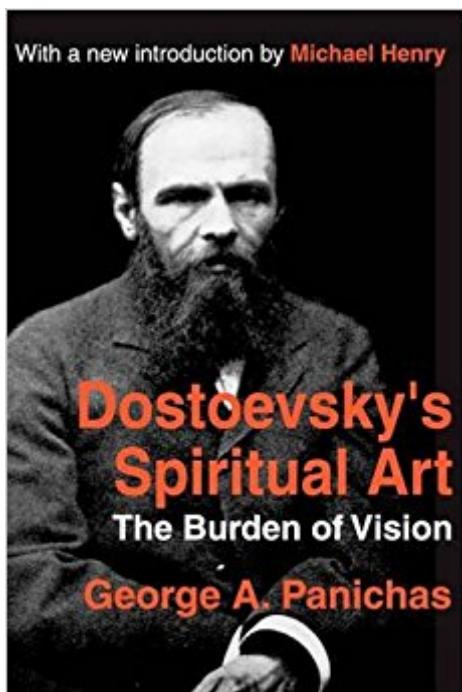


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Dostoevsky's Spiritual Art: The Burden Of Vision (Library Of Conservative Thought)



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Customer Reviews

"The volume is aptly named Dostoevsky's Spiritual Art . It is the product of more than twenty years of Panichas's teaching and writing about Dostoevsky's oeuvre. In focusing upon the relationship between literature and religion the author recognizes that he is swimming against the current of contemporary liberalism that "resists any standards that make for moral centrality and spiritual tradition... One cannot put this book down without experiencing the desire to reread some of Dostoevsky's great novels." "Metaphysics" "A brief review cannot do justice to the profundity, erudition, and spiritual as well as moral candor displayed in George Panichas's treatise... Panichas's style combines lucidity, subtlety, and immediacy with a convincing eloquence which derives its force from a vision of undeniable truth... Hopefully, Panichas's work will receive the widest possible circulation among academic specialists, literary critics, and educated readers." "Heinrich A. Stammle, Slavic Review" "One cannot put this book down without experiencing the desire to read some of Dostoevsky's great novels. As Panichas makes clear, Crime and Punishment and the Brothers Karamazov are part of the Western literary canon." "FCS Quarterly" "[T]he deep erudition in these pages is alive with a sympathy and a sensitivity--at times even a passion--that bespeak a real sharing in the author's prophetic vision. As few works of criticism do, this is a book that deserves its place on the same shelf with the inspired fiction it examines." "Chronicles: A Magazine of American Culture" "Dr. Panichas"

book on Dostoevsky is, indeed, a new milestone in the immense body of literature on the Russian genius." —Sergei Levitzky, *Novoye Russkoye Slovo* (Russian Daily)

George A. Panichas is professor emeritus of English at the University of Maryland and editor of *Modern Age: A Quarterly Review*. Among his numerous writings are *The Reverent Discipline: Essays in Literary Criticism and Culture* and *The Courage of Judgment: Essays in Criticism, Culture and Society*. Michael Henry is professor of philosophy at St. John's University, New York. He is also the series editor of Transaction's *Library of Conservative Thought* series. His work has appeared in *Modern Age*, *The Hillsdale Review*, and *The Political Science Reviewer*.

Dostoyevsky was not the visionary, as the arbiter of utopian rustication of the Parnassian conscience, but the visionary, as a "fool for Christ." The paganism of gnostic hubris and confidence trickster found in a circus side-show, conspiring with unfed, un-edified apes is humbled by the man, the "Idiot" who is directed into the unfolding morally astute drama of the reality, the mystery of an abiding faith in divine mercy poured out of the pierced side of the crucified "fool" who so loves the tragicomic carnival of mystic 'freaks' and 'poor folk' subordinate to a tortured innocence bound infinitely by the brazen and bracing act of perfect charity borne by the sublime, pained yet glorious and luminous face in whose image the staged, redeemed players are brilliantly conceived into the seamless tapestry of mundane fabrics sewn into the transcendent scene of mirrored, blindly-silhouetted, indelibly woven shards of radiant, eternally threaded and tethered to the needle of the grace gifted -- cloaks that are the wardrobe of the handmaiden and tailored costumes ineffable, luxuriant and silkened by the sun.

The prose of professor Panichas is rather dense, but well worth the time and effort. I enjoyed the new introduction that was not in an earlier edition of this book. Panichas adds depth to my understanding of the five great novels of my favorite author.

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