

Pseudo-Dionysius the Areopagite

en.wikipedia.org

March 31, 2022

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3.1 GNU GENERAL PUBLIC LICENSE	67
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1 Pseudo-Dionysius the Areopagite

Christian theologian Not to be confused with Dionysius the Areopagite¹. "Pseudo-Dionysius" redirects here. For the chronicle once attributed to Dionysius Telmaharoyo, see Zuqnin Chronicle².

Pseudo-Dionysius the Areopagite

Excerpt from the *De Coelesti Hierarchya*

Born unknown
(5th–6th century AD)
Died unknown
(5th–6th century AD)

Other names

- "Dionysius"
- "Denys"
- "(Saint) Dionysius the Areopagite" (mistaken identification)

Notable work *De Coelesti Hierarchya*

Era Ancient philosophy
Medieval philosophy
Region Western philosophy
School Neoplatonism
Christian philosophy
Main interests Apophatic theology
Christian angelology
Christian mysticism
Notable ideas Seven Archangels
Hierarchy of angels

Part of a series³ on

1 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dionysius_the_Areopagite

2 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zuqnin_Chronicle

3 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Neoplatonism>

Neoplatonism⁴

⁵Reconstructed bust believed to represent Plotinus

Concepts

- Theory of forms⁶
- Form of the Good⁷
- Hypostasis⁸
- Arche⁹
- Nous¹⁰
- Demiurge¹¹
- Logos¹²
- Anima mundi¹³
- Henosis¹⁴
- Theurgy¹⁵
- Okhema¹⁶
- Microcosm and macrocosm¹⁷

Works

- Enneads¹⁸
- De Mysteriis Aegyptiorum¹⁹
- Liber de Causis²⁰
- The City of God²¹
- The Consolation of Philosophy²²
- De Coelesti Hierarchia²³
- De divisione naturae²⁴
- Chaldean Oracles²⁵

4 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neoplatonism>
5 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plotinus>
6 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theory_of_forms
7 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Form_of_the_Good
8 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hypostasis_\(philosophy_and_religion\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hypostasis_(philosophy_and_religion))
9 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arche>
10 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nous>
11 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demiurge>
12 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Logos>
13 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anima_mundi
14 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henosis>
15 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theurgy>
16 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Okhema>
17 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microcosm_and_macrocosm
18 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enneads>
19 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/On_the_Mysteries_of_the_Egyptians,_Chaldeans,_and_Assyrians
20 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liber_de_Causis
21 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_City_of_God
22 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Consolation_of_Philosophy
23 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/De_Coelesti_Hierarchia
24 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/De_divisione_naturae
25 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chaldean_Oracles

People

- Plato²⁶
- Ammonius Saccas²⁷
- Plotinus²⁸ (disciples²⁹)
- Origen³⁰
- Porphyry³¹
- Iamblichus³²
- Julian the Apostate³³
- Sallustius³⁴
- Hypatia³⁵
- Plutarch of Athens³⁶
- Macrobius³⁷
- Augustine of Hippo³⁸
- Syrianus³⁹
- Proclus⁴⁰
- Pseudo-Dionysius
- Damascius⁴¹
- Simplicius of Cilicia⁴²
- Boethius⁴³
- David the Invincible⁴⁴
- Maximus the Confessor⁴⁵
- Johannes Scotus Eriugena⁴⁶
- Al-Farabi⁴⁷
- Brethren of Purity⁴⁸
- Solomon ibn Gabirol⁴⁹
- Isaac the Blind⁵⁰
- Thierry of Chartres⁵¹
- Gemistus Pletho⁵²
- Marsilio Ficino⁵³
- Giovanni Pico della Mirandola⁵⁴
- Giordano Bruno⁵⁵
- Cambridge Platonists⁵⁶
- Thomas Taylor⁵⁷
- Roman Ingarden⁵⁸

26 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plato>

27 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ammonius_Saccas

28 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plotinus>

29 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Disciples_of_Plotinus

30 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Origen>

31 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Porphyry_\(philosopher\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Porphyry_(philosopher))

32 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iamblichus>

33 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julian_the_Apostate

34 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sallustius_\(Neoplatonist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sallustius_(Neoplatonist))

35 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hypatia>

36 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plutarch_of_Athens

37 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macrobius>

38 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augustine_of_Hippo

39 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syrianus>

40 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proclus>

Related topics

- Platonism⁵⁹ (in the Renaissance⁶⁰)
- Platonic Academy⁶¹
- Middle Platonism⁶²
- Kabbalah⁶³
- Spirituality⁶⁴
- Isma'ilism⁶⁵
- Druze⁶⁶
- Allegorical interpretations of Plato⁶⁷
- Plato's unwritten doctrines⁶⁸
- Neoplatonism and Christianity⁶⁹ / Gnosticism⁷⁰



Philosophy portal⁷¹

-
- 41 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Damascius>
 - 42 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simplicius_of_Cilicia
 - 43 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boethius>
 - 44 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_the_Invincible
 - 45 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maximus_the_Confessor
 - 46 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johannes_Scotus_Eriugena
 - 47 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Farabi>
 - 48 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brethren_of_Purity
 - 49 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solomon_ibn_Gabirol
 - 50 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isaac_the_Blind
 - 51 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thierry_of_Chartres
 - 52 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gemistus_Pletho
 - 53 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marsilio_Ficino
 - 54 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giovanni_Pico_della_Mirandola
 - 55 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giordano_Bruno
 - 56 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cambridge_Platonists
 - 57 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Taylor_\(neoplatonist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Taylor_(neoplatonist))
 - 58 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Ingarden
 - 59 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Platonism>
 - 60 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Platonism_in_the_Renaissance
 - 61 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Platonic_Academy
 - 62 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_Platonism
 - 63 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kabbalah>
 - 64 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spirituality>
 - 65 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isma%27ilism>
 - 66 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Druze>
 - 67 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allegorical_interpretations_of_Plato
 - 68 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plato%27s_unwritten_doctrines
 - 69 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neoplatonism_and_Christianity
 - 70 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neoplatonism_and_Gnosticism
 - 71 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portal:Philosophy>

- v⁷²
- t⁷³
- e⁷⁴

Part of a series⁷⁵ on
Christian mysticism⁷⁶



Figure 2 Transfiguration of Jesus

72 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Template:Neoplatonism>

73 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Template_talk:Neoplatonism

74 <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Neoplatonism&action=edit>

75 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Christian_mysticism

76 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_mysticism

Theology • Philosophy

- Apophatic⁷⁷
- Ascetical⁷⁸
- Cataphatic⁷⁹
- Catholic spirituality⁸⁰
- Hellenistic⁸¹
- Mystical theology⁸²
- Neoplatonic⁸³
 - Henosis⁸⁴

77 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apophatic_theology

78 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ascetical_theology

79 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cataphatic_theology

80 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catholic_spirituality

81 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity_and_Hellenistic_philosophy

82 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mystical_theology

83 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neoplatonism_and_Christianity

84 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henosis>

Practices**Monasticism**

- Monasticism⁸⁵
- Asceticism⁸⁶
- Spiritual direction⁸⁷

Meditation

- Meditation⁸⁸
- *Lectio Divina*⁸⁹
- Invoking of Mystic Saints⁹⁰

Active asceticism

- Contemplation⁹¹
 - Hesychasm⁹²
 - Jesus prayer⁹³
 - Quietism⁹⁴
- Stages of Christian perfection⁹⁵
- Divinization⁹⁶
 - Catharsis⁹⁷
 - *Theosis*⁹⁸
- Kenosis⁹⁹
- Spiritual dryness¹⁰⁰
- Religious ecstasy¹⁰¹

Passive asceticism

- Abstinence¹⁰²

85 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_monasticism

86 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asceticism>

87 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spiritual_direction

88 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_meditation

89 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lectio_Divina

90 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intercession_of_saints

91 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_contemplation

92 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hesychasm>

93 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesus_prayer

94 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quietism_\(Christian_philosophy\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quietism_(Christian_philosophy))

95 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_\(theology\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_(theology))

96 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Divinization_\(Christian\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Divinization_(Christian))

97 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catharsis>

98 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theosis_\(Eastern_Christian_theology\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theosis_(Eastern_Christian_theology))

99 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenosis>

100 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spiritual_dryness

101 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religious_ecstasy

102 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abstinence>

Antiquity

- Ancient African¹⁰³
- Origen¹⁰⁴
- Gregory of Nyssa¹⁰⁵
- Pseudo-Dionysius

Desert Fathers¹⁰⁶

- Paul of Thebes¹⁰⁷
- Anthony the Great¹⁰⁸
- Arsenius the Great¹⁰⁹
- Poemen¹¹⁰
- Macarius of Egypt¹¹¹
- Moses the Black¹¹²
- Syncletica¹¹³
- Athanasius¹¹⁴
- John Chrysostom¹¹⁵
- Hilarion¹¹⁶
- John Cassian¹¹⁷

11th • 12th

- Bernard of Clairvaux¹¹⁸
- Guigo II¹¹⁹
- Hildegard of Bingen¹²⁰
- Symeon the New Theologian¹²¹

