



Miracles and Idolatry

Voltaire

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Throughout history, some books have changed the world. They have transformed the way we see ourselves - and each other. They have inspired debate, dissent, war and revolution. They have enlightened, outraged, provoked and comforted. They have enriched lives - and destroyed them. Now Penguin brings you the works of the great thinkers, pioneers, radicals and visionaries whose ideas shook civilization and helped make us who we are.

Voltaire's short, radical and iconoclastic essays on philosophical ideas from angels to idolatry, miracles to wickedness, make wry observations about human beliefs, and mock hypocrisy and extravagant piety - his call to his fellow men to act with reason and see through the lies they are fed by their leaders has provided inspiration to freethinkers everywhere.

Miracles and Idolatry Details

Date : Published August 25th 2005 by Penguin (first published 1764)

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Author : Voltaire

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From Reader Review Miracles and Idolatry for online ebook

Shriram Sivaramakrishnan says

A must read for those who believe in the meta-physics of life. Voltaire, through this work, strips threadbare the reality behind various concepts and schools of thought, ranging from Miracles to Emotions to Idol worship to other prominent contemporaries of his time.

Grig O' says

a good read

Louis says

The chapters on ideas and concepts were more interesting than the ones on historic individuals. Overall a good read.

Jasper says

I'm a bit torn about my rating. While I've greatly enjoyed and felt stimulated by the essays on morality and the classical era, I was much less impressed by the essays on Christianity. So it would've been four stars had it not been that I skimmed parts of the essays on Joseph, Peter, which quickly lost my interest.

Steven Heywood says

This collection of essays examine religious and philosophical ideas from the perspective of a rational man who doesn't accept: "Because I say so" as a clinching argument. The tone varies: sometimes patiently picking apart an argument, sometimes highlighting absurdity by arguing in its favour, and once every so often just angrily demolishing accepted follies. Very readable and very thought-provoking.

Andrew says

Lots of really interesting discussions about religious topics. I quite enjoyed his over view and sacastic response to baptism.

"So butcher them [recently baptized children] as quickly as possible to assure them paradise. This conclusion is so logical that there existed a devout sect who went around poisoning or killing all newly baptized infants. These devotees reasoned perfectly."

Pam says

Brilliant!

Karina Read says

Who knew Voltaire was so witty? This practically drips with sarcasm and i definitely enjoy that. Interesting read.

Shane says

This is an enjoyable series of essays by Voltaire on a range of subjects, but with an emphasis on morality and religion. The wit is still enough to draw a guffaw, even when some of the contemporary or historical details are unfamiliar. And Voltaire's observations on humanity, idolatry and Christianity are as relevant today as they were in the 1700s.

Nick says

A wonderfull enlightened account of progressive thinking in the 18th C. A little too much of the Einsteinian god for my liking.

Tony says

I am ashamed to say that this is my first direct encounter with Voltaire and I can see now what all the fuss is about. It's marvellous; he has such a wicked wit. Here he is commenting on an emperor who was responsible for many massacres and was, for penance, forbidden to attend mass: "It must be admitted that ones suffers horribly when one does not go to mass..."

Ana says

In a world where science is in its infancy, logic and wit prevail upon Voltaire to question just about everything.

Oliver Eike says

Food for thought.

This book is some proper whole-grain food for thought. For it will fill your head and leave you feeling energetic and so full of thoughts. Be it bad or good, that is up to the reader.

But Voltaire was a man that could provoke a thought out of a stone. So this book is something most should read, if only to learn to question things.

I richly enjoyed this book. It took me as long as it did to finish it, simply because i loved reading it outside under the warmth of the sun. And this is a book that should be enjoyed.
