



Revelation of the Magi: The Lost Tale of the Wise Men's Journey to Bethlehem

By Brent Landau

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“Astonishing, delightful, and theologically sophisticated.” —Marvin Meyer, Griset Professor of Religious Studies, Chapman University

Theologian Brent Landau presents the ancient account of Melchior, Caspar, and Balthazar, the three “wise men” who journeyed to Bethlehem to greet the birth of Jesus. *The Revelation of the Magi* offers the first-ever English translation of an ancient Syriac manuscript written in the second to third century after the birth of Christ and safeguarded for generations in the Vatican Library. Following in the footsteps of Elaine Pagels and her exploration of the Gnostic Gospels, including the controversial Gospel of Judas, Landau delivers an invaluable source of information to a world interested in learning more about the Nativity and the life of Jesus of Nazareth.

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

The tale of the Magi, or the Three Wise Men, is one of the most famous stories associated with the birth of Jesus. But as Landau points out, only one brief passage in the New Testament's Gospel of Matthew is actually about the Magi. Even there the details are frustratingly vague: the wise men have no names, nor are their countries of origin indicated. But one source does exist, a lengthy narrative called Revelation of the Magi, which tells the story from the perspective of the wise men themselves. This slim volume is purported to be the first-ever English translation of the elusive tale. Landau, a scholar of ancient biblical languages, discovered the document while doing research at the Vatican Library. Ignored or neglected by contemporary scholars and written in Syriac, a language spoken by ancient Christians in the Middle East and Asia, Revelation of the Magi should be of interest to not only biblical scholars but also students of the Christian story who want to know more about these elusive fellows. --June Sawyers

Review

"Of the many recently discovered earliest Christian documents, Revelation of the Magi is by far the most fascinating. Landau's presentation—bright and sharp as a gemstone—emphasizes the unique challenge and radical depth of this ancient text's theology." (John Dominic Crossan, author of *Jesus: A Revolutionary Biography* and *The Greatest Prayer*)

"The fascinating story of the Wise Men from the East who came to see baby Jesus is presented, for the first time in English, in a remarkable new version based on an ancient Syriac text, and the result is a tale that is astonishing, delightful, and theologically sophisticated." (Marvin Meyer, author of *Gospels of Mary*)

"Unread for centuries, the Revelation of the Magi retells the Biblical story of three wise men who visited Jesus at his birth, expanding their minor role into an epic tale. In a new, lucid translation, Landau offers English readers a chance to hear this remarkable story for the first time." (Karen L. King, author of *The Secret Revelation of John*)

"This lovely text, skillfully translated and accompanied by expert commentary shows that early Christians approached the Christmas story with refreshing creativity. Landau is to be congratulated for bringing this important and unexpectedly influential work to light." (Jennifer Knust, author of *Unprotected Texts*)

"Revelation of the Magi should be of interest to not only biblical scholars but also students of the Christian story who want to know more about these elusive fellows." (Booklist)

"For all of [The Wise Men's] popularity, the mysterious travelers from the East ... appear in only one short passage in the New Testament. Now, a first-ever English translation and detailed analysis of a little-known eighth-century text uncovers a far more substantial version of the wise men story." (USA Today)

"This year a number of Christmas stockings will no doubt be stuffed with a copy of a beautiful little book, Revelation of the Magi. ...Quite luminous and wonderful... Like incense, the pages radiate divine grace, mercy, and love. They seem infused with light, glory, majesty, epiphany, and joy." (Day 1.org)

"Landau shows, with skill and authority, how the "Revelation" contains a valuable message of tolerance that is needed as much today as in the years of its composition." (Los Angeles Times (online))

From the Back Cover

Each Christmas, adults and children alike delight at the story of the kings from the East who followed the star to Bethlehem to offer gifts to the newborn Christ. While this familiar tale is recorded in the Gospel of Matthew, another little-known version later emerged that claimed to be the eyewitness account of the wise men. This ancient manuscript has lain hidden for centuries in the vaults of the Vatican Library, but through the determined persistence of a young scholar, Brent Landau, this astonishing discovery has been translated into English for the very first time as the *Revelation of the Magi*.

Everything we know about the wise men is based on only a few verses from the Bible. With the *Revelation of the Magi*, we can now read the story from the Magi's perspective. Readers will learn of the Magi's prophecies of God's incarnation from the beginning of time, their startling visitation in the form of a star, the teachings they receive from the baby Jesus, and the wise men's joyous return to their homeland to spread the good news.

This ancient version of the Christmas story is guaranteed to astonish and delight. It will also raise larger questions of the significance and meaning of Christ's birth, and the mission to spread the good news to every corner of the globe. All the drama and intrigue of the brief description of Jesus's birth in the Bible is filled out in greater, more colorful detail, offering for the first time the complete story of these beloved characters.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Eula Johnson:

Nowadays reading books become more than want or need but also be a life style. This reading habit give you lot of advantages. Advantages you got of course the knowledge the actual information inside the book that will improve your knowledge and information. The info you get based on what kind of guide you read, if you want attract knowledge just go with schooling books but if you want experience happy read one with theme for entertaining for instance comic or novel. The particular Revelation of the Magi: The Lost Tale of the Wise Men's Journey to Bethlehem is kind of reserve which is giving the reader erratic experience.

William Stone:

The particular book Revelation of the Magi: The Lost Tale of the Wise Men's Journey to Bethlehem will bring one to the new experience of reading a book. The author style to clarify the idea is very unique. In case you try to find new book to read, this book very acceptable to you. The book Revelation of the Magi: The Lost Tale of the Wise Men's Journey to Bethlehem is much recommended to you to learn. You can also get the e-book through the official web site, so you can more readily to read the book.

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