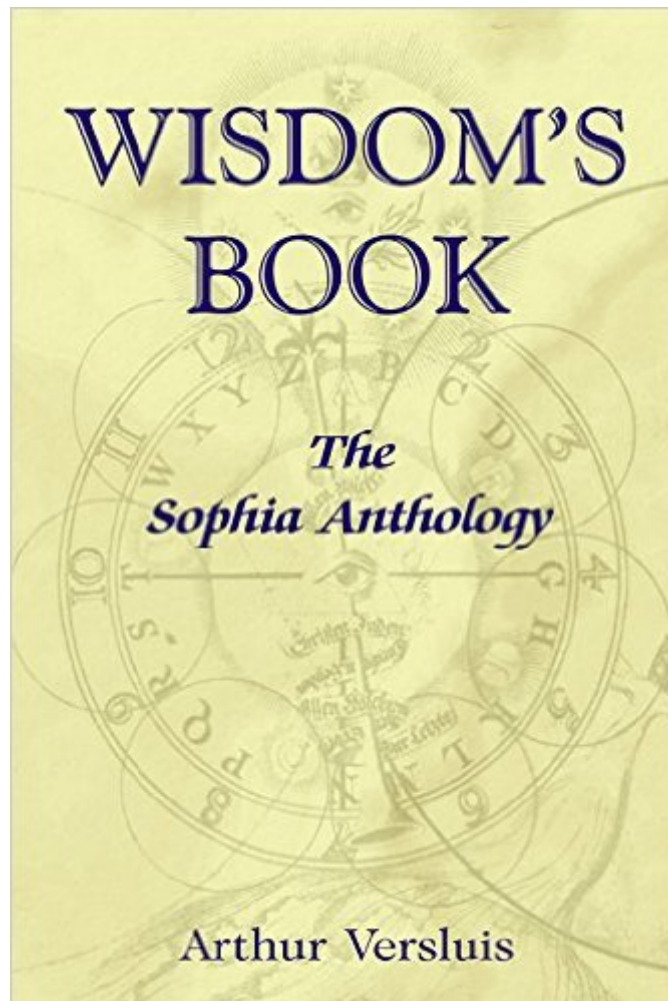


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Wisdom's Book: The Sophia Anthology



Synopsis

Wisdom's Book: The Sophia Anthology is a remarkable collection of rare texts that reveal what we well may call the Nag Hammadi Library of modern times. For there is a virtually unknown spiritual Sophianic tradition that has developed since the seventeenth century and that still exists today. Non-sectarian, often suppressed, this lay mystical tradition is the Christian equivalent of Sufism in Islam, and of Kabbalah in Judaism. Wisdom's Book reveals for the first time in a single volume the texts of this rare tradition, many of which have never before been published. This is the theosophic tradition of Jacob Bohme, and all the main figures of the tradition are represented here, including many never before published. Wisdom's Book is a treasure trove of Western esoteric writings, and will be of great interest to a wide range of readers interested in unveiling and understanding this hitherto hidden tradition of Christian spirituality.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Wisdom's Book is the third of a trilogy by Arthur Versluis that introduces the mystical, esoteric tradition known as Christian theosophy, not to be confused with H. P. Blavatsky's Theosophical Society which was established in the late 19th century. Theosophia, the first book, generally introduced this Christian tradition as part of an historical stream of Christian gnosis and mysticism which led up to the specific theosophical tradition established by Jacob Boehme in the 17th century. Wisdom's Children, the second book, is a detailed study of this Boehmean tradition, and Wisdom's Book, an anthology, provides literary samples from theosophers within this tradition up to the early

20th century. All of the samples in this book, with the clear exception of the excerpt from the Jewish Book of Wisdom, an influential early work, are in some way influenced by Boehme's theosophy. The only other possible exception is the excerpt from Robert Ayshford's *Aurora Sapientia* (1629). This treatise is the earliest known theosophic work in Britain and may or may not have been influenced by Boehme since Boehme isn't referenced in the work. According to Versluis in his introduction to *Wisdom's Book*, there are several distinguishing characteristics of Sophianic spirituality. Of paramount significance is the focus upon divine wisdom or Sophia, generally conceived of and/or personified as feminine (but which, in Christian theosophy, is considered neither a separate divine entity nor a fourth person in the Triune Godhead). The samples in *Wisdom's Book* focus on divine wisdom.

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