

Hans Dieter Betz

The »Mithras Liturgy«

Text, Translation, and Commentary

[Die »Mithrasliturgie«. Text, Übersetzung und Kommentar.]



Published in English.

Hans Dieter Betz provides the first complete English commentary on one of the most important texts of the history of religions in late antiquity: the so-called »Mithras Liturgy«, a magic Graeco-Egyptian papyrus from the 4th century AD, written from the inner perspective by an initiated devotee of the god Helios-Mithras-Aion and containing an esoteric ritual instruction for an ascension to and consultation with the god. In addition to an introduction into the history of research since Albrecht Dieterich's famous work »Eine Mithrasliturgie« (1903), the volume contains the Greek text and the English translation, an analysis of the literary composition, and a commentary establishing the text and contextualizing it in relation to Egyptian religion, Mithraism, hermeticism and gnosticism. At the end of the book there is a bibliography and a Greek word-index.

Hans Dieter Betz Born 1931; studied Protestant Theology in Bethel, Mainz, and Cambridge (UK); 1957 PhD; 1966 Habilitation; 1963–78 Professor of New Testament at the School of Theology in Claremont, California; since 1978 Shailer Mathews Professor of New Testament and Early Christian Literature at the University of Chicago; since 2000 emeritus.

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