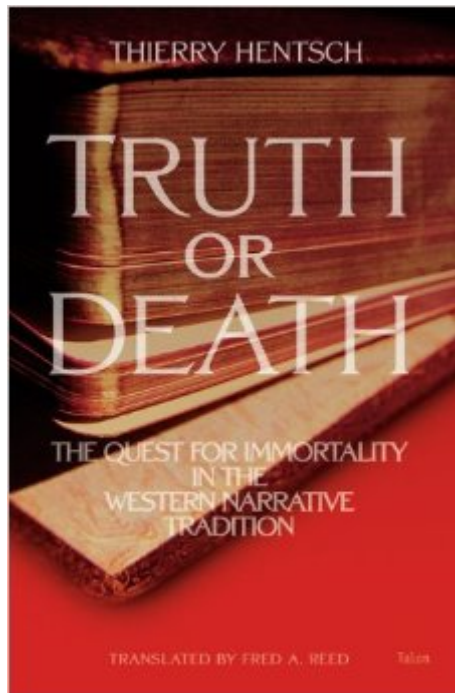


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Truth Or Death: The Quest For Immortality In The Western Narrative Tradition



Synopsis

In the tradition of James Frazer, Carl Jung and Joseph Campbell, Thierry Hentsch retells, with new urgency and a keen critical eye, the story of the West • that shapes our perception of the world. Yet, the story of the West • does not exist. Only a reading of its most seminal texts; from Ulysses to Hamlet, from the Torah to the Gospels, from Plato to Descartes; can bring it alive. His tale turns on a startling discovery: The Christian message of immortality is conditional. To overcome death; the touchstone of the human condition; the believer must accept the Truth of salvation. Western civilization, by replacing God with technoscience, offers the universal promise that salvation may now be gained on earth. Yet, as a condition, it would impose its own absolute morality on the world. Truth or Death: the Biblical injunction is ours as well.

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The late philosopher Thierry Hentsch produced a profound, inspiring and luminous book that examines the Western literary tradition as a quest to prevail over mortality and hope for building social tissue when most people have stopped believing in afterlife. A serious masterpiece full of sensitivity, literary style and philosophical discipline.

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