



Poetics of the Gnostic Universe: Narrative And Cosmology in the Apocryphon of John (Nag Hammadi and Manichaean Studies)

Zlatko Ple E

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This volume is both an essay in Gnostic poetics and a study in the history of early Christian appropriation of ancient philosophy. The object of study is the cosmological model of the *Apocryphon of John*, a first-hand and fully narrated version of the Gnostic myth. The author examines his target text against a complex background of religious and philosophical systems, literary theories, and rhetorical techniques of the period, and argues that the world model of the *Apocryphon of John* is inseparable from the epistemological, theological, and aesthetic debates within contemporary Platonism. *Poetics of the Gnostic Universe* also discusses the composition and narrative logic of the *Apocryphon of John*, explores its revisionist attitude towards various literary models (Plato's *Timaeus*, Wisdom literature, Genesis), and analyzes its peculiar discursive strategy of conjoining seemingly disconnected symbolic codes while describing the derivation of a multi-layered universe from a single transcendent source."

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