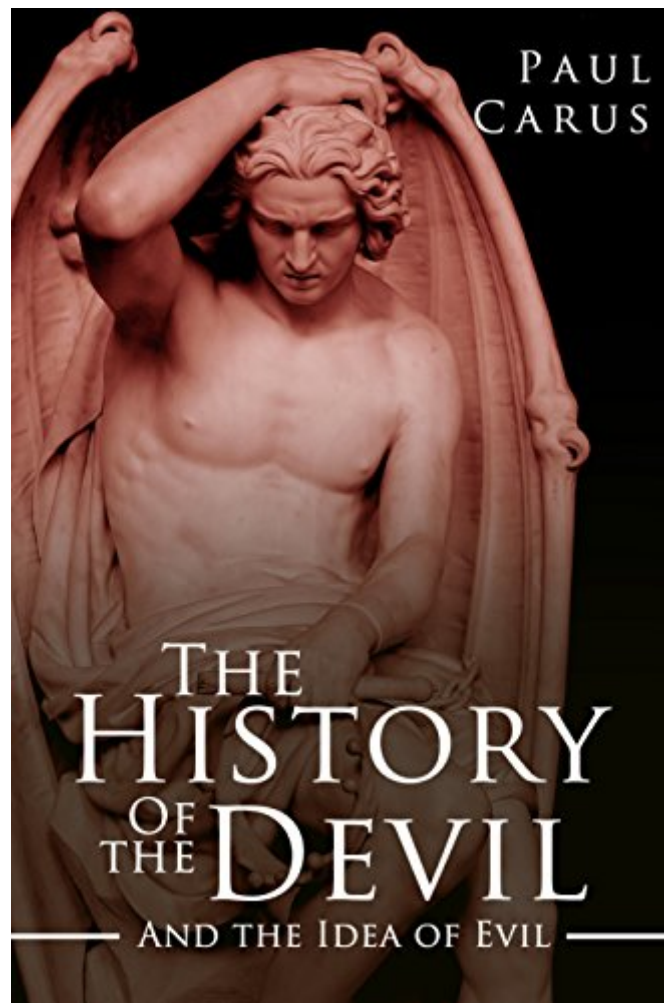




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The History Of The Devil And The Idea Of Evil: From The Earliest Times To The Present Day



Synopsis

What is the Devil? And where did the idea of its existence come from? From ancient Egyptian religions to Judaism, Hinduism to Buddhism, Christianity to Islam, as well as many more, Carus analyses each religion in turn to expose their views of the devil and where those views came from. He takes the reader from five thousand years ago through to near the present day to give a wide overview of changing views on good and evil and how different civilisations created varying ideas of the devil. In the last five hundred years of history the devil has appeared to be marginalised as only a literary figure rather than a genuine fear, but Carus demonstrates how throughout the Reformation, the Inquisition and even the nineteenth century, fear of the devil was extremely real. Paul Carus provides an extremely thorough survey of various ideas about the devil along with what is good and what is evil. Carus was a pioneering author and thinker of the early twentieth century. He became the first managing editor of the Open Court Publishing Company which aimed to provide a forum for the discussion of philosophy, science, and religion, and to make philosophical classics widely available by making them affordable. As an author he published 75 books and 1500 articles. He died in February 1919.

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Customer Reviews

This fascinating and worthy addition to the history of religion was originally published in 1900. In its pages, Mr. Carus traces the historical development of the concept of the existence of a demonic being from antiquity forward. How each civilization or belief system created their arch enemy, and how that creation influenced their concept of evil is quite fascinating. One weakness, of course, is a result of its original year of publication. Because it was written at the tail end of the 19th century, it is, of necessity, silent on further developments in the subject matter covered. Still it is a worthwhile read.

This was an excellent analogy of good & evil. I enjoyed the simplicity of his description of the Devil & God serving on the same team. Beautifully explained how one can't perform without the other. This is a great book for those who have been searching for the existence of the Devil, and why he's allowed to remain in existence.

A very extensive and interesting study on the subject. I have not finished reading the book and I have jumped over some chapters that are too specialized for me. The introduction has a comprehensive summary of the evolution and progress of religion which by itself is worth the time invested in this book. The author's concept of God as the Authority behind all natural laws and the invitation to religion to follow the steps of science to avoid parochialism and become truly catholic is a new perspective that enriches all of us. Thinking it better, true theology is really science.

Although a bit heavy in some places, it is a well written book with a lot of details gathered over the centuries.

A must read for all who seek what is sought...an absolute delight that captures the imagination....enlightenment. at its highest form

Historical analysis of the idea of the devil and of evil. Pretty comprehensive. Focused a bit too much on the medieval period and witches. Too brief. Wish it were more comprehensive in its scope.

Quick look through, but it is what I was expecting

Interesting read.

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