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Basil: The Letters, Volume I, Letters 1-58 (Loeb Classical Library No. 190)



Synopsis

Basil the Great was born ca. 330 CE at Caesarea in Cappadocia into a family noted for piety. He was at Constantinople and Athens for several years as a student with Gregory of Nazianzus and was much influenced by Origen. For a short time he held a chair of rhetoric at Caesarea, and was then baptized. He visited monasteries in Egypt and Palestine and sought out the most famous hermits in Syria and elsewhere to learn how to lead a pious and ascetic life; but he decided that communal monastic life and work were best. About 360 he founded in Pontus a convent to which his sister and widowed mother belonged. Ordained a presbyter in 365, in 370 he succeeded Eusebius in the archbishopric of Caesarea, which included authority over all Pontus. He died in 379. Even today his reform of monastic life in the east is the basis of modern Greek and Slavonic monasteries. The Loeb Classical Library edition of Basil's Letters is in four volumes.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

5 stars for the four volume set. Good introduction to start off the book though around 90 years later the scholarship has moved on in several areas. This translation is referenced more by current scholarship than the Agnes Way translation. Of course there are certain words and inserts that scholars choose to translate themselves and point out Deferrari's shortcomings but it is of course the exception. Having the Greek text is very helpful as I am writing a research paper.

Purchased the set of 4 volumes for a relative who teaches canon law; he said the translation is

regarded as "best".

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