



Subversive Virtue: Asceticism and Authority in the Second-Century Pagan World

James A. Francis

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

Subversive Virtue: Asceticism and Authority in the Second-Century Pagan World

James A. Francis

Subversive Virtue: Asceticism and Authority in the Second-Century Pagan World James A. Francis

Much attention has been devoted in recent years to Christian asceticism in Late Antiquity. But Christianity did not introduce asceticism to the ancient world. An underlying theme of this fascinating study of pagan asceticism is that much of the work on Christian "holy men" has ignored earlier manifestations of asceticism in Antiquity and the way Roman society confronted it. Accordingly, James Francis turns to the second century, the "balmy late afternoon of Rome's classical empire," when the conflict between asceticism and authority reached a turning point.

Francis begins with the emperor Marcus Aurelius (121–180), who warned in his *Meditations* against "display[ing] oneself as a man keen to impress others with a reputation for asceticism or beneficence." The Stoic Aurelius saw ascetic self-discipline as a virtue, but one to be exercised in moderation. Like other Roman aristocrats of his day, he perceived practitioners of ostentatious physical asceticism as a threat to prevailing norms and the established order. Prophecy, sorcery, miracle working, charismatic leadership, expressions of social discontent, and advocacy of alternative values regarding wealth, property, marriage, and sexuality were the issues provoking the controversy.

If Aurelius defined the acceptable limits of ascetical practice, then the poet Lucian depicted the threat ascetics were perceived to pose to the social status quo through his biting satire. In an eye-opening analysis of Philostratus's *Life of Apollonius of Tyana*, Francis shows how Roman society reined in its deviant ascetics by "rehabilitating" them into pillars of traditional values. Celsus's *True Doctrine* shows how the views pagans held of their own ascetics influenced their negative view of Christianity. Finally, Francis points out striking parallels between the conflict over pagan asceticism and its Christian counterpart. By treating pagan asceticism seriously in its own right, Francis establishes the context necessary for understanding the great flowering of asceticism in Late Antiquity

 [Download Subversive Virtue: Asceticism and Authority in the ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Subversive Virtue: Asceticism and Authority in t ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Subversive Virtue: Asceticism and Authority in the Second-Century Pagan World James A. Francis

From reader reviews:

Herman Nelson:

Book will be written, printed, or illustrated for everything. You can understand everything you want by a book. Book has a different type. As you may know that book is important matter to bring us around the world. Beside that you can your reading ability was fluently. A reserve Subversive Virtue: Asceticism and Authority in the Second-Century Pagan World will make you to be smarter. You can feel more confidence if you can know about every thing. But some of you think that open or reading a new book make you bored. It's not make you fun. Why they could be thought like that? Have you seeking best book or suited book with you?

Coleman Jones:

This book untitled Subversive Virtue: Asceticism and Authority in the Second-Century Pagan World to be one of several books that best seller in this year, that's because when you read this publication you can get a lot of benefit on it. You will easily to buy this specific book in the book retail store or you can order it by means of online. The publisher in this book sells the e-book too. It makes you easier to read this book, as you can read this book in your Touch screen phone. So there is no reason to your account to past this guide from your list.

Elida Allman:

The reason? Because this Subversive Virtue: Asceticism and Authority in the Second-Century Pagan World is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap that but latter it will distress you with the secret this inside. Reading this book alongside it was fantastic author who also write the book in such incredible way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining way but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this nowadays or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of gains than the other book have got such as help improving your skill and your critical thinking method. So , still want to delay having that book? If I have been you I will go to the publication store hurriedly.

Gary Stark:

This Subversive Virtue: Asceticism and Authority in the Second-Century Pagan World is great e-book for you because the content which is full of information for you who have always deal with world and have to make decision every minute. This kind of book reveal it details accurately using great plan word or we can claim no rambling sentences within it. So if you are read the item hurriedly you can have whole data in it. Doesn't mean it only provides straight forward sentences but challenging core information with wonderful delivering sentences. Having Subversive Virtue: Asceticism and Authority in the Second-Century Pagan World in your hand like obtaining the world in your arm, data in it is not ridiculous 1. We can say that no reserve that offer you world in ten or fifteen small right but this publication already do that. So , it is good

reading book. Heya Mr. and Mrs. stressful do you still doubt in which?

Download and Read Online Subversive Virtue: Asceticism and Authority in the Second-Century Pagan World James A. Francis #YBLPZVOKSWA

Read Subversive Virtue: Asceticism and Authority in the Second-Century Pagan World by James A. Francis for online ebook

Subversive Virtue: Asceticism and Authority in the Second-Century Pagan World by James A. Francis Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Subversive Virtue: Asceticism and Authority in the Second-Century Pagan World by James A. Francis books to read online.

Online Subversive Virtue: Asceticism and Authority in the Second-Century Pagan World by James A. Francis ebook PDF download

Subversive Virtue: Asceticism and Authority in the Second-Century Pagan World by James A. Francis Doc

Subversive Virtue: Asceticism and Authority in the Second-Century Pagan World by James A. Francis Mobipocket

Subversive Virtue: Asceticism and Authority in the Second-Century Pagan World by James A. Francis EPub