Dominican¹²²

- Dominic de Guzmán¹²³

Franciscan¹²⁴

- Francis of Assisi¹²⁵
- Anthony of Padua¹²⁶
- Bonaventure¹²⁷
- Jacopone da Todi¹²⁸
- Angela of Foligno¹²⁹

English

- Richard Rolle¹³⁰
- Walter Hilton¹³¹
- Julian of Norwich¹³²
- Margery Kempe¹³³

13th • 14th Flemish¹³⁴

- Beatrice of Nazareth¹³⁵
- Lutgardis¹³⁶
- John of Ruysbroeck¹³⁷

German¹³⁸

- Meister Eckhart¹³⁹
- Johannes Tauler¹⁴⁰
- Henry Suso¹⁴¹

Female¹⁴²

- Beatrice of Nazareth¹⁴³
- Bridget of Sweden¹⁴⁴
- Catherine of Siena¹⁴⁵
- Mechthild of Magdeburg¹⁴⁶
- Marguerite Porete¹⁴⁷

Spanish¹⁴⁸

- Ignatius of Loyola¹⁴⁹
- Francisco de Osuna¹⁵⁰
- John of Ávila¹⁵¹
- Teresa of Ávila¹⁵²
- John of the Cross¹⁵³

Others

- Catherine of Genoa¹⁵⁴

French¹⁵⁵

- Margaret Mary Alacoque¹⁵⁶
- Pierre de Bérulle¹⁵⁷
- Jean-Jacques Olier¹⁵⁸
- Louis de Montfort¹⁵⁹
- Charles de Condren¹⁶⁰
- John Eudes¹⁶¹

17th • 18th • John of St. Samson¹⁶²

Others

Literature • Media

- Lingua Ignota¹⁹²
- Ordo Virtutum¹⁹³
- Scivias¹⁹⁴
- Ascent of Mount Carmel¹⁹⁵
- Dark Night of the Soul¹⁹⁶
- Spiritual Canticle¹⁹⁷
- Way of Perfection¹⁹⁸
- Book of the First Monks¹⁹⁹
- The Interior Castle²⁰⁰
- Abbey of the Holy Ghost²⁰¹
- A Dialogue of Comfort against Tribulation²⁰²
- Diary: Divine Mercy in My Soul²⁰³
- From Willow Creek to Sacred Heart²⁰⁴
- The Glories of Mary²⁰⁵
- The Imitation of Christ²⁰⁶
- The Ladder of Divine Ascent²⁰⁷
- Philokalia²⁰⁸
- Revelations of Divine Love²⁰⁹
- The Story of a Soul²¹⁰
- Theologia Germanica²¹¹
- Devotio Moderna²¹²
- Fatima in Lucia's Own Words²¹³
- Calls from the Message of Fatima²¹⁴
- The Miracle of Our Lady of Fatima²¹⁵
- Sol de Fátima²¹⁶
- The Cloud of Unknowing²¹⁷
- The Consolation of Philosophy²¹⁸
- The Mirror of Simple Souls²¹⁹
- Sister Catherine Treatise²²⁰
- Tractatus de Purgatorio Sancti Patricii²²¹
- The Vision of Adamnán²²²
- Divine Comedy²²³
 - Inferno²²⁴
 - Purgatorio²²⁵
 - Paradiso²²⁶
- Fatima²²⁷

192 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lingua_Ignota

193 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ordo_Virtutum

194 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scivias>

195 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ascent_of_Mount_Carmel

196 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dark_Night_of_the_Soul

197 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spiritual_Canticle

198 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Way_of_Perfection

199 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_the_First_Monks

200 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Interior_Castle

201 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abbey_of_the_Holy_Ghost

202 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Dialogue_of_Comfort_against_Tribulation

203 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diary:_Divine_Mercy_in_My_Soul

204 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/From_Willow_Creek_to_Sacred_Heart

205 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Glories_of_Mary

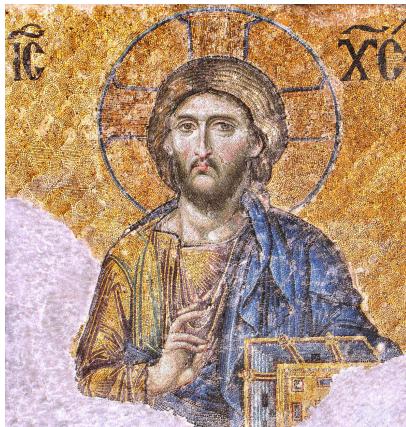
206 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Imitation_of_Christ

207 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Ladder_of_Divine_Ascent

208 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philokalia>

- v²²⁸
- t²²⁹
- e²³⁰

Part of a series²³¹ on the
Eastern Orthodox Church²³²



Mosaic of Christ Pantocrator²³³, Hagia Sophia²³⁴

Figure 3 Christ Pantocrator
(Deesis mosaic detail)

Overview

-
- 209 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Revelations_of_Divine_Love
210 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Story_of_a_Soul
211 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theologia_Germanica
212 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Devotio_Moderna
213 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fatima_in_Lucia%27s_Own_Words
214 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calls_from_the_Message_of_Fatima
215 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Miracle_of_Our_Lady_of_Fatima
216 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sol_de_F%C3%A1tima
217 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Cloud_of_Unknowing
218 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Consolation_of_Philosophy
219 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Mirror_of_Simple_Souls
220 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sister_Catherine_Treatise
221 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tractatus_de_Purgatorio_Sancti_Patricii
222 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Vision_of_Adamn%C3%A1in
223 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Divine_Comedy
224 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inferno_\(Dante\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inferno_(Dante))
225 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purgatorio>
226 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paradiso_\(Dante\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paradiso_(Dante))
227 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fatima_\(2020_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fatima_(2020_film))
228 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Template:Christian_mysticism
229 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Template_talk:Christian_mysticism
230 https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Christian_mysticism&action=edit
231 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Eastern_Orthodoxy
232 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Orthodox_Church
233 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christ_Pantocrator
234 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hagia_Sophia

- Structure²³⁵
- Theology²³⁶ (History of theology²³⁷)
- Liturgy²³⁸
- Church history²³⁹
- Holy Mysteries²⁴⁰
- *View of salvation*²⁴¹
- *View of Mary*²⁴²
- View of icons²⁴³

Background

- Crucifixion²⁴⁴ / Resurrection²⁴⁵ / Ascension of Jesus²⁴⁶
- Christianity²⁴⁷
- Christian Church²⁴⁸
- Apostolic succession²⁴⁹
- Four Marks of the Church²⁵⁰
- Orthodoxy²⁵¹

235 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organization_of_the_Eastern_Orthodox_Church

236 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Orthodox_theology

237 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Eastern_Orthodox_theology

238 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Orthodox_worship

239 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Eastern_Orthodox_Church

240 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sacrament#Eastern_Orthodoxy_and_Oriental_Orthodoxy

241 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theosis_\(Eastern_Christian_theology\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theosis_(Eastern_Christian_theology))

242 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theotokos>

243 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Icon#Eastern_Orthodox_teaching

244 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crucifixion_of_Jesus

245 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Resurrection_of_Jesus

246 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ascension_of_Jesus

247 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity>

248 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_Church

249 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apostolic_succession

250 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Four_Marks_of_the_Church

251 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orthodoxy>

- Organization²⁵²
 - Autocephaly²⁵³
 - Patriarchate²⁵⁴
 - Ecumenical Patriarch²⁵⁵
 - Episcopal polity²⁵⁶
 - Canon law²⁵⁷
 - Clergy²⁵⁸
 - Bishops²⁵⁹
 - Priests²⁶⁰
 - Deacons²⁶¹
 - Monasticism²⁶²
 - Degrees of monasticism²⁶³

252 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organization_of_the_Eastern_Orthodox_Church

253 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Autocephaly>

254 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patriarchate>

255 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecumenical_Patriarch_of_Constantinople

256 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Episcopal_polity#Eastern_Orthodox_Church

257 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canon_law_of_the_Eastern_Orthodox_Church

258 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clergy#Orthodoxy>

259 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bishop_\(Eastern_Orthodox_Church\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bishop_(Eastern_Orthodox_Church))

260 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Priesthood_\(Orthodox_Church\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Priesthood_(Orthodox_Church))

261 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deacon#Eastern_Orthodoxy_and_Eastern_Catholicism

262 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Christian_monasticism#Byzantine_monasticism

263 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Degrees_of_Eastern_Orthodox_monasticism

Autocephalous²⁶⁴ jurisdictions Autocephalous Churches who are officially part of the communion:

- Constantinople²⁶⁵
- Alexandria²⁶⁶
- Antioch²⁶⁷
- Jerusalem²⁶⁸
- Russia²⁶⁹
- Serbia²⁷⁰
- Romania²⁷¹
- Bulgaria²⁷²
- Georgia²⁷³
- Cyprus²⁷⁴
- Greece²⁷⁵
- Poland²⁷⁶
- Albania²⁷⁷
- Czech Lands and Slovakia²⁷⁸

Autocephaly recognized universally *de facto*, by some autocephalous Churches *de jure*:

- America²⁷⁹

Autocephaly recognized by Constantinople and 3 other autocephalous Churches:

- Ukraine²⁸⁰

264 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Autocephaly>

265 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecumenical_Patriarchate_of_Constantinople

266 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_Orthodox_Patriarchate_of_Alexandria_and_all_Africa

