

## DREAMS, VIRTUE AND DIVINE KNOWLEDGE IN EARLY CHRISTIAN EGYPT

What did dreams mean to Egyptian Christians of the first to the sixth centuries? Alexandrian philosophers, starting with Philo, Clement and Origen, developed a new approach to dreams that was to have profound effects on the spirituality of the medieval West and Byzantium. Their approach, founded on the principles of Platonism, was based on the convictions that God could send prophetic dreams and that these could be interpreted by people of sufficient virtue. In the fourth century, the Alexandrian approach was expanded by Athanasius and Evagrius to include a more holistic psychological understanding of what dreams meant for spiritual progress. The ideas that God could be known in dreams and that dreams were linked to virtue flourished in the context of Egyptian desert monasticism. This volume traces that development and its influence on early Egyptian experiences of the divine in dreams.

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Bronwen Neil , Doru Costache , Kevin Wagner  
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EARLY CHRISTIAN EGYPT

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## *Abbreviations*

ANF	Ante-Nicene Fathers
CCSG	Corpus Christianorum Series Graeca
CCSL	Corpus Christianorum Series Latina
CPL	<i>Clavis Patrum Latinorum</i>
CSEL	Corpus Scriptorum Ecclesiasticorum Latinorum
FOTC	Fathers of the Church
GCSNF	Die griechischen christlichen Schriftsteller. Neue Folge
<i>HE</i>	<i>Historia ecclesiastica</i>
<i>JECS</i>	<i>Journal of Early Christian Studies</i>
<i>JTS</i>	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
LCL	Loeb Classical Library
LXX	Septuaginta: id est Vetus Testamentum graece iuxta LXX interpretes, eds. A. Rahlfs and R. Hanhart. Rev edn. Stuttgart, 2006
NPNF	Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers Series 1 and 2
NS	New Series
PG	<i>Patrologiae cursus completus. Series Graeca</i> , ed. J.-P. Migne, 161 vols. Paris, 1857–66
PL	<i>Patrologiae cursus completus. Series Latina</i> , ed. J.-P. Migne, 221 vols. Paris, 1844–64
SAPERE	<i>Scripta antiquitatis posterioris ad ethicam religionemque pertinentia</i> . Tübingen
SC	Sources chrétiennes. Paris, 1943–
<i>SP</i>	<i>Studia Patristica</i> . Berlin, Leuven, 1957
<i>SVTQ</i>	<i>St Vladimir's Theological Quarterly</i>
<i>VC</i>	<i>Vigiliae Christianae</i>
VCS	<i>Vigiliae Christianae Supplements</i> . Leiden, 1987–

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