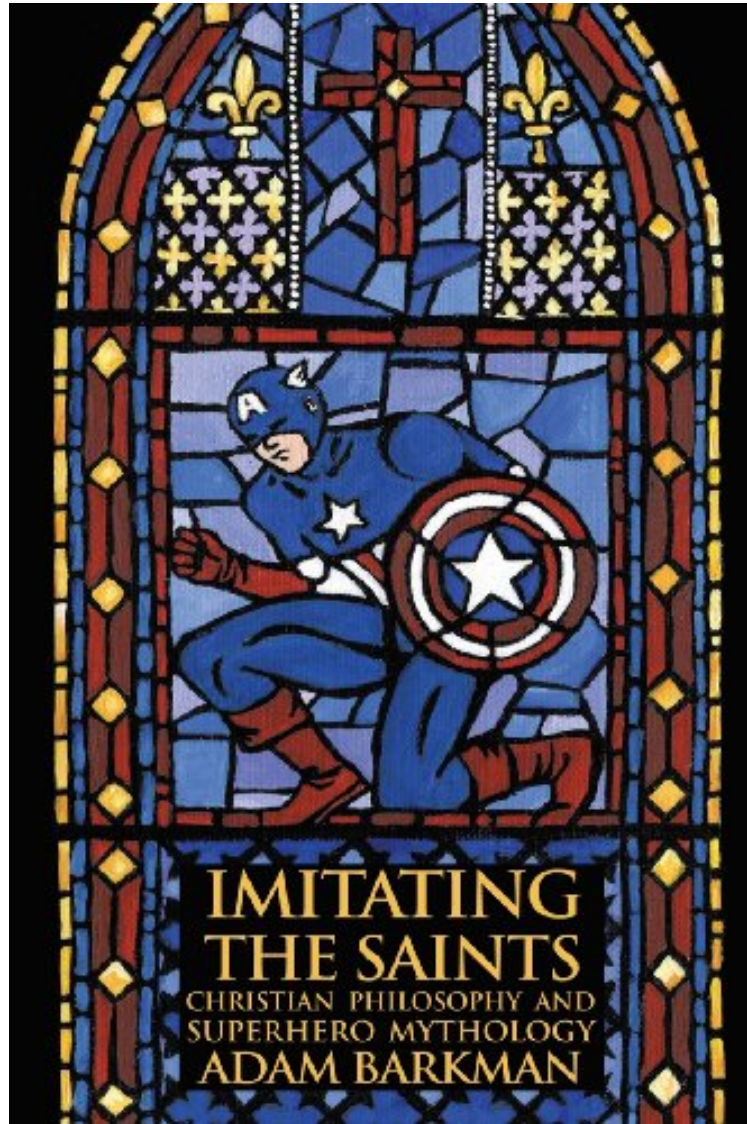


(Download free pdf) Imitating the Saints: Christian Philosophy and Superhero Mythology

Imitating the Saints: Christian Philosophy and Superhero Mythology

Adam Barkman

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Adam Barkman : Imitating the Saints: Christian Philosophy and Superhero Mythology before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Imitating the Saints: Christian Philosophy and Superhero Mythology:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A genuinely fun and rewarding bookBy Dr. JohnsonAdam Barkman has been pouring out a steady stream of philosophy and popular culture essays over the past few years, and all of the

highest quality. As testament to the quality of the essays in the present collection, both in terms of their readability and their philosophical insight, I found myself, after casually flipping open the book for this review, re-reading whole essays with deep interest. I'm not even a huge superhero fan. The essays are more than good enough to warrant re-reading. All of them would serve as good introductions to their respective topics, like the Christian view of gender or Nietzsches moral relativism. Rather than get in the way of the philosophy, the superhero references provide concrete illustrations that keep the discussion from getting too abstract. In fact, oddly enough, given my relative ignorance of the Marvel and DC universes, I found the superhero references almost as interesting as the philosophy itself. Both work hand in hand to make this a genuinely fun and rewarding book. The philosophy is explained clearly and concisely, and the level of detail regarding the superheroes themselves is impressive. Each essay is evidently well-researched, yet the detail doesn't overwhelm because of the accessible writing style. I'd recommend this book for Christians interested in either philosophy or superheroes, and absolutely require it for those interested in both (the introductory essay, Christian Philosophy and Superhero Mythology, is a must read if you're in that category). And I recommend it for the curious of any stripe (What more fun way to learn some Christian philosophy than through superheroes? Seriously, people.) I suspect that for many this book would be like a splash of cold water in the face on a hot summer day: refreshing, even for those caught by surprise. Imitating the Saints, like Barkman's other works, has that feature present in the best kind of books: it arouses the longing for knowledge and understanding even while it satisfies that longing. And even more so, it arouses the longing to be virtuous. While reading it, you can't help but feel emboldened to seek justice and do what is good. And I don't know about you, but I can never read too many books like that.

Something really 'higher' is occasionally glimpsed in mythology: Divinity, the right to power, the due of worship; in fact 'religion.'" Inspired by these and other words of J. R. R. Tolkien and his great contemporary, C.S. Lewis, *IMITATING THE SAINTS* explores our greatest modern mythology—superheroes—from a rigorously philosophical, Christian perspective. Moving effortlessly through the pantheons of the DC and Marvel universes, this book has chapters on the major superheroes—from Superman to Spider-Man—and explores these mythical figures in ways that highlight their deep, lasting, and ever-growing appeal. "Drawing on both classical philosophy and biblical traditions, Barkman shows how stories about superheroes provide us mere mortals with models to emulate, warnings to heed, and arguments worth examining, offering not only counsel regarding right conduct and living well, but also supplying guidance in our ascent toward an understanding of the divine. Astonishing! Incredible! Amazing!" Travis D. Smith, Associate Professor of Political Science, Concordia University "Barkman wakes for us the deep religious rhythms long dormant in our icons, comics, and superheroes. In a time of supposed secularity, of crisis, and of emergency, this book brings us face to face with the sacred saints of society. It denies that sacred myth has ever been absent in western culture, and begs our saints for resurrection and inspiration again." Robert Joustra, Senior Editor *Comment* magazine "Once you're finished with this book, like Robin, you'll be saying, 'Holy Saint Peter and Saint Paul, Batman! What a great read!'" Rob Arp, author of *What's Good on TV: Understanding Ethics through Television* Adam Barkman is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Redeemer University College, and the author and editor of half a dozen books, most recently *The Culture and Philosophy of Ridley Scott*.