267 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_Orthodox_Church_of_Antioch

268 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_Orthodox_Church_of_Jerusalem

269 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_Orthodox_Church

270 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serbian_Orthodox_Church

271 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romanian_Orthodox_Church

272 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bulgarian_Orthodox_Church

273 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georgian_Orthodox_Church

274 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_of_Cyprus

275 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_of_Greece

276 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polish_Orthodox_Church

277 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albanian_Orthodox_Church

278 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orthodox_Church_of_the_Czech_Lands_and_Slovakia

279 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orthodox_Church_in_America

280 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orthodox_Church_of_Ukraine

Noncanonical jurisdictions

- Old Believers²⁸¹
- Spiritual Christianity²⁸²
- True Orthodoxy²⁸³
 - Catacomb Church²⁸⁴
 - Old Calendarists²⁸⁵
- American Orthodox Catholic Church²⁸⁶
- American World Patriarchs²⁸⁷
- National²⁸⁸ churches:
 - • Abkhazia²⁸⁹
 - Belarus²⁹⁰
 - Italy²⁹¹
 - Montenegro²⁹²
 - North Macedonia²⁹³
 - Turkey²⁹⁴
- Syncretic²⁹⁵ churches:
 - Evangelical Orthodox²⁹⁶
 - Western Orthodoxy²⁹⁷
 - • Celts²⁹⁸
 - France²⁹⁹
 - Gaul³⁰⁰

281 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Believers

282 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spiritual_Christianity

283 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/True_Orthodoxy

284 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catacomb_Church

285 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Calendarists

286 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Orthodox_Catholic_Church

287 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_World_Patriarchs

288 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organization_of_the_Eastern_Orthodox_Church#Churches_that_are_unrecognized

289 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abkhazian_Orthodox_Church

290 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belarusian_Autocephalous_Orthodox_Church

291 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orthodox_Church_in_Italy

292 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independent_Orthodox_Churches_in_Montenegro

293 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macedonian_Orthodox_Church_%E2%80%93_Ohrid_Archbishopric

294 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkish_Orthodox_Church

295 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syncretism>

296 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evangelical_Orthodox_Church

297 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Communion_of_Western_Orthodox_Churches

298 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Celtic_Orthodox_Church

299 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_Orthodox_Church

300 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orthodox_Church_of_the_Gauls

- Ecumenical councils³⁰¹
 - First Seven Ecumenical Councils³⁰²:
 - First³⁰³
 - Second³⁰⁴
 - Third³⁰⁵
 - Fourth³⁰⁶
 - Fifth³⁰⁷
 - Sixth³⁰⁸
 - Seventh³⁰⁹
 - Other possible ecumenical councils:
 - Eighth³¹⁰
 - Ninth³¹¹
- Other important councils:
 - Quinisext Council³¹²
 - Jassy³¹³
 - Moscow³¹⁴
 - Jerusalem³¹⁵

301 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecumenical_council

302 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_seven_ecumenical_councils

303 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Council_of_Nicaea

304 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Council_of_Constantinople

305 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Council_of_Ephesus

306 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Council_of_Chalcedon

307 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Council_of_Constantinople

308 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Third_Council_of_Constantinople

309 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Council_of_Nicaea

310 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fourth_Council_of_Constantinople_\(Eastern_Orthodox\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fourth_Council_of_Constantinople_(Eastern_Orthodox))

311 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fifth_Council_of_Constantinople

312 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quinisext_Council

313 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Synod_of_Jassy

314 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Moscow_Synod

315 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Synod_of_Jerusalem_\(1672\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Synod_of_Jerusalem_(1672))

History³¹⁶

- Church Fathers³¹⁷
- Pentarchy³¹⁸
- Byzantine Empire³¹⁹
- Christianization of Bulgaria³²⁰
- Christianization of Kievan Rus³²¹
- Great Schism³²²
- Russia³²³
- Ottoman Empire³²⁴
- North America³²⁵
- Moscow–Constantinople schism
 - 15th–16th c.³²⁶
 - 1996³²⁷
 - 2018³²⁸

316 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Eastern_Orthodox_Church

317 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_Fathers

318 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pentarchy>

319 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Byzantine_Empire

320 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianization_of_Bulgaria

321 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianization_of_Kievan_Rus%27

322 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East%E2%80%93West_Schism

323 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Russian_Orthodox_Church

324 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Eastern_Orthodox_Church_under_the_Ottoman_Empire

325 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Orthodoxy_in_North_America

326 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/15th%E2%80%9316th_century_Moscow%E2%80%93Constantinople_schism

327 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1996_Moscow%E2%80%93Constantinople_schism

328 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2018_Moscow%E2%80%93Constantinople_schism

Theology³²⁹

- History of Eastern Orthodox theology³³⁰
 - (20th century (Neo-Palamism)³³¹)
- Apophaticism³³²
- Chrismation³³³
- Contemplative prayer³³⁴
- Essence vs. Energies³³⁵
- Hesychasm³³⁶
- Holy Trinity³³⁷
- Hypostatic union³³⁸
- Icons³³⁹
- Metousiosis³⁴⁰
- Mystical theology³⁴¹
- Nicene Creed³⁴²
- Nepsis³⁴³
- *Oikonomia*³⁴⁴ vs *Akribeia*³⁴⁵
- Ousia³⁴⁶
- Palamism³⁴⁷
- Philokalia³⁴⁸
- Phronema³⁴⁹
- Sin³⁵⁰
- *Theosis*³⁵¹
- *Theotokos*³⁵²
- Differences from the Catholic Church³⁵³
- Opposition to the Filioque³⁵⁴
- Opposition to papal supremacy³⁵⁵

329 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Orthodox_theology

330 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Eastern_Orthodox_theology

331 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Eastern_Orthodox_theology_in_the_20th_century

332 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apophatic_theology

333 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chrismation>

334 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_contemplation

335 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Essence%E2%80%93energies_distinction

336 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hesychasm>

337 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trinity>

338 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hypostatic_union

339 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Icon>

340 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metousiosis>

341 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mystical_theology#Eastern_Orthodox_Church

342 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicene_Creed

343 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nepsis>

344 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_\(religion\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_(religion))

345 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Akribeia>

346 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ousia>

347 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palamism>

348 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philokalia>

349 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phronema>

350 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Orthodox_view_of_sin

351 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theosis_\(Eastern_Christian_theology\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theosis_(Eastern_Christian_theology))

352 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theotokos>

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- 353 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theological_differences_between_the_Catholic_Church_and_the_Eastern_Orthodox_Church
- 354 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Orthodox_teaching Regarding_the_Filioque
- 355 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Orthodox_opposition_to_papal_supremacy

-
- Liturgy and worship³⁵⁶
- Divine Liturgy³⁵⁷
 - Divine Services³⁵⁸
 - Akathist³⁵⁹
 - Apolytikion³⁶⁰
 - Artos³⁶¹
 - Ectenia³⁶²
 - Euchologion³⁶³
 - Holy Water³⁶⁴
 - Iconostasis³⁶⁵
 - Jesus Prayer³⁶⁶
 - Kontakion³⁶⁷
 - Liturgical entrances³⁶⁸
 - Liturgical fans³⁶⁹
 - Lity³⁷⁰
 - Memorial service³⁷¹
 - Memory Eternal³⁷²
 - Omophorion³⁷³
 - Eastern Orthodox bowing³⁷⁴
 - Eastern Orthodox marriage³⁷⁵
 - Praxis³⁷⁶
 - Paraklesis³⁷⁷
 - Paschal greeting³⁷⁸
 - Paschal Homily³⁷⁹
 - Paschal troparion³⁸⁰
 - Prayer rope³⁸¹
 - Prosphora³⁸²
 - Russian bell ringing³⁸³
 - Semantron³⁸⁴
 - Sign of the cross³⁸⁵
 - Sticheron³⁸⁶
 - Troparion³⁸⁷
 - Vestments³⁸⁸
 - Use of incense³⁸⁹

356 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Orthodox_worship

357 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Divine_Liturgy

358 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Divine_Service_\(Eastern_Orthodoxy\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Divine_Service_(Eastern_Orthodoxy))

359 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Akathist>

360 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apolytikion>

361 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Artos>

362 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ectenia>

363 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euchologion>

364 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holy_water_in_Eastern_Christianity

365 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iconostasis>

366 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesus_Prayer

367 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kontakion>

368 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Entrance_\(liturgical\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Entrance_(liturgical))

369 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liturgical_fan_in_the_Eastern_Orthodox_Church

370 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lity_in_the_Eastern_Orthodox_Church

Liturgical calendar³⁹⁰

- Paschal cycle³⁹¹
- 12 Great Feasts³⁹²
- Other feasts:
- Feast of Orthodoxy³⁹³
- Intercession of the Theotokos³⁹⁴
- The four fasting periods:
- Nativity Fast³⁹⁵
- Great Lent³⁹⁶
- Apostles' Fast³⁹⁷
- Dormition³⁹⁸ Fast

