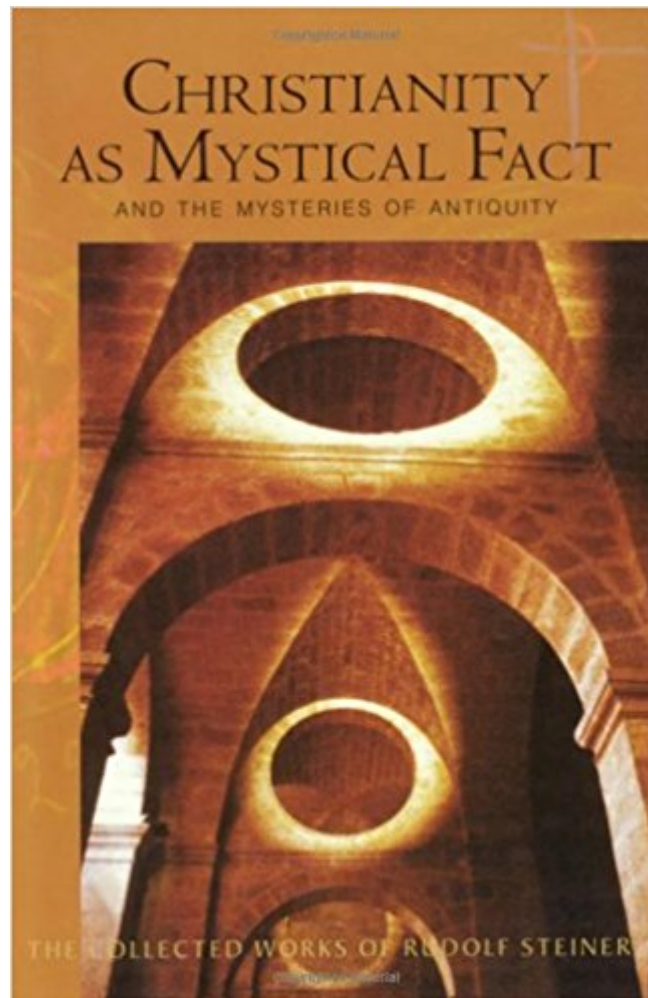




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# Christianity As Mystical Fact: And The Mysteries Of Antiquity



## Synopsis

Written 1902 (CW 8) – “Because of his sense of the interconnectedness of the spiritual world with nature, art, medicine, and all the rest of life, Rudolf Steiner was a profound polymath. In his seminal study *Christianity as Mystical Fact* he turned his esoteric genius to interpreting the Christ event as the turning point in the world’s spiritual history – an incarnation whose significance he saw transcending all religions. – Bishop Frederick H. Borsch, professor of New Testament and chair of Anglican Studies, Lutheran Theological Seminary, Philadelphia – “As simultaneously mysticism and fact, Christianity is a breakthrough in the historical development of humanity for which the mysteries, with the results that they brought about, form a prior evolutionary stage. – • – Rudolf Steiner During the fall and winter of 1901 – 1902, Steiner gave a series of lectures called – “Christianity As Mystical Fact – to members of the Theosophical Society. The lectures were rewritten and issued as a book later that year. They mark a watershed in the development of Western esotericism. Steiner wrote of the idea behind his book: – “The title *Christianity As Mystical Fact* was one I gave to this work eight years ago, when I gathered together the content of lectures given in 1902. It was meant to indicate the special approach adopted in the book. Its theme is not just the mystical side of Christianity in a historical presentation. It was meant to show, from the standpoint of a mystical awareness, how Christianity came into being. Behind this was the idea that spiritual happenings were factors in the emergence of Christianity, which could only be observed from such a point of view. It is for the book itself to demonstrate that, by “mystical, – I do not in any way imply a vague intuition rather than strict scientific argument. In many circles, mysticism is understood as just that, and therefore it is distinguished from the concerns of all ‘genuine’ science. – “In this book, however, I use the term to mean a ‘presentation of spiritual reality’ – a reality accessible only to a knowledge drawn from the sources of spiritual life itself. Anyone who denies the possibility of such knowledge in principle will find its contents hard to comprehend; any reader who accepts the idea that mysticism may coexist with the clarity of the natural sciences, may acknowledge that the mystical aspect of Christianity must be described mystically. – • This is a fundamental book, in Steiner’s own development, in that of Western esotericism, and for our understanding of the Christ event. Readers will find the evolutionary development from the ancient Mysteries through the great Greek philosophers to the events portrayed in the Gospels. Included are an informative introduction and annotated notes by Andrew Welburn and an afterword by Michael Debus, a priest of the Christian Community, who summarizes the book and places it in context. Contents: Introduction by Christopher Bamford Translator’s Preface by Andrew Welburn The Mysteries and Mysterosophy

