



Angels: An Endangered Species

Malcolm Godwin

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In this exquisitely designed volume, the mystical hierarchies of heaven and hell, and the ranking of seraphs, cherubim, archangels and other angelic manifestations are explained, in the first comprehensive survey of one of the most powerful and ever-present symbols in our collective vision. 95 four-color, 30 two-color, and 30 black-and-white illustrations.

Angels: An Endangered Species Details

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Author : Malcolm Godwin

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From Reader Review Angels: An Endangered Species for online ebook

April says

I love the artwork in this book but am totally put off by the facts listed within. It doesn't list one reference for any of the facts. While I am gnostic and I love and agree with some of them, I have to be able to research them and read the original authors. At least give me an idea where your quotes come from. This book doesn't do that and for that reason I had to give it one star. The artwork is fantastic though.

Cleolinda says

An encyclopedic--but whimsical--look at angels and their classifications. The final chapter asks the intriguing question: what we call UFOs now, did they call angels then?

Celeste says

This book does not have an index, which is frustrating for reference purposes. The author has put together a great deal of information, but seems to lack insight into anything other than the mainstream strains of religion. For instance, his understanding of Gnosticism is very poor indeed. The Gnostics cannot be said to have beliefs that can be put into neat little boxes, as the author has attempted to do. Rather, they were very diverse groups whose range in ideas were quite often at odds with each other, and were by no means a religious group. There were many different groups that can be called Gnostic, and some we include in the category of gnosticism, but would not have put themselves in that category. It is not possible to call out Gnosticism as a blanket statement.

While some Gnostics saw all of material creation as evil, and to be abhorred as the creation of the Demiurge, others did not share this view. Godwin's book lumps them all into the camp wherein materiality is despised. But groups such as the Valentinians and others had no such view, and indeed had love and respect for creation, all the while knowing that to be enlightened and liberated one must rise above it.

Godwin also states that Gnostics saw Yahweh as the devil or Satan. This is rarely true in Gnosticism. Yahweh, as the demiurge, was the unwitting tool of the true God in some instances, and a direct and conscious agent of God in others. In any of the number of Gnostic writings that I have at hand, I have never found a statement that the demiurge is the devil. The devil is an entirely different being altogether, and is considered of the enemy of both the demiurge and the true God.

How many other instances are there in this book of poor research? As I've read it I have marked areas to dispute, the above being the most obvious. The main Gnostic myth of Sophia happens to be the one given the least regard by Godwin, which makes me wonder what his agenda is.

Given the age of this book, I am made to wonder how many people have and will take at face value what is written in it. As I know that most people will not question anything put before them, they are likely to take this book as authoritative. Its a nice book, and I have enjoyed reading it, but there is clear bias as to the

information in many places, and a poor understanding of some of it in others. I'm not sorry that I bought it, but I don't take anything at face value. Research, research, research.

Mo says

Detailed historical accounts of angels throughout the centuries along with the hierarchy. An interesting read to add to anyone's collection

Patrick says

I found it rather difficult to get my arms around this book. Unfortunately, every positive thing I can say about this book -- and there were quite a few things to say in that sense -- must be qualified, and there were also several out and out negatives that left me rather wincing. Though in all candor I am simply going to limit this review to two or three things that struck me the most. Apologies at the brevity.

First, this volume works quite well as a "coffee table" type book. The artwork chosen was superb, the layout of the pictures was quite well done and a great deal of care seemed to have been taken with the layout. Unfortunately, the citations of the images was often quite confusing. As in three or four pages after the actual picture appeared, with the citations sometimes preceding the images, and sometimes following. And for no reason I could figure. And there were also several places where there was no citation of any kind, at least that I could see. (See the M.C. Escher images pp. 16-17).

Second, the scholarship. At best it could be classed as "mixed." I thought Part I was fairly well done, until I noticed this review here (citation needed) that took issue with the presentation of Gnosticism in Chapter 4. I recommend reading that review, since the author is -- too put it mildly -- far more informed than I on that particular topic. And even with the first three chapters, I'm afraid a fair amount of it simply seemed a rehash of *A Dictionary of Angels: Including the Fallen Angels*, though presented in a far more readable fashion. As in, a narrative rather than a dictionary format. And as for Part II? Sigh. Things start off loopy and proceeded only to fall further and further down the rabbit hole. Angels (and devils) as extraterrestrials, bizarre religious cults as legitimate interpreters of religious experience and so forth. It seemed to me, at any rate, that the author had determined to shut off his critical faculty, and to take issue with anyone who decided to exercise theirs. Very odd.

Finally, some crazy loose ends. Though I'm afraid I didn't note all the ones I stumbled across, I do remember one in the "Acknowledgments," on p. 255. Mr. Godwin thanks a particular editor for all the "extensive footnotes" in the first draft. Which is certainly interesting, since NONE of these footnotes made it into the published volume, either as footnotes, endnotes, or even as the most general sort of citation. I'm uncertain what to make of that.

Carolyn says

Charts the evolution of the angel in full color, from the kerrubim of Mesopotamia through to the Chariots of the Gods. Truly beautiful art, well-researched. A good time was had by all

Amy Bridges says

Great reference book about angels and the mythology surrounding them.

Shaun says

Alrighty! “Angels: An Endangered Species”. I got this book to help with the research for my work in progress, and read it more for research purposes than simple enjoyment. I see some reviews are criticizing the lack of references, such as after quotes. That... is actually a good point. I don’t see any footnotes or bibliography or sources section, so if you’re doing a research project like me and see a quote from a poem you really want to delve deeper into, it’s disappointing that there’s no references; you can only hope the author credits the source in the narration, which is spotty at best. So right away, I’d say that if you’re working on a serious project, like for a college paper or something similar to that, I’d recommend this book only as a starting point. May help give you some ideas for where you want to go with your project, but due to the lack of references, you’re kind of left on your own to find those things. My research is more, for lack of a better word, recreational, and this book, the first half in particular, was extremely helpful. The illustrations are also pretty neat.

So... I was going to give it a four star rating, because it was helpful to me. But the lack of references makes me think I should knock a star off... But you know what? It was helpful to me. It was a useful read. So I’m keeping the rating at four stars. Pretty handy book as a good introduction to lore pertaining to angels and demons.

Ronan Noane K says

pseudo historisch
pseudo wetenschappelijk
echte hocus pocus

wel interessant als je iets het fenomeen 'engelen' wilt te weten komen.

Romeo says

This is a detailed book on the nature of angels in their role they play in nature of mankind and the cosmos. I've been looking for a book like this for a long time.

Renee says

An exquisitely illustrated guide to angels that I obsessed over as a child. It's a strange mix of scholarly & New Age, and as an adult, I see it with a more critical eye (the part on aliens is weird). But I learned a lot from it (about St. Teresa of Avila, for example, and the difference between seraphim, cherubim, & thrones). Recommended for those interested in angels & Judeo-Christian art.