371 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memorial_service_in_the_Eastern_Orthodox_Church
372 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memory_Eternal
373 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omophorion>
374 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bowing_in_the_Eastern_Orthodox_Church
375 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marriage_in_the_Eastern_Orthodox_Church
376 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Praxis_\(Byzantine_Rite\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Praxis_(Byzantine_Rite))
377 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paraklesis>
378 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paschal_greeting
379 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paschal_Homily
380 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paschal_troparion
381 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prayer_rope
382 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proosphora>
383 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_Orthodox_bell_ringing
384 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Semantron>
385 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sign_of_the_cross#Eastern_Orthodoxy
386 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sticheron>
387 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Troparion>
388 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vestment#Byzantine_Rite
389 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thurible#Byzantine_Rite
390 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Orthodox_liturgical_calendar
391 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paschal_cycle
392 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_feasts_in_the_Eastern_Orthodox_Church
393 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feast_of_Orthodoxy
394 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intercession_of_the_Theotokos
395 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nativity_Fast
396 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Lent
397 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apostles%27_Fast
398 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dormition_of_the_Mother_of_God

Major figures

- Athanasius of Alexandria³⁹⁹
- Ephrem the Syrian⁴⁰⁰
- Basil of Caesarea⁴⁰¹
- Cyril of Jerusalem⁴⁰²
- Gregory of Nazianzus⁴⁰³
- Gregory of Nyssa⁴⁰⁴
- John Chrysostom⁴⁰⁵
- Cyril of Alexandria⁴⁰⁶
- John Climacus⁴⁰⁷
- Maximus the Confessor⁴⁰⁸
- John of Damascus⁴⁰⁹
- Theodore the Studite⁴¹⁰
- Kassiani⁴¹¹
- Cyril and Methodius⁴¹²
- Photios I of Constantinople⁴¹³
- Gregory Palamas⁴¹⁴

Other topics

- Architecture⁴¹⁵
- Encyclical of the Eastern Patriarchs⁴¹⁶
- Orthodox cross⁴¹⁷
- Saint titles⁴¹⁸
- Statistics by country⁴¹⁹

399 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Athanasius_of_Alexandria

400 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ephrem_the_Syrian

401 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basil_of_Caesarea

402 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyril_of_Jerusalem

403 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gregory_of_Nazianzus

404 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gregory_of_Nyssa

405 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Chrysostom

406 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyril_of_Alexandria

407 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Climacus

408 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maximus_the_Confessor

409 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_of_Damascus

410 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodore_the_Studite

411 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kassia>

412 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saints_Cyril_and_Methodius

413 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Photios_I_of_Constantinople

414 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gregory_Palamas

415 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Orthodox_church_architecture

416 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Encyclical_of_the_Eastern_Patriarchs

417 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_Orthodox_cross

418 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Eastern_Orthodox_saint_titles

419 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Orthodoxy_by_country

- v⁴²⁰
- t⁴²¹
- e⁴²²

Pseudo-Dionysius the Areopagite (or **Dionysius the Pseudo-Areopagite**) was a Greek^{423[1]} author, Christian theologian⁴²⁴ and Neoplatonic⁴²⁵ philosopher⁴²⁶ of the late 5th to early 6th century, who wrote a set of works known as the *Corpus Areopagiticum* or *Corpus Dionysiacum*.

420 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Template:Eastern_Orthodox_Church_sidebar

421 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Template_talk:Eastern_Orthodox_Church_sidebar

422 https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Eastern_Orthodox_Church_sidebar&action=edit

423 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greeks>

424 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_theology

425 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neoplatonic>

426 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philosopher>



Figure 4 Dionysius the Areopagite

The author pseudepigraphically⁴²⁷ identifies himself in the corpus as "Dionysios", portraying himself as Dionysius the Areopagite⁴²⁸, the Athenian convert of Paul the Apostle⁴²⁹ mentioned in Acts 17:34.^{[2][note 1]} This attribution to the earliest decades of Christianity resulted in the work being given great authority in subsequent theological writing in both the East and the West.

427 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pseudepigraphy>

428 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dionysius_the_Areopagite

429 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_the_Apostle

The Dionysian writings and their mystical teaching were universally accepted throughout the East⁴³⁰, amongst both Chalcedonians⁴³¹ and non-Chalcedonians⁴³², and also had a strong impact in later medieval western mysticism⁴³³, most notably Meister Eckhart⁴³⁴. Its influence decreased in the West with the fifteenth-century demonstration of its later dating, but in recent decades, interest has increased again in the *Corpus Areopagiticum*. [citation needed⁴³⁵]

1.1 Historic confusions

In the early sixth century, a series of writings of a mystical nature⁴³⁶, employing Neoplatonic language⁴³⁷ to elucidate Christian theological and mystical ideas, was ascribed to the Areopagite.^[3] They have long been recognized as pseudepigrapha⁴³⁸, and their author is now called "Pseudo-Dionysius the Areopagite".

1.2 Corpus

1.2.1 Works

The Corpus is today composed of:^[4]

- *Divine Names* (*Περὶ θείων ὀνομάτων*);
- *Celestial Hierarchy*⁴³⁹ (*Περὶ τῆς οὐρανίου ἑραρχίας*);
- *Ecclesiastical Hierarchy* (*Περὶ τῆς ἐκκλησιαστικῆς ἑραρχίας*);
- *Mystical Theology* (*Περὶ μνησικῆς θεολογίας*), "a brief but powerful work that deals with negative or apophatic theology and in which theology becomes explicitly "mystical" for the first time in history."^[5]
- Ten epistles⁴⁴⁰.

Seven other works are mentioned repeatedly by pseudo-Dionysius in his surviving works, and are presumed either to be lost^[6] or to be fictional works mentioned by the Areopagite as a literary device to give the impression to his sixth-century readers of engaging with the surviving fragments of a much larger first-century corpus of writings.^[7] These seven other works are:

- *Theological Outlines* (*Θεολογικαὶ ὑποτυπώσεις*),
- *Symbolic Theology* (*Συμβολικὴ θεολογία*),
- *On Angelic Properties and Orders* (*Περὶ ἀγγελικῶν ἴδιοτήτων καὶ τάξεων*),
- *On the Just and Divine Judgement* (*Περὶ δικαίου καὶ θείου δικαιοστηρίου*),

430 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Christianity

431 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chalcedonian_Christianity

432 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-Chalcedonianism>

433 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_mysticism

434 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meister_Eckhart

436 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_mysticism

437 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neoplatonism>

438 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pseudepigrapha>

439 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Celestial_Hierarchy

440 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epistle>

- *On the Soul (Περὶ ψυχῆς),*
- *On Intelligible and Sensible Beings,*^[note 2]
- *On the Divine Hymns.*^[note 3]

1.2.2 Dating

In attempts to identify a date *after* which the corpus must have been composed, a number of features have been identified in Dionysius' writing, though the latter two are subject to scholarly debate.

- Firstly, and fairly certainly, it is clear that Dionysius adopted many of his ideas—including at times passages almost word for word—from Proclus⁴⁴¹, who died in 485, thus providing at the least a late fifth-century early limit to the dating of Dionysius.^[8]
- In the *Ecclesiastical Hierarchy* Dionysius twice seems to allude to the recitation of the Creed in the course of the liturgy (*EH* 3.2 and 3.III.7). It is often asserted that Peter the Fuller⁴⁴² first mandated the inclusion of the Nicene Creed⁴⁴³ in the liturgy in 476, thus providing an earliest date for the composition of the Corpus. Bernard Capelle argues that it is far more likely that Timothy, patriarch of Constantinople⁴⁴⁴, was responsible for this liturgical innovation, around 515 — thus suggesting a later date for the Corpus.^[9]
- It is often suggested that because Dionysius seems to eschew divisive Christological⁴⁴⁵ language, he was probably writing after the *Henoticon*⁴⁴⁶ of Zeno⁴⁴⁷ was in effect, sometime after 482. It is also possible that Dionysius eschewed traditional Christological formulae in order to preserve an overall apostolic ambience for his works, rather than because of the influence of the *Henoticon*. Also, given that the *Henoticon* was rescinded in 518, if Dionysius was writing after this date, he may have been untroubled by this policy.^[9]

In terms of the latest date for the composition of the *Corpus*, the earliest datable reference to Dionysius' writing comes in 528, the year in which the treatise of Severus of Antioch⁴⁴⁸ entitled *Adversus apologiam Juliani* was translated into Syriac⁴⁴⁹ — though it is possible the treatise may originally have been composed up to nine years earlier.^[10]

Another widely cited latest date for Dionysius' writing comes in 532, when, in a report on a colloquy held between two groups (orthodox⁴⁵⁰ and monophysite⁴⁵¹) debating the decrees of the Council of Chalcedon⁴⁵², Severus of Antioch⁴⁵³ and his monophysite supporters cited Dionysius' Fourth Letter in defence of their view.^[11] It is possible that pseudo-Dionysius was himself a member of this group, though debate continues over whether his writings do

441 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proclus>

442 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_the_Fuller

443 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicene_Creed

444 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timothy_I_of_Constantinople

445 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christology>

446 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henotikon>

447 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zeno_\(emperor\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zeno_(emperor))

448 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Severus_of_Antioch

449 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syriac_language

450 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orthodoxy>

451 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monophysitism>

452 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Council_of_Chalcedon

453 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Severus_of_Antioch

in fact reveal a monophysite understanding of Christ.^[12] It seems likely that the writer was located in Syria, as revealed, for example, by the accounts of the sacramental rites he gives in *The Ecclesiastical Hierarchy*, which seem only to bear resemblance to Syriac rites.^[13]

