary Magdalene. Also known as Miriam of Magdala, Mary Magdalene was considered by the apostle John to be the founder of Christianity because she was the first witness to the Resurrection. In most theological studies she has been depicted as a reformed prostitute, the redeemed sinner who exemplifies Christ's mercy. Today's reader can ponder her role in the gospels of Philip, Thomas, Peter, and Bartholomew--the collection of what have come to be known as the Gnostic gospels rejected by the early Christian church. Mary's own gospel is among these, but until now it has remained unknown to the public at large. Orthodox theologian Jean-Yves Leloup's translation of the Gospel of Mary from the Coptic and his thorough and profound commentary on this text are presented here for the first time in English. The gospel text and the spiritual exegesis of Leloup together reveal unique teachings that emphasize the eminence of the divine feminine and an abiding love of nature over the dualistic and ascetic interpretations of Christianity presented elsewhere. What emerges from this important source text and commentary is a renewal of the sacred feminine in the Western spiritual tradition and a new vision for Christian thought and faith throughout the world.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Interest in Mary Magdalene, the quasi-legendary woman of the Gospels who stood in an ambiguous relationship to Jesus, is booming just now. According to noncanonical sources, she was Jesus' wife, and probably not the prostitute with whom she is often conflated or confused. Among those unorthodox sources is one of the fragmentary early texts rejected by the church fathers and now called the gnostic gospels. Found in 1945 at Nag Hammadi in the Egyptian desert, it is a short but complex Coptic text that appears to render the voice of Mary Magdalene. This volume contains English translations of Leloup's French version of the original and Leloup's extensive commentary, which discloses the theology that inspired the lost gospel. Less dualistic and more woman-affirming than the canonical quartet, the Magdalene's gospel might be embraced by contemporary seekers, both Christian and non-Christian. Patricia Monaghan Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

"The Gospel of Mary, taken with the inspired commentary by Jean-Yves Leloup, can help toward making the teaching of Jesus once again alive." (Jacob Needleman, author of *Lost Christianity and The American Soul*) "Leloup's commentary presents a scholarly translation with an inspirational and passionate interpretation. . . . Going beyond the gospels to the laws of the Torah and the philosophical writings of Kant, the author at once discovers the truer meanings of an ancient text and a message as important today as it was two millennia ago." (Steven Sora, author of *The Lost Treasure of the Knights Templar*) "Readers will welcome this perceptive translation of the Gnostic 'Gospel of Mary' and the insightful commentary by scholar-mystic Jean-Yves Leloup. The journey of the soul and other profound and subtle teachings of Jesus and his beloved Miriam will enlighten modern seekers." (Margaret Starbird, author of *The Woman with the Alabaster Jar*) "One welcomes this solid telling of the story and meaning of a neglected text at the root of Christian wisdom, and of a neglected figure who had a special relationship both with the historical Jesus in his lifetime and with the Christ spirit after the death of Jesus." (Matthew Fox, author of *Original Blessing*) . . . the Magdalene's gospel might be embraced by contemporary seekers, both Christian and non-Christian." (Patricia Monaghan, Booklist American Library Association, April 2002) "There are some fascinating glimpses at gender politics between the earliest followers of Jesus and the enigmatic personage of Mary Magdalene. Christians have come to think of her (with no basis in biblical fact) as the repentant prostitute, while to his followers she was the one Jesus loved

'differently from other women.'" (KJ, Napra ReView, May/June 2002)"He sets the record straight and provides ample commentary on where the historical records went astray." (New Women New Church, Summer 2003, Vol.26 No.2)"I love this gospel . . . it speaks such truth as the Church desperately needs in these times." (John Gilbert, Ph.D., Gnostic News, December 2003)"The commentary by Professor LeLoup is beautifully done. He is indeed a scholar of the earth Church." (John Gilbert, The Temple of Gnostic Yoga, December 2003)"Powerful, almost Taoist in range, this is an important book and should be read by anyone interested in Mary Magdalene or the early Church." (Pamela Crossland, TCM Reviews)

O yes I have wanted it for some time it is not a disappointment thanks AADeL

This book contains scriptures describing the relationship between Jesus and Mary as the first apostle. If I draw the analogy between Christ and His church I would say that this book offers a beautiful and majestic glimpse of that relationship. I must read this book again and again to understand the depth of that relationship. I think the English translation of the scripture in this book can still be much improved to assist readers gaining better understanding and accuracy in a proportional manner.

A well-written book and an excellent read, the author presents a very different story of a very different gospel than what is found in the canonized, four gospels of the New Testament.

Very enlightening to a different point of understanding to the disciples life's and personal feelings.

Good

Very interesting, I saw the books that didn't make it into the Bible on the history channel and this is the second one I got. This one is really short. The scrolls she left behind must have been put somewhere else or something.

The existence of the Gospel of Mary was brought to light in Cairo in 1896. Some fifty years later, what are now known as the Gnostic gospels were discovered in Nag Hammadi, Egypt. Jean-Yves Leloup provides here a fascinating interpretation and commentary of the Gospel of Mary, with a few rewarding diversions into other texts, including some surprising revelations, and his alternate

translation of excerpts from other gospels. At the heart of this work is what amounts to a map of human spiritual potential, the essence of Jesus' goal as found in the Gospel of Mary, presented as a way of guiding those who would follow to become fully human. The material is presented in two parts. Part One is the Coptic text and translation, presented in a simple layout of each page of Coptic text on the left, with the English translation (from French by Joseph Rowe, with some comparison to other translations) on the facing right-hand page. The original pagination is retained and line numbers are added, which correspond roughly, though not exactly, to the original. The text is brief, and there are several missing pages. Of the 19 original pages of script only 9 remain intact. I count 1,145 translated words in all. Though brief and fragmented, this is powerful reading. This gospel presents Mary as closer to her Teacher than is usually evident in the New Testament. It also suggests that her vision of the resurrected Jesus, who's often referred to in this gospel as the Teacher, was of a more spiritual than physical nature. Part Two is the text with Leloup's commentary, which covers not only his interpretive theories regarding the text of the gospel, but much more. In explaining his reasons for his translation of certain passages and specific words, he also goes into his opinion on the translation of bits of the canonical gospels, retranslating the Beatitudes into a more empowering form by replacing "Blessed are" to create an inspiring and motivating challenge to action in this world, rather than awaiting rewards in the afterlife. I'm personally intrigued by his translation of portions of the Gospel of Thomas, an added bonus in this comprehensive work. I won't go into all the points of interest I came across in this thoughtful translation and commentary. Let me simply conclude that I recommend it to anyone concerned with learning more about the non-canonical gospels, Christian or Gnostic history, Mary Magdalene and Jesus, the divine feminine, or nuances in translation of the gospels.

Good price, easy to read, good product, and fast shipping! Would buy from again.

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