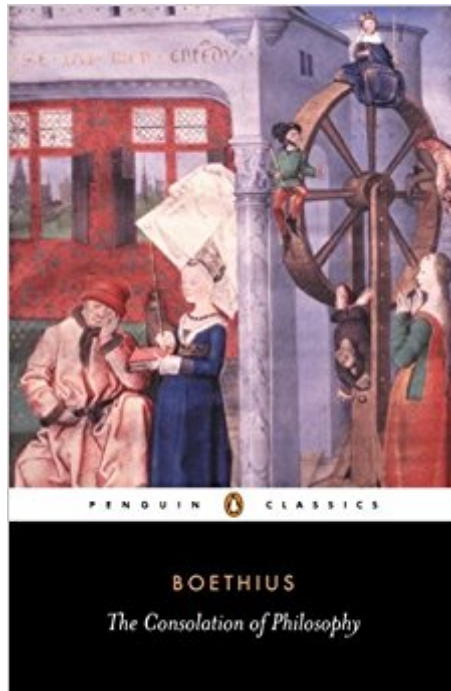




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# The Consolation Of Philosophy (Penguin Classics)



## Synopsis

Boethius was an eminent public figure under the Gothic emperor Theodoric, and an exceptional Greek scholar. When he became involved in a conspiracy and was imprisoned in Pavia, it was to the Greek philosophers that he turned. The Consolation was written in the period leading up to his brutal execution. It is a dialogue of alternating prose and verse between the ailing prisoner and his 'nurse' Philosophy. Her instruction on the nature of fortune and happiness, good and evil, fate and free will, restore his health and bring him to enlightenment. The Consolation was extremely popular throughout medieval Europe and his ideas were influential on the thought of Chaucer and Dante. 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

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## Customer Reviews

Text: English (translation) Original Language: Latin

The Consolation of Philosophy is perhaps unique in the nature and extent of its influence on

Western thinking. An eminent public figure under the Gothic emperor Theodoric, Boethius (c. A D 475-525) was also an exceptional Greek scholar and it was to the Greek philosophers that he turned when he fell from favour and was imprisoned in Pavia. Written in the period leading up to his brutal execution, it is a dialogue of alternating prose and verse between the ailing prisoner and his 'nurse' Philosophy, whose instruction on the nature of fortune and happiness, good and evil, fate and free will, restore his health and bring him to enlightenment. The clarity of Boethius's thought and his breadth of vision made *The Consolation of Philosophy* hugely popular throughout medieval Europe and his ideas suffused the thought of Chaucer and Dante. This translation makes it accessible to the modern reader while losing nothing of Boethius's poetic artistry and philosophical brilliance.

Boethius' *Consolation of Philosophy* is one of the essential works of Western philosophy and literature. It is still relevant although it was written 1500 years ago. Having enjoyed a life of privilege, honour and comfort, Boethius found himself imprisoned for treason. The accusations against him were baseless but Boethius knew he was going to be executed anyway. (And he was) While imprisoned alone in his dungeon cell, Boethius engaged in imaginary conversations and debates with Fortune and Philosophy on such topics as Fate, Philosophy and the fickleness of Fortune. He managed to write out these thoughts and his writings were published after his death. The result was this timeless classic. This free Kindle download is certainly worth having. The translation is well done and should be easy for modern readers to follow. Highly recommended.

Needed this for a class and love it in Kindle format. So easy to mark up and go back and view my notes for review, data for essays, etc. The book itself is a deep philosophical work with meaning so true today that it just reinforces that people in Boethius' time faced exactly the same troubles we all face today. Boethius has a way of making you see what is truly important and of value. Great book!

Written in 524, this book still holds a lot of wisdom for life today. It reminds us that sometimes we stress about things that don't really matter. The author, a philosopher and saint, wrote the work when he was in prison, condemned to death without a trial, and awaiting execution. His mental conversation with his "teacher," Lady Philosophy, slowly brings him to the realization that the possessions and status we value really don't matter and the things that really do matter -- education, mental faculties and real friends -- can't be taken from us, no matter what our circumstances. Victor Watts' translation makes this ancient work easy to read despite its ancient

origins.

Boethius was a seminal thinker, whose ideas are mostly familiar to students of the classics and /or theology. But all Christians should be familiar with this book. It is clear and persuasive, expanding understanding of how God relates to His creation, and how we can reconcile free will and God's foreknowledge of our actions. In C. S. Lewis' "Screwtape Letters" the senior demon refers to Boethius as a "meddler," informing humans too much about God's nature. A good recommendation, I would say. This book is charming and clear, a good read in all senses.

Analyzed this book in one of my first philosophy classes and loved it! Has a great take on every part of life...why we are the way that we are. Throughout the entire book you find yourself amazed simply because Boethius was able to recognize these life tendencies and write them in a clear thought provoking way. Moreover, you find yourself in amazement that nothing has changed since his time! We've all experienced these thoughts at one point or another in life and to have all of those thoughts put together in a book kind of blows your mind!

Great book

As far as books about philosophy go I would rate the The Consolation of Philosophy as a must read. The author wrote it during the existence of the Roman Empire. The book offers solid insights into life which are eternally true. That said I am sure the book is not for everyone and the reader will need bring some sort philosophical foundation to the reading of The Consolation of Philosophy.

A book that truly revolutionized my inner religious philosophy. Boethius' description and theory on evil as it relates to an all-good and loving God is one that has stuck with me throughout my life.

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