1.2.3 Authorship

The author pseudonymously identifies himself in the corpus as "Dionysios", portraying himself as the figure of Dionysius the Areopagite⁴⁵⁴, the Athenian convert of Paul the Apostle⁴⁵⁵ mentioned in Acts 17:34.^[14][note 1]

Various legends existed surrounding the figure of Dionysius, who became emblematic of the spread of the gospel to the Greek world. A tradition quickly arose that he became the first bishop of Cyprus or of Milan, or that he was the author of the Epistle to the Hebrews; according to Eusebius, he was also said to be the first bishop of Athens. It is therefore not surprising that that author of these works would have chosen to adopt the name of this otherwise briefly mentioned figure.^[15]

The authorship of the Dionysian Corpus was initially disputed; Severus and his party affirmed its apostolic dating, largely because it seemed to agree with their Christology. This dating was disputed by Hypatius of Ephesus⁴⁵⁶, who met the monophysite party during the 532 meeting with Emperor Justinian I⁴⁵⁷; Hypatius denied its authenticity on the ground that none of the Fathers or Councils ever cited or referred to it. Hypatius condemned it along with the Apollinarian texts, distributed during the Nestorian controversy under the names of Pope Julius and Athanasius, which the monophysites entered as evidence supporting their position.^[16]

The first defense of its authenticity is undertaken by John of Scythopolis⁴⁵⁸, whose commentary, the *Scholia* (ca. 540), on the Dionysian Corpus constitutes the first defense of its apostolic dating, wherein he specifically argues that the work is neither Apollinarian nor a forgery, probably in response both to monophysites and Hypatius—although even he, given his unattributed citations of Plotinus in interpreting Dionysius, might have known better.^[17] Dionysius' authenticity is criticized later in the century, and defended by Theodore of Raithu⁴⁵⁹; and by the 7th century, it is taken as demonstrated, affirmed by both Maximus the Confessor⁴⁶⁰ and the Lateran Council of 649⁴⁶¹. From that point until the Renaissance, the authorship was less questioned, though Thomas Aquinas⁴⁶²,^[18] Peter Abelard⁴⁶³ and Nicholas of Cusa⁴⁶⁴ expressed suspicions about its authenticity; their concerns were generally ignored.^[19]

454 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dionysius_the_Areopagite

455 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_the_Apostle

456 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hypatius_of_Ephesus

457 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justinian_I

458 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_of_Scythopolis

459 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodore_of_Raithu

460 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maximus_the_Confessor

461 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lateran_Council_of_649

462 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Aquinas

463 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Abelard

464 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicholas_of_Cusa

The Florentine humanist Lorenzo Valla⁴⁶⁵ (d. 1457), in his 1457 commentaries on the New Testament⁴⁶⁶, did much to establish that the author of the *Corpus Areopagiticum* could not have been St. Paul's convert, though he was unable to identify the actual historical author. William Grocyn⁴⁶⁷ pursued Valla's lines of textual criticism, and Valla's critical viewpoint of the authorship of the highly influential *Corpus* was accepted and publicized by Erasmus⁴⁶⁸ from 1504 onward, for which he was criticized by Catholic theologians. In the Leipzig disputation⁴⁶⁹ with Martin Luther⁴⁷⁰, in 1519, Johann Eck⁴⁷¹ used the *Corpus*, specifically the *Angelic Hierarchy*, as argument for the apostolic origin of papal⁴⁷² supremacy, pressing the Platonist analogy, "as above, so below".

During the 19th century modernist Catholics⁴⁷³ too came generally to accept that the author must have lived after the time of Proclus⁴⁷⁴. The author became known as 'Pseudo-Dionysius the Areopagite' only after the philological work of J Stiglmayr and H Koch, whose papers, published independently in 1895, demonstrated the thoroughgoing dependence of the *Corpus* upon Proclus.^[19] Both showed that Dionysius had used, in his treatise on evil in Chapter 4 of *The Divine Names*, the *De malorum subsistentia* of Proclus.

Dionysius' identity is still disputed. Corrigan and Harrington find Pseudo-Dionysius to be most probably

a pupil of Proclus, perhaps of Syrian⁴⁷⁵ origin, who knew enough of Platonism and the Christian tradition to transform them both. Since Proclus died in 485, and since the first clear citation of Dionysius' works is by Severus of Antioch⁴⁷⁶ between 518 and 528, then we can place Dionysius' authorship between 485 and 518-28.^[note 4]

Ronald Hathaway provides a table listing most of the major identifications of Dionysius: e.g., Ammonius Saccas⁴⁷⁷, Pope Dionysius of Alexandria⁴⁷⁸, Peter the Fuller⁴⁷⁹, Dionysius the Scholastic, Severus of Antioch⁴⁸⁰, Sergius of Reshaina⁴⁸¹, unnamed Christian followers of everyone from Origen⁴⁸² to Basil of Caesarea⁴⁸³, Eutyches⁴⁸⁴ to Proclus⁴⁸⁵.^[20]

465 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lorenzo_Valla

466 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Testament

467 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Grocyn

468 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erasmus>

469 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leipzig_Debate

470 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_Luther

471 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johann_Eck

472 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Papal>

473 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modernism_in_the_Catholic_Church

474 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proclus>

475 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syria>

476 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Severus_of_Antioch

477 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ammonius_Saccas

478 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_Dionysius_of_Alexandria

479 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_the_Fuller

480 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Severus_of_Antioch

481 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sergius_of_Reshaina

482 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Origen>

483 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basil_of_Caesarea

484 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eutyches>

485 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proclus>

In the past half-century, Alexander Golitzin, Georgian⁴⁸⁶ academician Shalva Nutsubidze⁴⁸⁷ and Belgian⁴⁸⁸ professor Ernest Honigmann have all proposed identifying pseudo-Dionysius the Areopagite with Peter the Iberian⁴⁸⁹.^[21] A more recent identification is with Damascius⁴⁹⁰, the last scholarch of the Neoplatonic Academy of Athens⁴⁹¹.^[22] There is therefore no current scholarly consensus on the question of Pseudo-Dionysius' identification.

The *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*⁴⁹² claims:

It must also be recognized that 'forgery' is a modern notion. Like Plotinus⁴⁹³ and the Cappadocian Fathers⁴⁹⁴ before him, Dionysius does not claim to be an innovator, but rather a communicator of a tradition.”^[note 4]

Others scholars such as Bart D. Ehrman⁴⁹⁵ disagree, see for example *Forged*⁴⁹⁶. While the Pseudo Dionysius can be seen as a communicator of tradition, he can also be seen as a polemicist, who tried to alter Neo-Platonic tradition in a novel way for the Christian world that would make notions of complicated Divine Hierarchies more of an emphasis than notions of direct relationship with the figure of Christ as Mediator.^[24]

1.3 Thought

Dionysius attributed his inspiration to pseudo-Hierotheus, professing that he was writing to popularize the teachings of his master.^[25] Pseudo-Hierotheus was the author of “The book of Hierotheus on the hidden mysteries of the house of God.” Pseudo-Hierotheus is believed to be the fifth century Syrian monk Stephen Bar Sudhaile⁴⁹⁷.^{[26][27]}

The works of Dionysisus are mystical⁴⁹⁸, and show strong Neoplatonic influence⁴⁹⁹. For example, he uses Plotinus⁵⁰⁰' well-known analogy of a sculptor cutting away that which does not enhance the desired image, and shows familiarity with Proclus⁵⁰¹. He also shows influence from Clement of Alexandria⁵⁰², the Cappadocian Fathers⁵⁰³, Origen, and others.

1.3.1 *Mystical Theology*

486 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georgia_\(country\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georgia_(country))

487 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shalva_Nutsubidze

488 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_Belgium

489 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_the_Iberian

490 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Damascius>

491 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Platonic_Academy#Neoplatonic_Academy

492 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stanford_Encyclopedia_of_Philosophy

493 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plotinus>

494 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cappadocian_Fathers

495 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bart_D._Ehrman

496 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forged_\(book\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forged_(book))

497 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_Bar_Sudhaile

498 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mysticism>

499 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neoplatonism>

500 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plotinus>

501 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proclus>

502 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clement_of_Alexandria

503 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cappadocian_Fathers

According to pseudo-Dionysius, God is better characterized and approached by negations⁵⁰⁴ than by affirmations⁵⁰⁵.^[5] All names and theological representations must be negated. According to pseudo-Dionysius, when all names are negated, "divine silence, darkness, and unknowing" will follow.^[5]

1.4 Influence

1.4.1 Eastern Christianity

His thought was initially used by Miaphysites⁵⁰⁶ to back up parts of their arguments but his writings were eventually adopted by other church theologians, primarily due to the work of John of Scytopolis⁵⁰⁷ and Maximus the Confessor⁵⁰⁸ in producing an orthodox interpretation.^[28] Writing a single generation at most after Dionysius, perhaps between 537 and 543,^[29] John of Scytopolis composed an extensive set (around 600)^[30] of *scholia* (that is, marginal annotations) to the works of Dionysius.

