



A DICTIONARY of GNOSTICISM

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Excerpt

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Q: (Initial letter of German *Quelle*, “Source”. A hypothetical lost gospel Q which consists of a collection of sayings of Jesus, combined with brief snatches of narrative, somewhat similar in form to the **Gospel of Thomas*, with which it shares material (arguments that attempt to prove any real connection between Q and the *Gospel of Thomas* have remained unconvincing.). The synoptic gospels of Mark, Matthew and Luke have a literary relationship, and the question of who has copied from whom is known as the synoptic problem. The most widely accepted solution is the two-source hypothesis, which argues that Matthew and Luke have both used Mark as a basis for their gospels (the shared material is known as the triple tradition). Matthew and Luke also share material (known as the double tradition) which is not found in Mark. This double tradition is the basis for a reconstruction of Q, The dating of Q is a complex issue but it may have been written in the early 60s CE.

Qabala: A variant spelling of kabbalah, sometimes used to distinguish the non-Jewish, western occult tradition of kabbalah.

Qardum: A Mandaean demon.

Qin: In Mandaean myth, mother of many spirits of darkness, also mother of Ruha and Zahriel

Qolasta: A collection of Mandaean prayers, hymns, and other liturgical material also known as the Canonical Prayerbook or Mandaean Liturgies. The date is uncertain, but it is known that collection was compiled from much older material.

Quadratus: (c.120) Bishop of Athens and the earliest Christian apologist. Said to have been a disciple of the apostles, like the apologist Aristides he presented his apology to the emperor Hadrian while Hadrian was in Athens attending the Eleusinian mysteries. His work has survived only in a single quotation by Eusebius.

quartodecimanism The practice, considered heretical, of commemorating the death of Christ on the same day as the Jewish Passover rather than on the first Sunday after the first fourteenth day of the moon, which eventually became the established date of Easter. Quartodecimanism was outlawed in 325 C.E. at the *First Council of Nicaea.

Quéribus: A remote eleventh-century castle in the Languedoc where Cathars were sheltered in the thirteenth century by the lords of Quéribus, *Chabert of Barbéra and *Oliver Termes until they had to surrender to crusaders in 1255. Though not as famous as Montségur, Quéribus was the last Cathar stronghold in the Languedoc to fall.

Quispel, Gilles: (1916-2006) Dutch Academic, Professor Emeritus of Christian History at Utrecht University. In 1952 he purchased the Jung Codex, Codex I of the Nag Hammadi library. He was involved in the very first translation of the Gospel of Thomas and was at the forefront of scholarship on Gnosticism following the discovery of the Nag Hammadi library, and was renowned for his sympathy to Gnostic ideas.

Quqites: A sect who were named after their founder Quq, known as “the potter”, because his name derives from the Syrian *quqa*, pitcher. The Quqites were based around in Edessa in Syria in the second and third centuries. Their beliefs seem to have been eclectic, with elements of Judaism, Christianity, paganism, astrology, and Gnosticism, and they were listed by Ephraem of Syria along with Valentinians, followers of Bardaisan and Manichaeans as local heresies.

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