

# 《中世纪的奥秘》

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## 内容概要

在历经漫长的文化萧条（即所谓黑暗时代）之后，欧洲迎来了学术（文学、艺术、哲学、科学）的复兴，并开始为西方社会构建一个位居其文明核心并影响至今的理念。

在中世纪，圣母玛利亚的形象进入了教会和信众生活的核心；妇女的地位因此而被提升到了前所未有的高度。

在信众眼里，圣餐饼乃是耶稣的身体。这在哲学上也引发了新的问题：实在是流变的吗，以至一个实体可以转变为另一个实体？这些新问题在中世纪触发了人们的思考，其思想便是现代科学的滥觞。

中世纪的美术家（以及作家）开辟了西方的写实主义传统。巴黎是阿伯拉尔和阿奎那探求学问的地方，牛津是科学研究的温床，佛罗伦萨是但丁和乔托的艺术殿堂，雄伟的罗马，无与伦比的佛罗伦萨... 凭借欧洲名城的巡礼，卡希尔很好地为我们刻画了实验的精神、多彩的盛典、充满激情的求知活动——而正是这一切，奠定了现代世界的根基。

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中世纪草菅人命的恶名在很大程度上是冤枉的。文艺复兴时期的人文主义知识分子之所以提出“中世纪”这个概念，是为了用它来刻画这样一个时代——这个时代既没有古典时代的辉煌，也没有他们所在的“现代”的成就。

希腊乃是西方世界的发祥地，其形塑西方世界的是理性、思想、心智以及合理的探索。只不过，当西方的思想内容被纳入古希腊模子的时候，它又汲取了古犹太、早期基督宗教的思想资源，所以它不光与心智有关，而且更关乎鲜活的心灵、切身的体验、道德的行为及其作用。正是中世纪（尤其是12、13世纪以及14世纪初叶）这一段历程，使模子里的那些东西得到了形塑，首次融合产生了我们现代世界的早期版本。这并非最终的版本——也许永远也不会有最终的版本。

中世纪欧洲的五花八门的情形，在提醒历史学家不要妄下浮泛的断语，因为针对他的概括，随时随地都有可能出现一些活生生的（甚至有点儿刺眼的）例外。

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## 作者简介

托马斯·卡希尔（Thomas Cahill），曾在纽约联合教会神学院、哥伦比亚大学与福德罕姆大学就教于美国最杰出的文学家与圣经学者。1996—1997年担任美国犹太神学院客座教授。曾任双日（Doubleday）宗教出版部主任。著有历史五部曲：《爱尔兰人如何拯救文明》、《犹太人的馈赠》、《欲求永恒之山：耶稣之前及之后的世界》、《劈波斩浪：希腊人的贡献》、《中世纪的奥秘：天主教欧洲的崇拜与女权、科学及艺术的兴起》。作者常年穿梭于纽约与罗马之间，在废墟和遗址上低吟浅唱，以同情与包蓄的胸怀，好古而不拟古的心志，究神人之际，悟古今之变，立一家之言。作者文笔辛辣、幽默，见解新颖、独到。其作品一经推出，便风靡欧美。

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## 编辑推荐

《中世纪的奥秘——天主教欧洲的崇拜与女权科学及艺术的兴起》由托马斯·卡希尔编著。中世纪草菅人命的恶名在很大程度上是冤枉的。文艺复兴时期的人文主义知识分子之所以提出“中世纪”这个概念，是为了用它来刻画这样一个时代——这个时代既没有古典时代的辉煌，也没有他们所在的“现代”的成就。希腊乃是西方世界的发祥地，其形塑西方世界的是理性、思想、心智以及合理的探索。只不过，当西方的思想内容被纳入古希腊模子的时候，它又汲取了古犹太、早期基督宗教的思想资源，所以它不光与心智有关，而且更关乎鲜活的心灵、切身的体验、道德的行为及其作用。正是中世纪（尤其是12、13世纪以及14世纪初叶）这一段历程，使模子里的那些东西得到了形塑，首次融合产生了我们现代世界的早期版本。这并非最终的版本——也许永远也不会有最终的版本。中世纪欧洲的五花八门的情形，在提醒历史学家不要妄下浮泛的断语，因为针对他的概括，随时随地都有可能出现一些活生生的（甚至有点儿刺眼的）例外。