These were in turn prefaced by a long prologue in which John set out his reasons for commenting on the corpus. All Greek manuscripts of the *Corpus Areopagiticum* surviving today stem from an early sixth-century manuscript containing John's *Scholia* and *Prologue* — so John of Scytopolis had an enormous influence on how Dionysius was read in the Greek-speaking world.^[31]

Theologians such as John of Damascus⁵⁰⁹ and Germanus I of Constantinople⁵¹⁰ also made ample use of Dionysius' writing.

The Dionysian writings and their mystical teaching were universally accepted throughout the East, amongst both Chalcedonians and non-Chalcedonians. Gregory Palamas⁵¹¹, for example, in referring to these writings, calls the author, "an unerring beholder of divine things".

The Corpus is also present in Syriac and Armenian versions, the former of which, by Sergius of Reshaina in the early sixth century, serves as a *terminus ante quem*⁵¹² for the dating of the original Greek.

There is a distinct difference between Neoplatonism and that of Eastern Christianity⁵¹³. In the former, all life returns to the source to be stripped of individual identity, a process called henosis⁵¹⁴,^[32] while in orthodox Christianity the Likeness of God in man is restored by grace (by being united to God through participation in His divine energies), a process called theosis⁵¹⁵.^[33]

504 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apophatic_theology

505 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cataphatic_theology

506 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miaphysites>

507 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_of_Scytopolis

508 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maximus_the_Confessor

509 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_of_Damascus

510 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germanus_I_of_Constantinople

511 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gregory_Palamas

512 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terminus_ante_quem

513 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Christianity

514 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henosis>

515 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theosis_\(Eastern_Christian_theology\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theosis_(Eastern_Christian_theology))

1.4.2 Latin Christianity



Part of a series⁵¹⁶ on
Catholic philosophy⁵¹⁷
Aquinas⁵¹⁸, Scotus⁵¹⁹, and Ockham⁵²⁰
Ethics⁵²¹

- Cardinal virtues⁵²²
- Just price⁵²³
- Just war⁵²⁴
- Principle of Double Effect⁵²⁵
- Probabilism⁵²⁶
- Natural law⁵²⁷
- Personalism⁵²⁸
- Social teaching⁵²⁹
- Virtue ethics⁵³⁰

Metaphysics⁵³¹

516 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Catholic_philosophers

517 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_philosophy

518 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Aquinas

519 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duns_Scotus

520 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_of_Ockham

521 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catholic_moral_theology

522 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cardinal_virtues

523 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Just_price

524 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Just_war_theory#Catholic_doctrine

525 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Principle_of_Double_Effect

526 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catholic_probabilism

527 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_law#Catholic_natural_law_jurisprudence

528 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catholic_personalism

529 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catholic_social_teaching

530 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virtue_ethics

531 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metaphysics>

- Conceptualism⁵³²
- Realism⁵³³
- Moderate realism⁵³⁴
- Nominalism⁵³⁵
- Quiddity⁵³⁶ (essence⁵³⁷ / nature⁵³⁸)
- Haecceity⁵³⁹
- Quinque Viae⁵⁴⁰
- Predestination⁵⁴¹
- Free Will⁵⁴²
- Divine Attributes⁵⁴³

Schools

- Augustinianism⁵⁴⁴
- Cartesianism⁵⁴⁵
- Molinism⁵⁴⁶
- Nouvelle théologie⁵⁴⁷
- Occamism⁵⁴⁸
- Salamanca⁵⁴⁹
- Scholasticism⁵⁵⁰
 - Neo-scholasticism⁵⁵¹
- Scotism⁵⁵²
- Thomism⁵⁵³

Philosophers⁵⁵⁴

532 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conceptualism>
 533 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philosophical_realism
 534 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moderate_realism
 535 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nominalism>
 536 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quiddity>
 537 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Essence>
 538 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nature_\(philosophy\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nature_(philosophy))
 539 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haecceity>
 540 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quinque_Viae
 541 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Predestination>
 542 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_Will#In_theology
 543 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Attributes_of_God_in_Christianity
 544 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augustinianism>
 545 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cartesianism>
 546 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Molinism>
 547 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nouvelle_th%C3%A9ologie
 548 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Occamism>
 549 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/School_of_Salamanca
 550 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scholasticism>
 551 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neo-scholasticism>
 552 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotism>
 553 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomism>
 554 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Catholic_philosophers_and_theologians

Ancient

- Ambrose⁵⁵⁵
- Athanasius of Alexandria⁵⁵⁶
- Augustine of Hippo⁵⁵⁷
- Benedict of Nursia⁵⁵⁸
- Boethius⁵⁵⁹
- Clement of Alexandria⁵⁶⁰
- Cyprian⁵⁶¹
- Cyril of Alexandria⁵⁶²
- Gregory of Nazianzus⁵⁶³
- Gregory of Nyssa⁵⁶⁴
- Irenaeus⁵⁶⁵
- Jerome⁵⁶⁶
- John Cassian⁵⁶⁷
- John Chrysostom⁵⁶⁸
- John Climacus⁵⁶⁹
- John of Damascus⁵⁷⁰
- Justin Martyr⁵⁷¹
- Maximus the Confessor⁵⁷²
- Pseudo-Dionysius the Areopagite
- Origen⁵⁷³
- Paul the Apostle⁵⁷⁴
- Tertullian⁵⁷⁵

555 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ambrose>

556 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Athanasius_of_Alexandria

557 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augustine_of_Hippo

558 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benedict_of_Nursia

559 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boethius>

560 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clement_of_Alexandria

561 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyprian>

562 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyril_of_Alexandria

563 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gregory_of_Nazianzus

564 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gregory_of_Nyssa

565 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irenaeus>

566 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerome>

567 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Cassian

568 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Chrysostom

569 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Climacus

570 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_of_Damascus

571 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justin_Martyr

572 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maximus_the_Confessor

573 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Origen>

574 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_the_Apostle

575 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tertullian>

Postclassical

- Peter Abelard⁵⁷⁶
- Albertus Magnus⁵⁷⁷
- Anselm of Canterbury⁵⁷⁸
- Roger Bacon⁵⁷⁹
- Bede⁵⁸⁰
- Bernard of Clairvaux⁵⁸¹
- Berengar of Tours⁵⁸²
- Bonaventure⁵⁸³
- Catherine of Siena⁵⁸⁴
- Duns Scotus⁵⁸⁵
- John Scotus Eriugena⁵⁸⁶
- Pope Gregory I⁵⁸⁷
- Gregory of Rimini⁵⁸⁸
- Giles of Rome⁵⁸⁹
- Hildegard of Bingen⁵⁹⁰
- Hugh of Saint Victor⁵⁹¹
- Isidore of Seville⁵⁹²
- James of Viterbo⁵⁹³
- Jean Buridan⁵⁹⁴
- Meister Eckhart⁵⁹⁵
- Nicholas of Cusa⁵⁹⁶
- Nicole Oresme⁵⁹⁷
- Paul of Venice⁵⁹⁸
- Paschasius Radbertus⁵⁹⁹
- Peter Lombard⁶⁰⁰
- Roscellinus⁶⁰¹
- Symeon the New Theologian⁶⁰²
- Thierry of Chartres⁶⁰³
- Thomas Aquinas⁶⁰⁴
- William of Ockham⁶⁰⁵

576 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Abelard

577 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albertus_Magnus

578 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anselm_of_Canterbury

579 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roger_Bacon

580 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bede>

581 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bernard_of_Clairvaux

582 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berengar_of_Tours

583 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bonaventure>

584 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catherine_of_Siena

585 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duns_Scotus

586 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Scotus_Eriugena

587 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_Gregory_I

588 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gregory_of_Rimini

589 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giles_of_Rome

590 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hildegard_of_Bingen

591 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hugh_of_Saint_Victor

592 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isidore_of_Seville

593 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_of_Viterbo

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- 594 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean_Buridan
 - 595 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meister_Eckhart
 - 596 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicholas_of_Cusa
 - 597 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicole_Oresme
 - 598 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_of_Venice
 - 599 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paschasius_Radbertus
 - 600 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Lombard
 - 601 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roscellinus>
 - 602 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symeon_the_New_Theologian
 - 603 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thierry_of_Chartres
 - 604 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Aquinas
 - 605 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_of_Ockham

Modern

- Arnauld⁶⁰⁶
- Azpilcueta⁶⁰⁷
- Bellarmine⁶⁰⁸
- Bossuet⁶⁰⁹
- Brentano⁶¹⁰
- Vico⁶¹¹
- Botero⁶¹²
- Cajetan⁶¹³
- Cortés⁶¹⁴
- Sales⁶¹⁵
- Soto⁶¹⁶
- Descartes⁶¹⁷
- Erasmus⁶¹⁸
- Fénelon⁶¹⁹
- Gracián⁶²⁰
- Kołataj⁶²¹
- Krasicki⁶²²
- La Mennais⁶²³
- Liguori⁶²⁴
- Malebranche⁶²⁵
- Maistre⁶²⁶
- Meinong⁶²⁷
- Mercado⁶²⁸
- Molina⁶²⁹
- More⁶³⁰
- Newman⁶³¹
- Pascal⁶³²
- Chateaubriand⁶³³
- Rosmini⁶³⁴
- Ávila⁶³⁵
- Suárez⁶³⁶
- Vitoria⁶³⁷