The Mysteries and Pre-Socratic Philosophy Platonic Mysteries Myth and Mysteriosophy The Egyptian and Other Eastern Mysteries The Evidence of the Gospels The "Miracle" of Lazarus The Apocalypse of John Jesus in His Historical Setting The Essence of Christianity Christian and Pagan Wisdom Augustine and the Church Original Prefaces and Additional Materials Afterword by Michael Debus Translator's Notes This Collected Works edition contains a new introduction, a chronology of Rudolf Steiner's life, and an index. German edition: "Das Christentum als mystische Tatsache und die Mysterien des Altertums" Cover image: Photo of Bordeaux Cathedral by James Nicholls.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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I have read several Rudolf Steiner books, and in my opinion this one is by far the best for those who have come to mysticism by way of Christianity. Many of Steiner's works are heavy on exercises and practical application; this one however is written in a more informational manner. So, instead of being a "how to" book, it is rather historical information that shows how Christianity is the completion of the path that the mystery schools of antiquity began to follow. If you have been looking for the link

between Mysticism and Christianity, then stop looking and put this book in your cart, because you have found the connection. Rudolf Steiner provides the missing link!

Rudolf Steiner can be a difficult author to follow unless you have PLENTY of time to re-read pages and keep an OPEN MIND. He is an excellent writer, and understood the spiritual realm of our universe with zeal in a time when being open-minded was almost unheard of. We have learned lots from his books. Steiner was a CHRISTIAN who wanted to bring us more in touch with the Spirit World.

The print was so tiny that I returned the book and bought a kindle version of the same poorly edited translation. The kindle version is much easier to read but the typos are a drag.

I learned about this book while reading translator Andrew Welburn's excellent book *The Beginnings of Christianity: Essene Mystery, Gnostic Revelation and the Christian Vision*. These two books should be treated as a set. I was apprehensive about reading Steiner, not wanting anything to do with occult, psychic, or reincarnation ideas -- fortunately, none of these appear in this particular book. Highly recommended to anyone who is interested in the original, esoteric forms of Christianity as a Jewish-styled version of the Hellenistic mystery-religion, as described in the book *The Jesus Mysteries*, by Freke and Gandy.

great book!

Great Book, but the particular publication is terrible. Does not even mention the translation. The print is all but microscopic. Just a cheap computer job with zero love or respect to the book contents.

There were glaring errors in this book. It did not appear to be proof read at all. The publisher disclaimed any responsibility for errors. If the publisher is not responsible, who is?

In this book, Steiner describes how Christianity evolved from earlier esoteric traditions such as the mystery schools, Egyptian and Eastern wisdom, and Greek philosophy. Steiner interprets the life of Christ as a model for the path of an initiate. As examples, he offers elegant insights into parts of the gospels which have previously left me "in the dark." Some say that Steiner's approach to the Christianity has been continued by Joseph Campbell. If you like Campbell, you'll like this book. This

book has reinvigorated Christianity for me-- by showing me how it can be interpreted like a myth. Now I can look at the gospels in a new manner, and gain new insights from them. I think that it helps to have a little background in Greek philosophy to read this book, but I don't think that it's absolutely necessary.

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