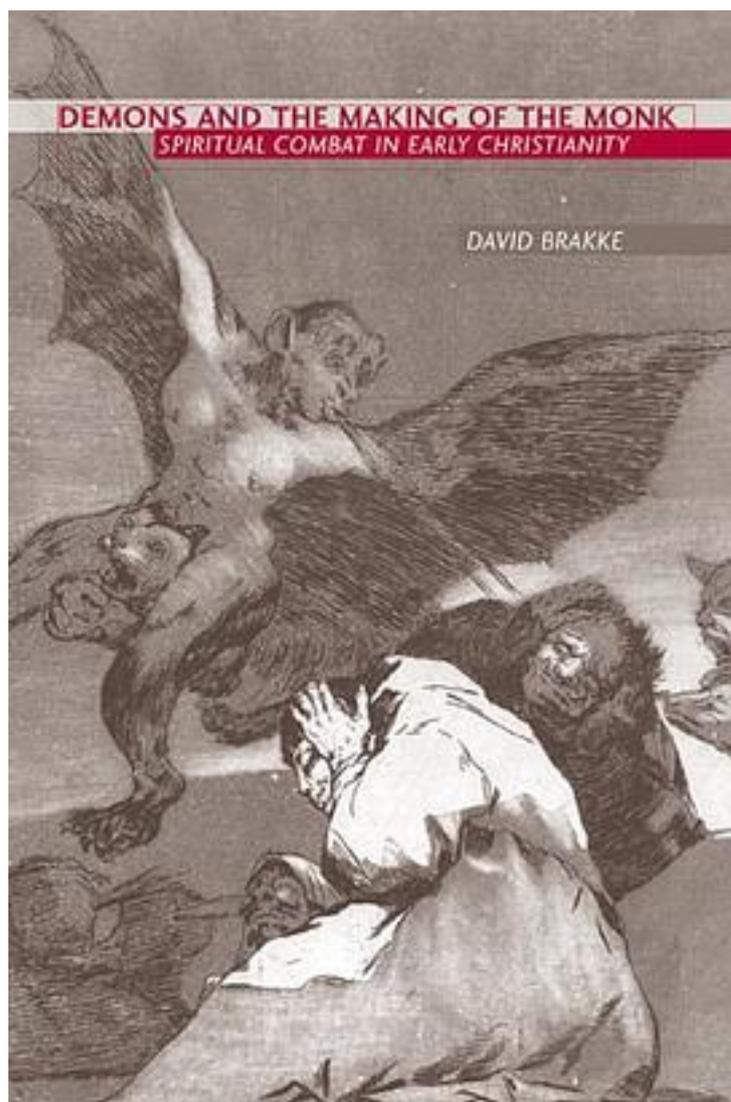


Demons and the Making of the Monk



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Demons - whether in embodied form or as inward temptation - make vivid appearances in early Christian monastic literature. In this finely written study of demonology and Christian spirituality in 4th and 5th Century Egypt, David Brakke examines how the conception of the monk as a holy and virtuous being was shaped by the combative encounter with demons. Brakke studies the 'making of the monk' from two perspectives. First, he describes the social and religious identities that monastic authors imagined for the demonfighting monk: the new martyr who fights against the pagan gods, the gnostic who believes he knows both the tricks of the demons and the secrets of God, and the prophet who discerns the hidden presence of Satan even among good Christians. Then he employs recent theoretical ideas about gender and racial stereotyping to interpret accounts of demon encounters, especially those in which demons appear as the Other - as Ethiopians, as women, or as pagan gods. Drawing on biographies of exceptional monks, collections of monastic sayings and stories, letters from ascetic teachers to their disciples, sermons, and community rules, Brakke crafts a compelling picture of the embattled religious celibate. *Demons and the Making of the Monk* is an insightful and innovative exploration of the development of Christian monasticism.

作者介绍:

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标签

Early

Christianity

评论

对Egyptian Monasticism的背景和文本了解够多的可以直接跳到本书第二部分 (thematic analysis) 看看作者的interpretation。argument整个结构有点乱，但是闪光点不少，启发也不少。

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书评

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