

## **Amazon book review of “The Christ Conspiracy” by Acharya S.**

Acharya S denies the existence of an historical Jesus, and argues that the Christian gospel is a "carnalized" (a term she frequently uses) reenactment of an ancient and repeating solar mythos. She raucously preaches to a New Age and Neo Pagan choir that would readily accept her views in the same uncritical manner in which her thesis is presented. Elements of sexism, anti-intellectualism and historical revisionism abundantly decorate the pages of this book; predicated on an astro-theological world view that ascribes causal power to non personal cosmic entities, i.e. the sun, moon and stars.

Archrya errs in her dating of the New Testament documents, readily accepting canonical development arguments long since rejected by the vast majority of biblical scholars, liberal and conservative. She quotes the words of Jesus and the Apostle Paul in a hermeneutic deficient of context, and reads into the text (a practice call "eisegesis") things that are actually refuted by the passages she offers. For example, she writes, "Jesus's own Gnosticism is revealed at John 7:7: The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify of it that its works are evil." Rather than teaching Gnosticism, Jesus is teaching that the world (mankind in his fallen natural state) is opposed to that which exposes the evil. This theme is repeated throughout the gospel of John.

The author offers further absurdities such as "the crucifixion is actually the crossification of the sun and moon", the occurrence of the equinox. She does not interact with the classical arguments for the historicity of the resurrection. She accuses the early church father Irenaeus of being Gnostic, despite his *magnum opus* "Against Heresies" where he argues against that great error.

Acharya S. does make the excellent point that too many people embrace a belief system uncritically and without evidence. She also does well to point out the horrors inflicted on mankind and the Earth in the name of religion. However, no religion should be defined by the behavior of alleged adherents that usurp its tenets for unholy gain. . Acharya does a tremendous disservice by never once mentioning the good things Christianity has produced - charities, scientists, scholars, philanthropies and very good neighbors. Holy Scripture is replete with exhortations to love and mercy, justice and goodness to fellow man, care for the earth and for animal creatures therein, and good stewardship of the Creator's abundant provisions. Even a biased mention of these would be a welcome inclusion.

Acharya's astrological worldview is a-historical and borders on hysteria. It has prejudiced her examination of the abundant evidence available for the historical Jesus, His authority, His great love for fallen mankind, and thereby wrongly answers one of Jesus' most important questions, "Who do men say that I am?"