

Arnobii Adversus nationes, libri VII

Apud C. Geroldi ... - Octavius (dialogue)

Description: -



Bible. -- O.T. -- Criticism, interpretation, etc. -- Microform
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1542 ARNOBIUS Against the Pagans FIRST EDITION Roman Paganism EARLY CHRISTIANITY

It is certain, therefore, that this date is not correct; and it seems very probable that Oehler's conjecture is true, who supposes that Jerome accidentally transposed his words from the year 303 to the place where we find them, misled by noticing the vicenalia of Constantine when he was looking for those of Diocletian.

Christian and Non

Quod si ea quae fiunt propria vi pendere, non ante sumptis placet opinionibus aestimari, arae istae quas dicitis altariaque haec pulchra infelicissimi animalium generis ustrinae, rogi sunt et busticeta in opus structa foedissimum atque in sedem fabricata faetorum.

Christian and Non

Can any greater insult be put upon your Jupiter, or is there anything else which will destroy and ruin the reputation of the chief of the gods, further than that you believe him to have been at times overcome by vicious pleasures, and to have glowed with the passion of a heart roused to lust after women? Now if they seemed 1 to you stories of such absurdity, some of them you would neither retain in their constant use, nor celebrate as solemn festivals from year to year, nor would you maintain them among your sacred rites as shadows of real events. Why did she flee from his embraces, as if she were avoiding unlawful approaches? But the same gods have given to you both cumin, cress, turnips, onions, parsley, esculent thistles, radishes, gourds, rue, mint, basil, flea-bane, and chives, and commanded them to be used by you as part of your food; why, then, do you not put these too upon the altars, and scatter wild-marjoram, with which oxen are fed, over them all, and mix amongst them onions with their pungent flavour? And yet, that we may not seem unwilling to examine what you say, we ask this first of you, if only you will bear with us, from whom have you learned, or by whom has it been made known, either that these things were written allegorically, or that they should be understood in the same way? Do you give new dignity to the gods by new kinds of food? {FOLIO EDITION IS ALSO AVAILABLE. While, therefore, you accuse, without making any exception, not one only by name, but the whole of the gods alike, in whose existence you believe, of such acts of extraordinary shamefulness and baseness, do you dare, without violation of modesty, to say either that we are impious, or that you are pious, although they receive from you much greater occasion for offence on account of all the shameful acts which you heap up to their reproach, than in connection with the service and duties required by their majesty, honour, and worship? Nam si, quia virgo Tritonia est, idcirco ei convenit virginis hostias immolari, et quod Tellus est mater, consimiliter gravidis accipienda est scrofis, ergo et musicis Apollo, quod musicus, et quod medicus Aesculapius, medicis, et quod faber Vulcanus est, fabris, et quod Mercurius eloquens, eloquentibus debet disertissimisque mactari.

Arnobius Maior

Sed concessio haec omnis et honoris de qua loquimur attributio solis habet in hominibus sedem, quos naturalis infirmitas et amor in altioribus standi docet gaudere de fastibus et aliorum comparationibus anteponi.

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