606 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antoine_Arnauld

607 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mart%C3%ADn_de_Azpilcueta

608 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Bellarmine

609 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacques-B%C3%A9nigne_Bossuet

610 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franz_Brentano

611 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giambattista_Vico

612 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giovanni_Botero

613 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Cajetan

614 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juan_Donoso_Cort%C3%A9s

615 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_de_Sales

616 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domingo_de_Soto

617 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ren%C3%A9_Descartes

618 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erasmus>

619 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fran%C3%A7ois_F%C3%A9nelon

620 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baltasar_Graci%C3%A1n

621 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hugo_Ko%C5%82%C5%82%C4%85taj

622 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ignacy_Krasicki
623 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/F%C3%A9licit%C3%A9_de_La_Mennais
624 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alphonsus_Liguori
625 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicolas_Malebranche
626 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_de_Maistre
627 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexius_Meinong
628 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tom%C3%A1s_de_Mercado
629 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luis_de_Molina
630 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_More
631 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Henry_Newman
632 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blaise_Pascal
633 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fran%C3%A7ois-Ren%C3%A9_de_Chateaubriand
634 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antonio_Rosmini
635 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teresa_of_%C3%81vila
636 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francisco_Su%C3%A1rez
637 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francisco_de_Vitoria

Contemporary

- Mortimer J. Adler⁶³⁸
- Peter Geach⁶³⁹
- G. E. M. Anscombe⁶⁴⁰
- Pope Benedict XVI⁶⁴¹
- Maurice Blondel⁶⁴²
- G. K. Chesterton⁶⁴³
- Yves Congar⁶⁴⁴
- Frederick Copleston⁶⁴⁵
- Henri de Lubac⁶⁴⁶
- John Finnis⁶⁴⁷
- Reginald Garrigou-Lagrange⁶⁴⁸
- Étienne Gilson⁶⁴⁹
- René Girard⁶⁵⁰
- Gustavo Gutiérrez⁶⁵¹
- Nicolás Gómez Dávila⁶⁵²
- Romano Guardini⁶⁵³
- John Haldane⁶⁵⁴
- Dietrich von Hildebrand⁶⁵⁵
- Pope John Paul II⁶⁵⁶
- Bernard Lonergan⁶⁵⁷
- Alasdair MacIntyre⁶⁵⁸
- Gabriel Marcel⁶⁵⁹
- Jean-Luc Marion⁶⁶⁰
- Jacques Maritain⁶⁶¹
- Marshall McLuhan⁶⁶²
- Emmanuel Mounier⁶⁶³
- Josef Pieper⁶⁶⁴
- Karl Rahner⁶⁶⁵
- Edith Stein⁶⁶⁶
- Charles Taylor⁶⁶⁷
- Hans Urs von Balthasar⁶⁶⁸

638 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mortimer_J._Adler

639 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Geach

640 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/G._E._M._Anscombe

641 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_Benedict_XVI

642 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maurice_Blondel

643 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/G._K._Chesterton

644 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yves_Congar

645 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick_Copleston

646 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henri_de_Lubac

647 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Finnis

648 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reginald_Garrigou-Lagrange

649 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89tienne_Gilson

650 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ren%C3%A9_Girard

651 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gustavo_Guti%C3%A9rrez

652 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicol%C3%A1s_G%C3%B3mez_D%C3%A1vila

653 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romano_Guardini

654 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Haldane_\(philosopher\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Haldane_(philosopher))



Catholicism portal⁶⁶⁹



Philosophy portal⁶⁷⁰

- v⁶⁷¹
- t⁶⁷²
- e⁶⁷³

The first notice of Dionysius in the West comes from Pope Gregory I⁶⁷⁴, who probably brought a codex of the *Corpus Areopagitum* back with him on his return from his mission as papal legate to the Emperor in Constantinople in around 585. Gregory refers occasionally in his writings to Dionysius, although Gregory's Greek was probably not adequate to fully engage with Dionysius's work.^[34] In the seventh and eighth centuries, Dionysius was not widely known in the West, aside from a few scattered references.

The real influence of Dionysius in the West began with the gift in 827 of a Greek copy of his works by the Byzantine emperor⁶⁷⁵ Michael II⁶⁷⁶ to the Carolingian emperor⁶⁷⁷ Louis the Pious⁶⁷⁸. King Louis in turn gave the manuscript to the monastery of St Denys near Paris [35] where, in about 838, Dionysius' works were translated into Latin for the first time by Hilduin⁶⁷⁹, abbot of the monastery. It may well have been Hilduin himself who promoted his work (and his abbey) by developing the legend (which would be widely accepted during subsequent centuries), that Denis⁶⁸⁰ was the same person as Dionysius the Areopagite of Acts⁶⁸¹ 17.34, and that he had traveled to Rome and then was commissioned by the Pope to

655 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dietrich_von_Hildebrand

656 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_John_Paul_II

657 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bernard_Lonergan

658 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alasdair_MacIntyre

659 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Marcel

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664 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josef_Pieper

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666 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edith_Stein

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680 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Denis_of_Paris

681 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acts_of_the_Apostles

preach in Gaul⁶⁸², where he was martyred.^[36] Hilduin's translation is almost unintelligible.^[37]

About twenty years later, a subsequent Carolingian Emperor, Charles the Bald⁶⁸³, requested the Irishman John Scotus Eriugena⁶⁸⁴ to make a fresh translation. He finished this in 862.^[37] This translation itself did not widely circulate in subsequent centuries. Moreover, although Eriugena's own works, such as the *Homily on the Prologue of St John*, show the influence of Dionysian ideas, these works were not widely copied or read in subsequent centuries.^[37] The Benedictine monasticism that formed the standard monasticism of the eighth to eleventh centuries, therefore, in general paid little attention to Dionysius.

In the twelfth century, greater use gradually began to be made of Dionysius among various traditions of thought:

- Among Benedictines (especially at the Abbey of Saint-Denis), greater interest began to be shown in Dionysius. For example, one of the monks of Saint Denys, John Sarrazin⁶⁸⁵, wrote a commentary on *The Celestial Hierarchy* in 1140, and then in 1165 made a translation of the work.^[37] Also, Suger⁶⁸⁶, abbot of Saint-Denis from 1122 to 1151, drew on Dionysian themes to explain how the architecture of his new 'Gothic' abbey church helped raise the soul to God.^[38]
- Among the Canons Regular⁶⁸⁷. Hugh of Saint Victor⁶⁸⁸ edited two commentaries on *The Celestial Hierarchy* between 1125 and 1137, later revising and combining them as one. Richard of Saint Victor⁶⁸⁹ was familiar with Dionysius through Hugh. Through Hugh, others became exposed to Dionysian thought, including Thomas Gallus⁶⁹⁰ and Gilbert de la Porrée⁶⁹¹.^[37]
- In the Cistercian tradition⁶⁹², it seems that early writers such as Bernard of Clairvaux⁶⁹³, William of St Thierry⁶⁹⁴ and Aelred of Rievaulx⁶⁹⁵ were not influenced by Dionysian thought. Among second-generation Cistercians, Isaac of Stella⁶⁹⁶ clearly shows the influence of Dionysian ideas.^[37]
- It is in the Schools, though, that the twelfth-century growth in influence of Dionysius was truly significant. There are few references to Dionysius in scholastic theology during the tenth and eleventh centuries. At the beginning of the twelfth century, though, the masters of the Cathedral school at Laon⁶⁹⁷, especially Anselm of Laon⁶⁹⁸, introduced extracts from John Scotus Eriugena's *Commentary on St John* into the *Sentences* and

682 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaul>

683 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_the_Bald

684 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Scotus_Eriugena

685 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Sarrazin

686 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suger>

687 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canons-Regular>

688 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hugh_of_Saint_Victor

689 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_of_Saint_Victor

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695 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aelred_of_Rievaulx

696 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isaac_of_Stella

697 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laon>

698 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anselm_of_Laon

the *Glossa Ordinaria*. In this manner, Dionysian concepts found their way into the writing of Peter Lombard⁶⁹⁹ and others.^[37]

- Bonaventure uses images and even direct quotations from Dionysius' *Mystical Theology* in the last chapter of his famous work *Itinerarium Mentis in Deum* (The Soul's Journey into God).^[39]

During the thirteenth century, the Franciscan Robert Grosseteste⁷⁰⁰ made an important contribution by bringing out between 1240 and 1243 a translation, with commentary, of the Dionysian corpus.^[37] Soon after, the Dominican Albertus Magnus⁷⁰¹ did likewise. The thirteenth-century Parisian corpus provided an important reference point by combining the "Old Translation" of John Scotus Eriugena with the "New Translation" of John Sarrazin⁷⁰², along with glosses and scholia by Maximus the Confessor⁷⁰³, John of Scythopolis⁷⁰⁴ and others, as well as the "Extracts" by Thomas Gallus⁷⁰⁵, and several commentaries such as John Scotus Eriugena, John Sarrazin and Hugh of Saint Victor on *The Celestial Hierarchy*.^[40] It quickly became common to make reference to Dionysius. Thomas Aquinas⁷⁰⁶ wrote an explanation for several works, and cites him over 1700 times.^[41] Bonaventure⁷⁰⁷ called him the "prince of mystics".

