

Knut Backhaus

Religion als Reise

Intertextuelle Lektüren in Antike und Christentum

[Religion as a Journey. Intertextual Readings in Antiquity and Christianity.]

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Journeying and religion have much in common: They consider the fields of visibility all too restricted and transgress boundaries. The transgressive readings in this book cross the intersections of early Christian and pagan art of narrative. Going beyond the conventional idea of a unilateral Christianisation of the Roman Empire, Knut Backhaus discloses a rich variety of communicative processes whose bearers are not so easy to separate, but share a vivid wanderlust. His comparative interpretation starts with the quests for the »end of the world« in the epics, thereby throwing new light upon the Christian self-concept of »way«. He then pursues Jesus and the wandering charismatics as well as the memory images of Christ and his pagan fellow wanderers (Apollonius of Tyana, Hercules, Orpheus, Dionysus). As to the adventurous travels of Saint Paul, the focus is on shipwrecking. There is a special interest in how journey metaphors have influenced Christian spirituality.

Knut Backhaus Geboren 1960; 1989 Promotion; 1994 Habilitation; 1994–2003 Ordinarius für Neues Testament an der Theologischen Fakultät Paderborn; seit 2003 Lehrstuhlinhaber für Neutestamentliche Exegese und biblische Hermeneutik an der Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München.

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