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精彩短评

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## 精彩书评

1、“中世纪”，这个词在大多数脑海中引起的恐怕都是负面情感——少数游戏玩家及复古派学者除外——比如说落后、黑暗、野蛮、专制、封建等等等等。这一思维定势的形成最早需得归功于文艺复兴时期的几位领袖。但是就连这几位领袖也没想到自己一厢情愿的诋毁竟然能够持续那么长一段时间。近年来，给中世纪“正名”的活动在学术界方兴未艾，大量的学术论文和著作体现出学者们对于中世纪印象的改观，当然在这股潮流中，现代电影扮演了及其重要的角色，因为毫无疑问，强壮的英雄向来比柔弱的英雄要更加吸引人。《中世纪的奥秘》一书正是此股潮流的产儿。作者卡希尔——著名的文学家，同时也是圣经学者——以包含感情的笔调热切地为我们重新描述了中世纪的产生。该书的结构颇像一部罗曼司，每章都在一个不同的城市展开。于是追求知识的过程恰如骑士冒险一般引人入胜。我们姑且不论卡希尔力求恢复宗教纯洁性的观点是否站得住脚，但是本书的第三、四两章——分别介绍了巴黎大学和牛津大学——却尤其对中国的学者和大学学生具有极其重要的意义。在这两个章节中，我们能够考察现代大学是如何起源的，同时也能关注西方大学之强盛是从何而来。至少，其中的一句话无比精辟：“只有老师之间百家争鸣，最终才会有学术上的活力。”倘若法国人早在六、七百年前就参透了此中的道理，那么我们亦没有理由对此进行诡辩乃至是抗拒。不得不提的是该书的翻译。毫无疑问译者的语言功底是深厚的，但是——请容我指出——过于“深厚”了。特别是书当中某些术语的翻译既然已经约定俗成，实在没有必要挖空心思再想出一个另类的译法来。这样会给读者阅读造成很多困难。

2、Desire of the Everlasting Hills is another present from the pen of Thomas Cahill, author of How the Irish Saved Civilization and The Gifts of the Jews. In this third volume of the bestselling Hinges of History series, he knits together history, politics, sociology, and faith with contemporary insights that yield remarkable results. After painting with broad brush strokes an entertaining picture of the Greek, Jewish, and Roman world, Cahill focuses on Jesus. With illuminating deductions and clever speculation, Jesus is seen through the eyes of his biographers in their Gospel accounts. Each of these authors' lives is reconstructed in such a way that the richness of their writing and their subject matter is wonderfully enhanced. The section on Paul, detailing how his life and letters shaped the early church, should be required reading for every student of the Bible. From his beginnings in the cosmopolitan city known as Tarsus through his calling, like the patriarchs and prophets before him, he becomes "the perfect vehicle for this moment in the development of the Jesus Movement." His mix of Greek reasoning with rabbinical training casts the stories of the early church into a thoughtful theology. He is seen here as the earliest egalitarian who not only impacted the early church but all of western civilization. Cahill challenges many traditional religious ideas while also taking on some of the more radical contemporary interpreters of biblical literature. As with the other volumes in this series, the marginal notes are filled with a wealth of interesting information. Combining his own fresh translation of many New Testament highlights with respect and humor, Thomas Cahill's book is for the believer and nonbeliever alike. -- Tracy Danz Product Description "Cahill is insightful, wry, and highly entertaining as he explores the cultural influences, social expectations, and tricky politics of the day. He examines the New Testament in this light, yet remains respectful. His goal, he states early, is to ascertain whether Jesus made a difference. His conclusion is unequivocal." -- Christian Science Monitor In Desire of the Everlasting Hills, Thomas Cahill takes up his most daring and provocative subject yet: Jesus of Nazareth, the central figure of Western civilization. Introducing us first to "the people Jesus knew," Thomas Cahill describes the oppressive Roman political presence, the pervasive Greek cultural influence, and especially the widely varied social and religious context of the Judaism in which Jesus moved and flourished. These backgrounds, essential to a complete understanding of Jesus, lead to the author's stunningly original interpretation of the New Testament--much of it based on material from the ancient Greek brilliantly translated by the author himself--that will delight readers and surprise even biblical scholars. Thomas Cahill's most unusual skill may lie in his ability to bring to life people of a faraway world whose concerns seem at first to be utterly removed from the present day. We see Jesus as a real person, sharp-witted and sharp-tongued, but kind, humorous, and affectionate, shadowed by the inevitable climax of crucifixion, the cruelest form of execution ever devised by humankind. Mary, while not quite the "perpetual virgin" of popular piety, is a vivid presence and forceful influence on her son. And the apostle Paul, the carrier of Jesus' message and most important figure in the early Jesus movement (which became

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Christianity), finds rehabilitation in Cahill's realistic, revealing portrait of him. The third volume in the Hinges of History series, this unique presentation of Jesus and his times is for believers and nonbelievers alike (for Jews and Christians, it is intended by the author as an act of reconciliation). With the same lively narration and irresistible perceptions that characterize *How the Irish Saved Civilization* and *The Gifts of the Jews*, Thomas Cahill invites readers into an ancient world to commune with some of the most influential people who ever lived. From the bestselling author of *How the Irish Saved Civilization* and *The Gifts of the Jews*, his most compelling historical narrative yet. How did an obscure rabbi from a backwater of the Roman Empire come to be the central figure in Western Civilization? Did his influence in fact change the world? These are the questions Thomas Cahill addresses in his subtle and engaging investigation into the life and times of Jesus. Cahill shows us Jesus from his birth to his execution through the eyes of those who knew him and in the context of his time—a time when the Jews were struggling to maintain their beliefs under overlords who imposed their worldview on their subjects. Here is Jesus the loving friend, itinerate preacher, and quiet revolutionary, whose words and actions inspired his followers to journey throughout the Roman world and speak the truth he instilled—in the face of the greatest defeat: Jesus' crucifixion as a common criminal. Daring, provocative, and stunningly original, Cahill's interpretation will both delight and surprise.



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