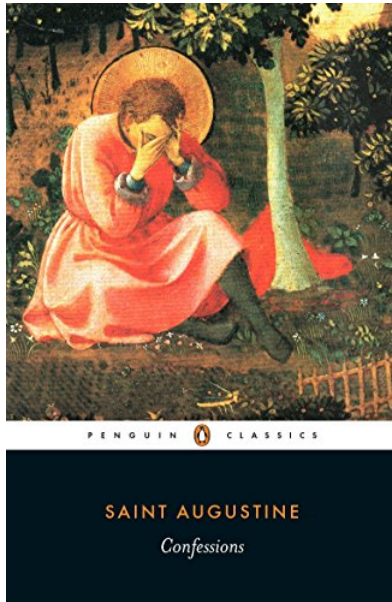


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In his introduction R. S. Pine-Coffin discusses Saint Augustine's intentions in writing his *Confessions* and issues of translation. This edition also includes a list of dates of events recorded in the *Confessions*. St Augustine writes, 'As a youth ... I had prayed to you for chastity and said "Give me chastity and continence, but not yet!"' The son of a pagan father and a Christian mother, Saint Augustine spent his early years torn between conflicting faiths and worldviews. His *Confessions*, written when he was in his forties, recount how, slowly and painfully, he came to turn away from his youthful ideas and licentious lifestyle, to become instead a staunch advocate of Christianity and one of its most influential thinkers. A remarkably honest and revealing spiritual autobiography, the *Confessions* also address fundamental issues of Christian doctrine, and many of the prayers and meditations it includes are still an integral part of the practice of Christianity today.

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