It was subsequently in the area of mysticism⁷⁰⁸ that Dionysius, especially his portrayal of the *via negativa*⁷⁰⁹, was particularly influential. In the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries his fundamental themes were hugely influential on thinkers such as Marguerite Porete⁷¹⁰, Meister Eckhart⁷¹¹, Johannes Tauler⁷¹², John of Ruusbroec⁷¹³, the author of *The Cloud of Unknowing*⁷¹⁴ (who made an expanded Middle English⁷¹⁵ translation of Dionysius' *Mystical Theology*), Jean Gerson⁷¹⁶, Nicholas of Cusa⁷¹⁷, Denis the Carthusian⁷¹⁸, Julian of Norwich⁷¹⁹, Harphius Herp⁷²⁰ and Catherine of Genoa [“The Mystical Element of Religion as Studied in Saint Catherine of Genoa and Her Friends (1908)”. His influence can also

699 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Lombard

700 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Grosseteste

701 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albertus_Magnus

702 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Sarrazin

703 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maximus_the_Confessor

704 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_of_Scythopolis

705 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Gallus

706 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Aquinas

707 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bonaventure>

708 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_mysticism

709 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apophatic_theology

710 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marguerite_Porete

711 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meister_Eckhart

712 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johannes_Tauler

713 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_of_Ruusbroec

714 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Cloud_of_Unknowing

715 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_English

716 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean_Gerson

717 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicholas_of_Cusa

718 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Denis_the_Carthusian

719 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julian_of_Norwich

720 https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Harpadius_Herp&action=edit&redlink=1

be traced in the Spanish Carmelite⁷²¹ thought of the sixteenth century among Teresa of Ávila⁷²² and John of the Cross⁷²³.^[37]

1.5 Modern appraisal

In recent decades, interest has increased again in the *Corpus Areopagiticum*, for three main reasons: because of a recovery of the huge impact of Dionysian thought in later Christian thought, because of an increasing repudiation of older criticisms that Dionysius's thought represented a fundamentally Neoplatonic⁷²⁴ approach to theology, and finally because of interest in parallels between aspects of modern linguistic theory⁷²⁵ and Dionysius's reflections on language and negative theology⁷²⁶.

Andrew Louth⁷²⁷ offers the following modern appraisal of the Areopagite;

Dionysius/Denys' vision is remarkable because, on the one hand, his understanding of hierarchy makes possible a rich symbolic system in terms of which we can understand God and the cosmos and our place within it, and, on the other, he finds room within this strictly hierarchical society for an escape from it, beyond it, by transcending symbols and realizing directly one's relationship with God as his creature, the creature of his love. There is space within the Dionysian universe for a multitude of ways of responding to God's love. That spaciousness is worth exploring: and therein, perhaps, lies the enduring value of the vision of Dionysius/Denys the Areopagite.^[42]

1.6 See also

- Philosophy of happiness⁷²⁸
- Pseudepigrapha⁷²⁹
- St. Dionysus Institute in Paris⁷³⁰
- Theoria⁷³¹
- Rudolf Steiner⁷³²

1.7 Notes

1. Acts 17:34: "A few men became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others."

721 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carmelites>

722 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teresa_of_%C3%81vila

723 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_of_the_Cross

724 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neoplatonism>

725 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linguistics>

726 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Negative_theology

727 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrew_Louth

728 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philosophy_of_happiness

729 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pseudepigrapha>

730 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Dionysus_Institute_in_Paris

731 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theoria>

732 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rudolf_Steiner

2. Also known as *The Intelligible and the Sensible*; this is only referred to in the *Ecclesiastical Hierarchy*.
3. This is only referred to in the *Celestial Hierarchy*.
4. "It must also be recognized that "forgery" is a modern notion. Like Plotinus and the Cappadocians before him, Dionysius does not claim to be an innovator, but rather a communicator of a tradition. Adopting the persona of an ancient figure was a long established rhetorical device (known as *declamatio*), and others in Dionysius' circle also adopted pseudonymous names from the New Testament. Dionysius' works, therefore, are much less a forgery in the modern sense than an acknowledgement of reception and transmission, namely, a kind of coded recognition that the resonances of any sacred undertaking are intertextual, bringing the diachronic structures of time and space together in a synchronic way, and that this theological teaching, at least, is dialectically⁷³³ received from another. Dionysius represents his own teaching as coming from a certain Hierotheus and as being addressed to a certain Timotheus. He seems to conceive of himself, therefore, as an in-between figure, very like a Dionysius the Areopagite, in fact.^[23]

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2. Acts 17:34⁷³⁷
3. *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*⁷³⁸ on the confusion between Dionysius and Pseudo-Dionysius
4. *Pseudo Dionysius: The Complete Works*, 1987, Paulist Press, ISBN⁷³⁹ 0-8091-2838-1⁷⁴⁰
5. Corrigan & Harrington 2014⁷⁴¹.
6. Andrew Louth, "The Reception of Dionysius up to Maximus the Confessor", in: Sarah Coakley, Charles M. Stang (eds), *Re-thinking Dionysius the Areopagite*, John Wiley & Sons, 2011, p. 49.
7. In support of this view, there is no trace at all of these 'lost' treatises: despite the interest in Dionysius from as early as the sixth century, no mention of them is to be found. See Louth, *Dionysius the Areopagite*, (1987), p20.
8. This was, in particular, due to the research of Stiglmayr and Koch in the late nineteenth century.

733 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dialectical>

734 <https://gedsh.bethmardutho.org/Dionysius-the-Areopagite-Pseudo->

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736 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:CS1_maint:_url-status

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10. Hathaway, *Hierarchy and the Definition of Order in the Letters of Pseudo-Dionysius*, p. 4, supports the dating of 519 for this treatise.
11. Andrew Louth, *Dionysius the Areopagite* (1987), reissued by Continuum Press, London & New York, 2001, under the title *Denys the Areopagite*.
12. See Louth, *Dionysius the Areopagite* (1987), p14, who suggests that, although ambiguous, Dionysius is not monophysite (he also points out that Severus and his supporters misquote Dionysius's Fourth Epistle to back up their view).
- Paul Rorem and John C Lamoreaux, *John of Scythopolis and the Dionysian Corpus: Annotating the Areopagite*, (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1998), esp p11, make an extensive study of the early evidence, arguing that (1) Hypatius's apparent rejection in 532 of the works of Dionysite as monophysite is not as straightforward as often suggested, and that (2) Dionysius's writing was appealed to by just about all parties in the sixth-century Christian east, and at no point was it considered the exclusive preserve of the Monophysites.
13. Dionysius' description in the *Ecclesiastical Hierarchy* corresponds well with what is known of Syriac worship from other sources, for example: (1) his account of baptism and the Eucharist is similar to the *Homilies on Baptism and the Eucharist* of Theodore of Mopsuestia, which depict worship in the Church of West Syria at the beginning of the fifth century. See Louth, *Dionysius the Areopagite* (1987), p55; (2) Dionysius' account of the sacrament of oil in the *Ecclesiastical Hierarchy* is not found in most other patristic sources, except for those in the Syrian tradition. See Louth, *Dionysius the Areopagite* (1987), p64; (3) his understanding of monasticism. See Louth, *Dionysius the Areopagite* (1987), p70. Louth is certain that Dionysius/Denys was writing in Syria. See p.14 and *passim*.
14. Acts 17:34⁷⁴²
15. Luibheid, Pseudo-Dionysius, (1987), p22.)
16. Hathaway, *Hierarchy and the Definition of Order in the Letters of Pseudo-Dionysius*, p. 13
17. Rorem, "John of Scythopolis on Apollinarian Christology," p. 482. John of Scythopolis was also proficient identifier of Apollinarian forgeries, giving his defense that much more credibility.
18. Jean-Yves Lacoste⁷⁴³, *Encyclopedia of Christian Theology*, 3 vols, vol 1, p439.
19. W Franke, ed, *On What Cannot Be Said*, (2007), vol 1, p158.
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22. Carlo Maria Mazzucchi, *Damascio, Autore del Corpus Dionysiacaum, e il dialogo Περὶ Πολιτικῆς Επιστῆμης*, Aevum: Rassegna di scienze storiche linguistiche e filologiche,

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24. "One might ask why it is necessary [in the Pseudo-Dionysian Corpus] to have an ordered hierarchy of angels at all in the Christian tradition, considering that the Bible has no concept of celestial hierarchy. ... That it was found necessary to invent a system of this nature [in the Pseudo-Dionysian Corpus] after 500 years is tantamount to denying the efficacy of Christ as mediator altogether." Rosemarie A. Arthur. (2011) *The Pseudo Dionysius as Polemicist: The Development and Purpose of the Angelic Hierarchy in Sixth Century Syria*, pp. 63–64. London: Ashgate.
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32. see Iamblichus⁷⁴⁵
33. Vladimir Lossky⁷⁴⁶, *The Mystical Theology of the Eastern Church*, SVS Press, 1997. (ISBN⁷⁴⁷ 0-913836-31-1⁷⁴⁸) James Clarke & Co Ltd, 1991. (ISBN⁷⁴⁹ 0-227-67919-9⁷⁵⁰)
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