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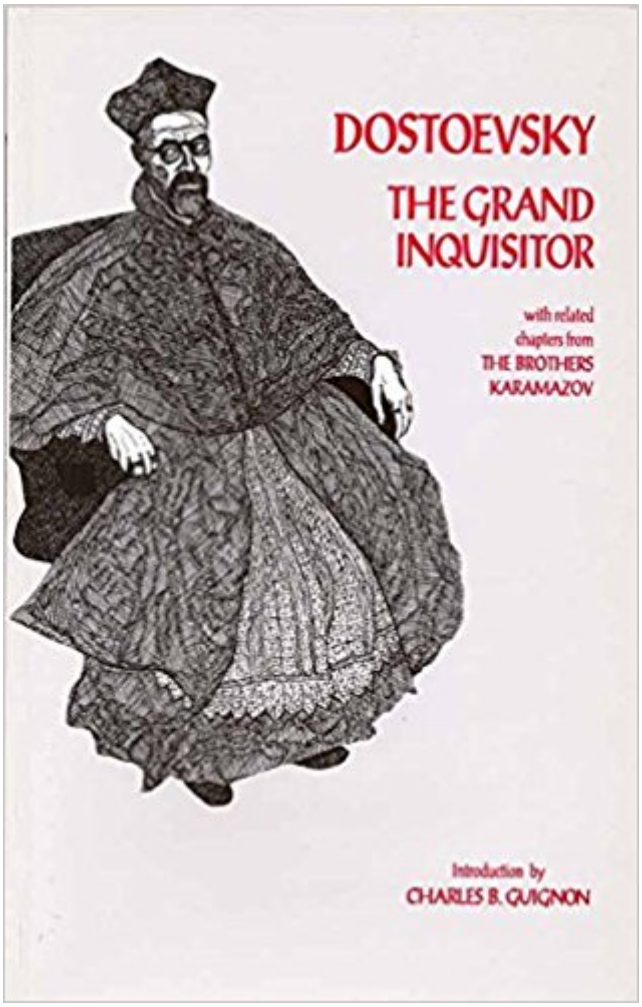
The Grand Inquisitor: With Related Chapters From The Brothers Karamazov (Hackett Classics)



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Synopsis

This new edition presents The Grand Inquisitor together with the preceding chapter, Rebellion, and the extended reply offered by Dostoevsky in the following sections, entitled The Russian Monk. By showing how Dostoevsky frames the Grand Inquisitor story in the wider context of the novel, this edition captures the subtlety and power of Dostoevsky's critique of modernity as well as his alternative vision of human fulfillment.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is a collection of select chapters from "The Brothers Karamazov."There is a lengthy introduction that explains in detail the author's philosophy and how it is revealed in each of the four chapters presented here."The Brothers Make Friends" is simply here to introduce the two brothers Ivan and Alyosha. Ivan is the Europeanized lover of science, and Alyosha is the young Romantic. Dostoevsky uses his characters as representatives of different worldviews, and develops action in such a way to show how each worldview could be flawed.In "Rebellion," Ivan's character is developed as he reveals his disdain at the suffering of children and how cruel it seems since they are without sin. Ivan says that he realizes there is suffering and that no one is responsible. This shocks him because he values order, and yet there seems to be no justice in the world.In "The Grand Inquisitor" chapter, Ivan tells a fable based in the Spanish Inquisition in which the Catholic Inquistor judges Christ, who has returned. He condemns Christ to death saying he valued freedom

of faith over mankind’s happiness (in ignorance of freedom).This small book concludes with the incredible story of Father Zossima. In the "Russian Monk," Dostoevsky explains the old Russian, holistic vision of sobornost (love of the entire world and one’s taking responsibilty for the sins of all). In this worldview, if all choose to follow it, all will serve all and the world will be a paradise.Dostoevsky’s storytelling is very emotional, and not so much picturesque. But there is so much impact in his words and message! This book is one of my all-time favorites, and I cannot wait to read "The Brothers Karamazov" in its entirity. This, probably, could also serve as a great introduction to Dostoevsky.

Guignon’s essay is borne out of and reflects such a genuine enthusiasm that it’s ultimately worthwhile to read it just for fun even if you happen to disagree with his interpretation of the fable. It certainly provoked me into returning to and re-reading Dostoevsky’s tale.

This is okay, but if you are interested in this and want the full experience, then I recommend buying to actual book the Brother Karamazov (which I read before needing this for a class). You will not get the full experience or gain a true understanding of the message if you just read the passages here. The full book is wonderful and I would recommend that over this.

By reading this small book one is exposed to the most grand panoramic view of human nature and human foibles. I was particularly awakened to perverted attempts and distorted motivations for being as saintly as one can be. This little book is, in my judgement, a powerful and highly informative insight into human nature.

Philosophy of ReligionTo reread Fyodor Dostoevsky’s story "The Grand Inquisitor and related chapters from The Brothers Karamazov" more than justifies buying this book. Charles B. Guignon’s Introduction prepares the reader to an intellectual symposium comparable only to the one described by Plato in his friend Agathon’s house over 2400 years ago. Constance Garnett’s 1912 translation of The Brothers Karamazov "has become a classic in its own right:" the minor alterations Guignon made to the text bring it up-to-date. Gonzalo T. Palacios, Ph.D. author The Virgin Mary’s Revolution (.com).

Dostoyevski does it again. Fortunately, in this brief book (as compared to much of his popular writing), he explores the inquisition and the racial / ethnic / religious factors therein. I can’t comment

on the accuracy of the translation in any way, other than I found this to be an immensely pleasurable and fascinating read! I highly recommend it! A.

This is a very complex read about morality, society, religion and self awareness. Some of it was difficult to read because of the violence and abuse but still it makes for a great conversation topic with others. Truly an amazing read.

Vintage Dostoyevsky! Who wouldn’t agree that The Grand Inquisitor deserves the reputation of ’best’ when it comes to all that’s in print on topics like freedom, conscience, religion, power, miracles, church and temptation. As relevant as it was in the 19th century.

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