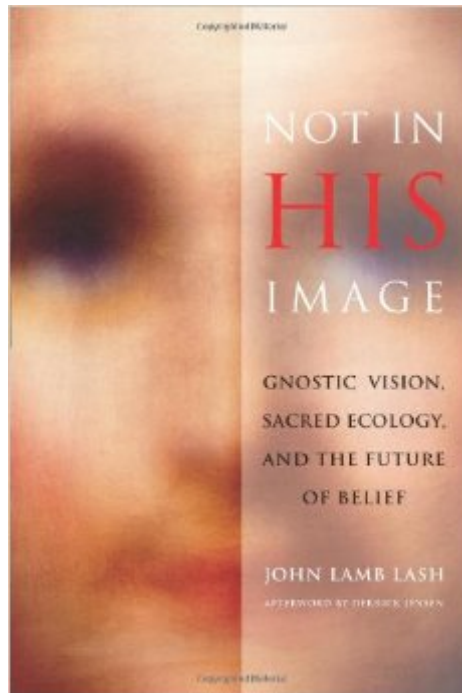


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Not In His Image: Gnostic Vision, Sacred Ecology, And The Future Of Belief



Synopsis

Basing much of *Not in His Image* on the Nag Hammadi and other Gnostic writings, John Lamb Lash explains how a little-known messianic sect propelled itself into a dominant world power, systematically wiping out the great Gnostic spiritual teachers, the Druid priests, and the shamanistic healers of Europe and North Africa. They burned libraries and destroyed temples in an attempt to silence the ancient truth-tellers and keep their own secrets. But as Lash reveals, when the truth is the planet Earth it cannot be hidden or destroyed. *Not in His Image* delves deeply into the shadows of ancient Gnostic writings to reconstruct the story early Christians tried to scrub from the pages of history, exploring the richness of the ancient European Pagan spirituality--the Pagan Mysteries, the Great Goddess, Gnosis, the myths of Sophia and Gaia--and chronicles the annihilation of this Pagan European culture at the hands of Christianity. Long before the birth of Christianity, monotheism was an anomaly; Europe and the Near East flourished under the divine guidance of Sophia, the ancient goddess of wisdom. The Earth was the embodiment of Sophia and thus sacred to the people who sought fulfillment in her presence. This ancient philosophy was threatening to the emerging salvation-based creed of Christianity that was based on patriarchal dominion over the Earth and lauded personal suffering as a path to the afterlife. As Derrick Jensen points out in the afterword, in Lash's hands Jesus Christ emerges as the agent provocateur of the ruling classes.

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Customer Reviews

As I'm sure many others did, I purchased this book after hearing the interview with John Lash on

Coast to Coast with Ian Punnett. Punnett was critical of Lash, stating that his book did not reflect a tolerant attitude towards people of faith. After reading the book though, I believe that Lash's attitude towards the Christian world is ultimately one of compassion. The book is essentially a lamentation for a paradise lost to all of humanity. But it's the in-depth examination of HOW the Gaian Paradise of the Gnostics/Pagans was lost to Christianity that is the most riveting (and incendiary) part of this book. From the ancient Hebrew cult called the Zaddikim come the origins of what Lash calls "The Redeemer Complex", of which there are four components: the creation of the world by the male creator god; the selection of the righteous few to fulfill a divine plan; the mission of the creator's son (the messiah) in the plan; and the final, apocalyptic judgment in which the world is destroyed so that the righteous can be saved by the accomplishment of divine retribution. Unlike the Pagan divinities, this salvationist creator god is a wrathful, vindictive "off-planet landlord". The earth is void of any divinity and is simply spinning dead rock from which resources may be extracted. And so, this anti-human, corrosive ideology is rightly labeled by Lash as a peculiar kind of mental virus. And as Christianity comes on the scene, the virus goes pandemic. But what of the Christian virtues of love, charity and good will? Lash illustrates how this was never what the Gnostics were against when they wrote of the destructive influence of the Christian Cult.

I first encountered the work of John Lamb Lash through his website, (...), when he posted a series of pieces on "2012" -- the end of the Long Count of the Mayan Calendar -- from astrological and historical perspectives. In his essays, he defined the characteristics of various "end-time tribes" that were embodying aspects of futuristic consciousness. I began a dialogue with him on this subject, and he sent me his new book, *Not in His Image: Gnostic Vision, Sacred Ecology, and the Future of Belief* (Chelsea Green, 2006). This work is a tremendous achievement that reframes the debate about monotheism, offering a radical perspective on the destructive effects that have been unleashed by religious ideologies over the last two millennia. *Not In His Image* attacks the salvationist theology of the Judeo-Christian tradition from a Gnostic perspective, making a devastating critique of the moral conditioning and deep-buried suppositions of this heritage, which has shaped the modern Western psyche. As substitute, Lash presents a counter-myth and alternative cosmology drawn from the tradition of Gnosticism, featuring the goddess Sophia, who plunged from the Pleroma to become the physical and generative Earth, and the Archons, soulless off-planet entities who use the human propensity for error to lead us into increasingly destructive deviations from our evolutionary path. The populist and academic conception of Gnosticism considers it a radical offshoot from Christianity that was stamped out as the Holy Roman Empire

gave way to the Dark Ages. Lash has a different perspective. In his view, the Gnostics were the inheritors of the wisdom and initiatory training of the Mystery Schools that flourished across the Classical World.

Prospective readers will do well to examine all customer reviews here; buy this book, and then think a bit more for yourself. This is a book that I have waited over fifty years to read -- and it was only published in 2006.(!) If you're like me, here you will find the confirmation of many things you already know; the explanation of certain things you have deeply wondered about; and the tying together of yet other things that once seemed quite unrelated. An example of the latter is what Gurdjieff called the several varieties of "Hasnamuss" and the different types of psychopathic personalities that have recently come under broad general discussion. Particularly interesting is the idea that the more powerful psychopaths are able to convert normal people into a secondary grade of psychopath. Is there a one-to-one correspondence here between "hasnamuss" and "psychopath?" And are these the souls that the Archons "steal by night" as John Lash mentions? There's an old adage that when studying new ideas it's wise to attempt to connect each one to at least two other things you already know about. This establishes a broad and tripod-like understanding, not to mention the obvious aid to memory. What are two other topics that would best be studied in conjunction with "Not In His Image," by John L. Lash? Well, since nobody in his right mind would buy into salvationist non-sense, we must assume that people who claim to be salvationists are either cunning psychopathic opportunists and manipulators or people who are so naive, unobserving, and unthinking that they have been converted into neurotic sheeple by the above-referenced psychopaths. So a study of Political Ponerology is certainly called for!

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