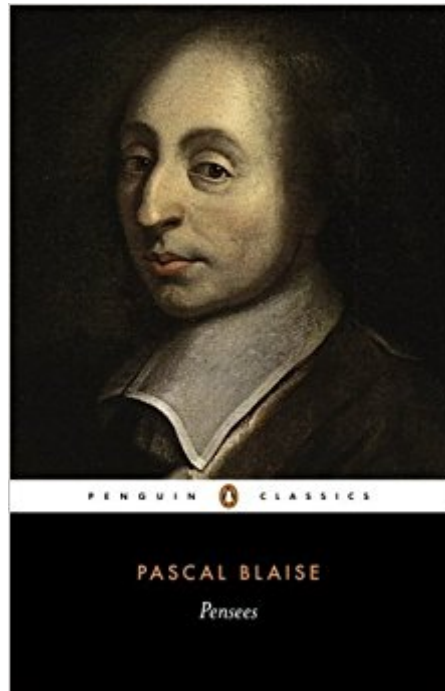




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Pensees (Penguin Classics)



Synopsis

Blaise Pascal, the precociously brilliant contemporary of Descartes, was a gifted mathematician and physicist, but it is his unfinished apologia for the Christian religion upon which his reputation now rests. The *Pensées* is a collection of philosophical fragments, notes and essays in which Pascal explores the contradictions of human nature in psychological, social, metaphysical and - above all - theological terms. Mankind emerges from Pascal's analysis as a wretched and desolate creature within an impersonal universe, but who can be transformed through faith in God's grace. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

Book Information

Series: Penguin Classics

Paperback: 333 pages

Publisher: Penguin Classics; Reissue edition (December 1, 1995)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0140446451

ISBN-13: 978-0140446456

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.9 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 62 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #15,147 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Modern Renaissance #7 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Movements & Periods > Renaissance #17 in Books > Literature & Fiction > World Literature > European > French

Customer Reviews

Text: English (translation) Original Language: French

Blaise Pascal was born in Clermont in 1623, the son of a government official. During his short life he left his mark on mathematics, physics, religious controversy and literature. A convert to Jansenism,

he engaged with gusto in a controversy with the Jesuits, which gave rise to his *Lettres Provinciales* on which, with the *Pensées*, his literary fame chiefly rests. A remarkable stylist, he is regarded by many as the greatest of French prose artists. He died, after a long illness, in 1662. Dr. A.J. Krailsheimer was born in 1921 and was Tutor in French at Christ Church, Oxford, from 1957 until his retirement in 1988. His publications are *Studies in Self-Interest* (1963), *Rabelais and the Franciscans* (1965), *Three Conteurs of the Sixteenth Century* (1966), *Rabelais* (1967), *A. J. de Rancé*, Abbot of La Trappe (1974), *Pascal* (1980), *Conversion* (1980), *Letters of A. J. de Rancé* (1984), *Rancé and the Trappist Legacy* (1985) and *Correspondance de Rancé* (1993). He has also translated Flaubert's *Bouvard and Pécuchet* and Salammbo and Pascal's *The Provincial Letters* for the Penguin Classics.

It's interesting how few spiritual people have read this book. It's truly moving and you'll find yourself repeating much of what Pascal wrote so long ago. It's a book from a man that thought long and hard about faith. While some of his sayings are popular and well known, many of the best I believe are still just waiting in the book to be found.

I had another edition of this work that I either loaned out or misplaced. I think it is a classic of Christian thought. Pascal displayed profound insights into the human condition, in its spiritual and existential dimensions.

The book made a great case for Christianity and Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior! I was very surprised! I would highly recommend this book!

Awesome and thought provoking book. Helps you to understand the power of God in our lives and what we need to do to return to Him.

He was one of history's more interesting, thoughtful and mufti-faceted characters. I'm finding this book ideal to read in short sessions because each paragraph is worth thinking about at length. It is the perfect addition to my flush-tank library.

Wonderful for the iPad or any other e-reader. Good table of contents and all chapters are easily accessed. The translation from the French is more than adequate and quite clear. A terrific version of Pascal's greatest work.

I've read countless philosophy books and none ever come close to PASCAL's pensees.

This is the book to turn to, other than the Bible, to get at the truth of the human heart and the heart of God.

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