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Eric Osborn

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THE BEGINNING OF CHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHY

ERIC OSBORN

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PREFACE

The earliest Christian writers were also the most creative; but the established ways of viewing their work have largely obscured its meaning. Two things make rediscovery possible: on the one hand there is the recent interest in second-century issues like language about God and the problem of evil, and on the other hand there is the mass of historical work done by the late Jean Daniélou and others over the last twenty-five years. As his translator claims, the relevance of the contents of Daniélou's *Gospel message and Hellenistic culture* is not obvious. Another step is needed, to elucidate the problems that puzzled the second-century writers and puzzle us.

Apart from Cardinal Daniélou, others have helped considerably. In Cambridge, Professors G. W. H. Lampe,¹ C. F. D. Moule and E. G. Rupp have helped with clarity and understanding. R. P. Claude Mondésert in Lyons and Professor Ernst Käsemann in Tübingen have placed me frequently in their debt. In Rome, R. P. Antonio Orbe has allowed me to benefit from his unrivalled knowledge of Irenaeus. Closer to home, Professor John Passmore and Dr Behan McCullagh have lent guidance on the crucial issue of method. The intelligent enthusiasm of my students here has been a major factor. Dr A. Lenox-Conyngham read proofs and, with Dr David Rankin, checked references, while Mr Edwin Brown prepared the index of citations. The staff of Cambridge University Press have guided the book through the press with unfailing skill and patience. To all these I offer my sincere thanks.

ERIC OSBORN

Queen's College
University of Melbourne

7 July 1978

¹ Sad news of the death of Geoffrey Lampe came during the printing of this book. His enduring gifts to patristic learning will long be gratefully used. By his wisdom and courage *apothanon eti lalei*. F.F.O. (September 1980).

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REFERENCES

JUSTIN (Goodspeed's Edition)*I A.* 14.1 refers to the *First Apology*, chapter 14, paragraph 1.*D.* 11.1 refers to the *Dialogue with Trypho*, chapter 11, paragraph 1.*IRENÆUS* (Harvey's Edition)*H.* 2.1.1 refers to *Against Heresies*, Book 2, chapter 1, paragraph 1.*E.* 14 refers to the *Epideixis*, or *Demonstration of the Apostolic Preaching*, paragraph 14 (J. Armitage Robinson's translation).*CLEMENT* (Stählin's Edition)*Prot.* 4.63 refers to *Protrepticus*, chapter 4, paragraph 63.*Paed.* 1.3.24 refers to *Paedagogus*, Book 1, chapter 3, paragraph 24.*S.* 7.1.2 refers to *Stromateis*, Book 7, chapter 1, paragraph 2.*Ecl.* 2 refers to *Prophetic Eclogues*, paragraph 2.*TERTULLIAN* (Corpus Christianorum)*An.* 27.1 refers to *De Anima*, chapter 27, paragraph 1.

The titles of Tertullian's works are abbreviated as follows:

<i>An.</i>	<i>De anima</i>
<i>Ap.</i>	<i>Apologeticum</i>
<i>Bapt.</i>	<i>De baptismo</i>
<i>Carn.</i>	<i>De carne Christi</i>
<i>Cast.</i>	<i>De exhortatione castitatis</i>
<i>Cor.</i>	<i>De corona</i>
<i>Cult.</i>	<i>De cultu feminarum libri II</i>
<i>Fug.</i>	<i>De fuga in persecutione</i>
<i>Herm.</i>	<i>Aduersus Hermogenem</i>
<i>Idol.</i>	<i>De idololatria</i>
<i>Iei.</i>	<i>De ieiunio</i>
<i>Iud.</i>	<i>Aduersus Iudaeos</i>
<i>Marc.</i>	<i>Aduersus Marcionem libri V</i>
<i>Mart.</i>	<i>Ad martyras</i>
<i>Mon.</i>	<i>De monogamia</i>
<i>Nat.</i>	<i>Ad nationes libri II</i>
<i>Orat.</i>	<i>De oratione</i>
<i>Paen.</i>	<i>De paenitentia</i>
<i>Pal.</i>	<i>De pallio</i>
<i>Pat.</i>	<i>De patientia</i>

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- Praescr.* *De praescriptione*
Prax. *Aduersus Praxean*
Pud. *De pudicitia*
Res. *De resurrectione mortuorum*
Scap. *Ad Scapulam*
Spect. *De spectaculis*
Test. *De testimonio animae*
Val. *Aduersus Valentinianos*
Virg. *De uirginibus uelaudis*
Ux. *Ad uxorem libri II*

