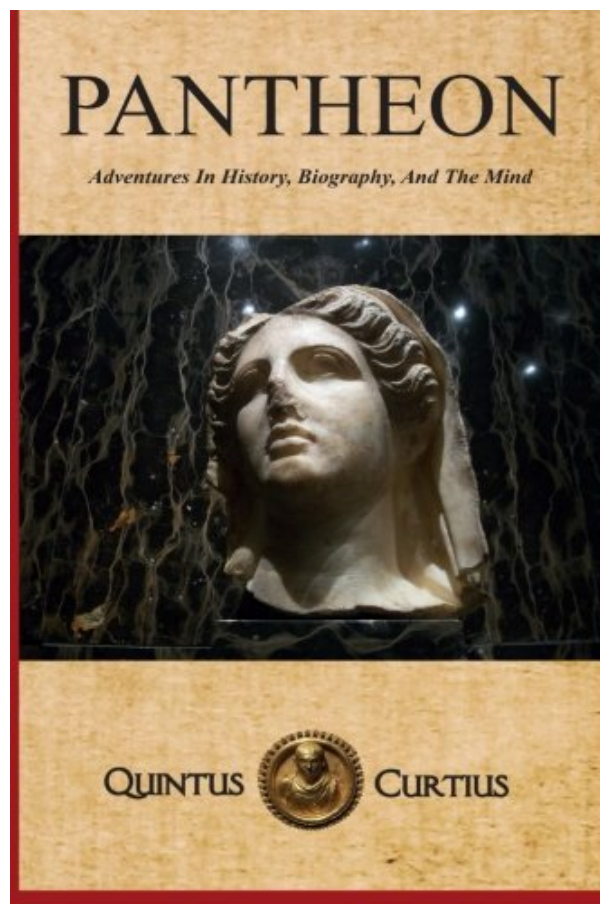


PANTHEON: ADVENTURES IN HISTORY, BIOGRAPHY, AND THE MIND BY QUINTUS CURTIUS



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About the Author

Quintus Curtius is an attorney, writer, and former Marine officer. He can be found at www.qcurtius.com.

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This is Quintus Curtius's second book. In it, he continues his explorations in history, biography, and philosophy to extract inspiring, timeless lessons for modern readers. The pervasive themes include courage in adversity, character and fate, moral problems, and the transcendent search for life's lessons. Special attention is given to Stoicism, Platonism, and the quest for meaning in a turbulent world.

Challenging, meticulously researched, and bursting with wisdom, "Pantheon" is a book unlike any other in the modern literary scene.

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About the Author

Quintus Curtius is an attorney, writer, and former Marine officer. He can be found at www.qcurtius.com.

Most helpful customer reviews

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful.

Single-handedly revives the field of philosophy

By Graham H. Seibert

Quintus Curtius is a philosopher. Philosophy itself, systematic inquiry into how people should live, has been a dead letter for a century or more. Political philosophy addresses the question of how we should order our collective lives to the greatest benefit of all. Moral philosophy attempts to tell us how we should treat our fellow man, to answer the question of what is the proper course of action in a given situation. Personal philosophy advises the individual with regard to how to realize as much as possible of his God-given talents.

The major insight of the 20th century was that it couldn't be done. Everybody will come up with different answers, and given that all morality is relative, and happiness is defined differently by each individual, there can be no definitive philosophy. Why should we bother?

Curtius approaches the question of why we should bother from a number of different directions. Some of his essays are accounts of feats by remarkable men who were motivated by their personal philosophies. We are inspired by the examples of intrepid explorers in the empty quarter of Arabia or an obscure corner of Antarctica, or the heroics, resolves, and teamwork of military men under extreme stress. In other essays he

examines what the classical Greek and Roman philosophers, the Arabs who became intellectually dominant following Mohammed, and the Jewish and Christian philosophers of the Middle Ages and Renaissance.

Those of us Americans who were educated back when the pedagogues took their job seriously learned enough to know how much we did know. Few American schools teach the classics, but we were exposed to Plato, Augustine, Spinoza and other great minds to the extent that we regretted not knowing them better. Quintus Curtius is a balm for the soul. He has read virtually everything that you have heard of, in the original Greek, Latin and Arabic, and has the gift of being able to summarize briefly and eloquently, flattering the reader's intelligence. That is my first bit of advice in this review. Given that very few of us will have time to read the classic authors, reading Curtius is the next best thing. His essays are concise. He may not go into as much depth as other authors such as Ferdinand Mount or Will and Ariel Durant, but he deftly conveys the gist of the arguments.

His most thought-provoking articles are on morality. What matters more: the quality of the outcome, or the purity of the motives? One essay strongly supports letter position. What are our obligations to our family, community and nation? How do we arbitrate among conflicting demands? In one essay, he examines the classical arguments for and against marriage. He allows the skeptics' argument to stand, asserting that a man should enter marriage only for the purpose of having children, and only when he has found a close to ideal mate.

This is an area in which I wish Quintus Curtius would press further. The society, our civilization is brought forward through the ages not by the offspring of extraordinary people, but those of the average people who somehow rise upon occasion to become extraordinary. Somewhere among the obligations of a human being must be the duty of continuing the species, culture, tribe and clan. Curtius does not give it the attention I would like to see. On the other hand, I do not recall classical authors doing so either. Even Jewish and Christian Scripture, while they admonish people to behave in such a way that will encourage offspring, do not justify assuming the burden of parenthood beyond saying that it pleases the Lord and that children will be a crown of glory in one's old age.

One of the great pleasures of reviewing books is encountering towering intellects, people in whose presence I am sure I would feel quite humbled. I have enjoyed reviewing Richard Dawkins, Stephen Pinker, Richard Feynman, Daniel Kahneman and Nicholas Nassim Taleb. These are people who could have done anything that they wanted in life. They have chosen to increase mankind's knowledge, and have the gift of writing clearly and incisively to share what they have learned. I add Quintus Curtius to this company.

Curtius is a man of many parts. In this book we learn, among other things, that he was a Marine intelligence officer in Serbia and has worked as a lawyer. But his profession does not define him. He could find worldly success pursuing any number of paths. However, true to his philosophy, he continues the pursuit of knowledge of the classics, and the practice of writing essays to convey his insights to the rest of us. I leapt at the chance to read Pantheon, having vastly enjoyed his first book, *Thirty Seven: Essays On Life, Wisdom, And Masculinity*. Although the book is structured to let the reader put it down after any essay, I found myself not wanting to until I got to the end.

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful.

EXCELLENT WORK BY AN EXCELLENT AUTHOR!!!

By Jeff Woods

This book is a triumph in every sense of the word. No one else is doing what this guy is doing, anywhere. It must have taken the author years of study to put together all of these essays as he did, using all original sources. You can read these essays multiple times and get different things out of them each time.

This is a collection of essays on moral, philosophical, and historical subjects. My favorites are "The Ghost of Christopher Hitchens" and "Fortress of the Mind." You have to read this book carefully, as every paragraph is dense with meaning. I never really understood Plato until I started going through the chapter on Plotinus. Clearly Quintus is a master of the subject matter, and shows a range of vision that covers the European and Middle Eastern intellectual traditions. You get practical advice as well as spiritual guidance. I'm not finished with the book just yet, but I can tell that this is something that I'm going to draw on for years to come.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

Pantheon delves into the lives of some of the most brilliant and daring men throughout history

By Seth

As soon as I heard Quintus Curtius was writing a 2nd book, I anxiously awaited its release, and a few hours after it was available on Amazon I was devouring it on my Kindle.

Pantheon delves into the lives of some of the most brilliant and daring men throughout history. He recreates their lives through engaging, narrative essays that have the perfect blend of excitement and erudition.

One of the things that makes Pantheon so unique is that it stands alone as a work of a true scholar in our modern world. Most books on the subject of masculinity repeat empty platitudes for 200 pages trying to hype up the reader; Pantheon does a more effective job without even trying!

This book is reminiscent of something a scholar would have created centuries ago and doesn't resemble the books of the past 50 years; and that was his goal.

Our modern society, with its abundance of material comforts and unrelenting smugness, has exchanged masculine conviction and strength for a weak-kneed relativism, in which everything is so perfectly balanced out that we are left paralyzed with inaction."

Just reading the Prologue got my heart pumping. You must read it yourself, but it explores the desperate attempts of British archeologist Howard Carter to discover the lost tomb of King Tut. All hope seems lost after his prolonged and frantic searching, and just as time is running down he reaps the fruits of his labor.

You failed and failed, and then, after agonizing labor in fits and starts, you won. He knew what the elements of success were: unerring faith in one's own ability, the backing of a dedicated person, and a sustained period of grueling labor. These were the ingredients of victory."

One of my favorite essays from Pantheon was the 'Ghost of Christopher Hitchens'. I am a Hitchens fan myself (See my review of Arguably), and it was interesting to see Quintus devise this scenario.

Essentially QC and Hitchens get into a debate on the virtues (or lack thereof) of religion. Quintus argues that:

...religion performs an essential moral function. Religions are the vehicles by which a society's moral code is transmitted to the generations. Originally, temporal rulers found it indispensable to cloak their laws and commands in the garb of religion."

Religion often get the scorn of the 'Red-Pill' community, but I agree with Quintus and think it plays an integral role in our society.

The Pursuit of Masculinity

Pantheon is about the unbridled and unapologetic pursuit of masculinity, truth, wisdom, and virtue throughout history. In fact, it is a perfect example of why I started this site, and why it needs to be featured without question.

...new approaches to man's ancient problems were desperately needed, and would be gratefully welcomed. The unchanging themes of the life of man had cried out for a new voice, and a new technique, that might give them a contemporary resonance.”

The Wisdom our Society Has Been Missing

Another desirable aspect of this book is the fact that Quintus is much older than others in this realm of the internet. That is by all means a compliment, because too often books of this nature are lacking in maturity.

These are the type of guys who spend a couple weeks working on an eBook, slap a price tag on it and shove it down your throat as a “MUST READ FOR ALL MEN” type of thing; not Pantheon.

Quintus's love of history and philosophy is abundantly clear and he doesn't need to rely on clever marketing tactics to get his book out there (If you're not familiar with his work, check out his Return of Kings articles). This needs to be emphasized because books of this nature must come from someone who's spent decades in this pursuit, which the reader can clearly see, most notably in his impressive translations of numerous languages.

There are many blogs and books out there written by men in their early 20's (Such as myself) espousing their own views of the world. This is a good thing for a number of reasons, but there comes a point where a young man must draw a line that he will not cross because he simply doesn't have the knowledge or experience to remark on certain subjects; sadly, that line is crossed too often.

That said, some of the essays can be tough to read as the language and style can be quite complex. This is especially the case in the section where he explains Neo-Platonic philosophies. I won't even attempt to explain that section, as I need to go back and try and read it again myself.

Pantheon is truly a remarkable piece of work, and hopefully it will facilitate the growth of NeoMasculinity in our society. I doubt all men are up to the challenge of reading this book, but it is a highly rewarding one for those that are.

<http://masculinebooks.com/2015/04/13/pantheon-adventures-in-history-biography-and-the-mind-by-quintus-curtius/#sthash.1kIGvQxa.dpuf>

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About the Author

Quintus Curtius is an attorney, writer, and former Marine officer. He can be found at www.qcurtius.com.

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