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ABBREVIATIONS

<i>ABR</i>	<i>Australian Biblical Review</i>
ACW	Ancient Christian Writers
<i>AeR</i>	<i>Atene e Roma</i>
<i>AGPh.</i>	<i>Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie</i>
<i>AIPh.</i>	<i>Annuaire de l'institut de philologie et d'histoire orientales</i>
ANCL	The Ante-Nicene Christian Library
AnGr.	Analecta Gregoriana
<i>APQ</i>	<i>American Philosophical Quarterly</i>
<i>Bib.</i>	<i>Biblica</i>
<i>BjRL</i>	<i>Bulletin of the John Rylands Library</i>
BKV	Bibliothek der Kirchenväter
BZNW	Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft
CChr SL	Corpus Christianorum Series Latina
<i>CtPh.</i>	<i>Classical Philology</i>
<i>CQ</i>	<i>Classical Quarterly</i>
<i>DViv.</i>	<i>Dieu vivant</i>
<i>ErJb.</i>	<i>Eranos-Jahrbuch</i>
<i>EThL</i>	<i>Ephemerides theologicae Lovanienses</i>
GCS	Griechischen christlichen Schriftsteller der ersten drei Jahrhunderte
<i>GIF</i>	<i>Giornale italiano di filologia</i>
<i>Gn.</i>	<i>Gnomon</i>
<i>Gr.</i>	<i>Gregorianum</i> (Roma)
<i>Hist.</i>	<i>Historia</i>
<i>HTh.</i>	<i>History and Theory</i>
<i>HThS</i>	Supplement to <i>History and Theory</i>
<i>HTR</i>	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
<i>JHS</i>	<i>Journal of Hellenic Studies</i>
<i>JR</i>	<i>Journal of Religion</i>
<i>JRS</i>	<i>Journal of Roman Studies</i>
<i>JThS</i>	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
<i>KUD</i>	<i>Kerygma und Dogma</i>
LCC	Library of Christian Classics
LCL	Loeb Classical Library
<i>MH</i>	<i>Museum Helveticum</i>
<i>Mn.</i>	<i>Mnemosyne</i> (Leiden)
<i>MThZ</i>	<i>Münchener theologische Zeitschrift</i>

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<i>NAWG, PH</i>	<i>Nachrichten der Akademie der Wissenschaften in Göttingen, Philologische-historische Klasse</i>
<i>NRTh.</i>	<i>Nouvelle revue théologique</i>
<i>NZStH.</i>	<i>Neue Zeitschrift für systematische Theologie</i>
<i>OrChr.</i>	<i>Oriens Christianus</i>
<i>PH</i>	<i>Philologische-historische Klasse</i>
<i>PhRev.</i>	<i>Philosophical Review</i>
<i>RB</i>	<i>Revue biblique</i>
<i>REG</i>	<i>Revue des études grecques</i>
<i>RevSR</i>	<i>Revue des sciences religieuses</i>
<i>GGG</i>	<i>Die Religion in Geschichte und Gegenwart</i>
<i>RHE</i>	<i>Revue d'histoire ecclésiastique</i>
<i>RHPPhR</i>	<i>Revue d'histoire et de philosophie religieuses</i>
<i>RSR</i>	<i>Recherches de science religieuse</i>
<i>RThAM</i>	<i>Recherches de théologie ancienne et médiévale</i>
<i>SC</i>	<i>Sources Chrétiennes</i>
<i>Schol.</i>	<i>Scholastik</i>
<i>SE</i>	<i>Studia Evangelica</i>
<i>SEA</i>	<i>Svensk exegetisk arsbok</i>
<i>SeL</i>	<i>Storia e letteratura</i>
<i>SJTh.</i>	<i>Scottish Journal of Theology</i>
<i>SO</i>	<i>Symbolae Osloenses</i>
<i>STh.</i>	<i>Studia Theologica</i>
<i>STL</i>	<i>Studia Theologica Lundensia</i>
<i>SVF</i>	<i>Stoicorum Veterum Fragmenta, ed. von Arnim</i>
<i>Theol.</i>	<i>Theology</i>
<i>ThStKr.</i>	<i>Theologische Studien und Kritiken</i>
<i>Tr.</i>	<i>Traditio (New York)</i>
<i>TU</i>	<i>Texte und Untersuchungen zur Geschichte der altchristlichen Literatur</i>
<i>VetChr.</i>	<i>Vetera Christianorum</i>
<i>VigChr.</i>	<i>Vigiliae Christianae</i>
<i>ZKG</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für Kirchengeschichte</i>
<i>ZKTh.</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für katholische Theologie</i>
<i>ZNW</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>
<i>ZStH.</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für systematische Theologie</i>
<i>ZThK</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für Theologie und Kirche</i>