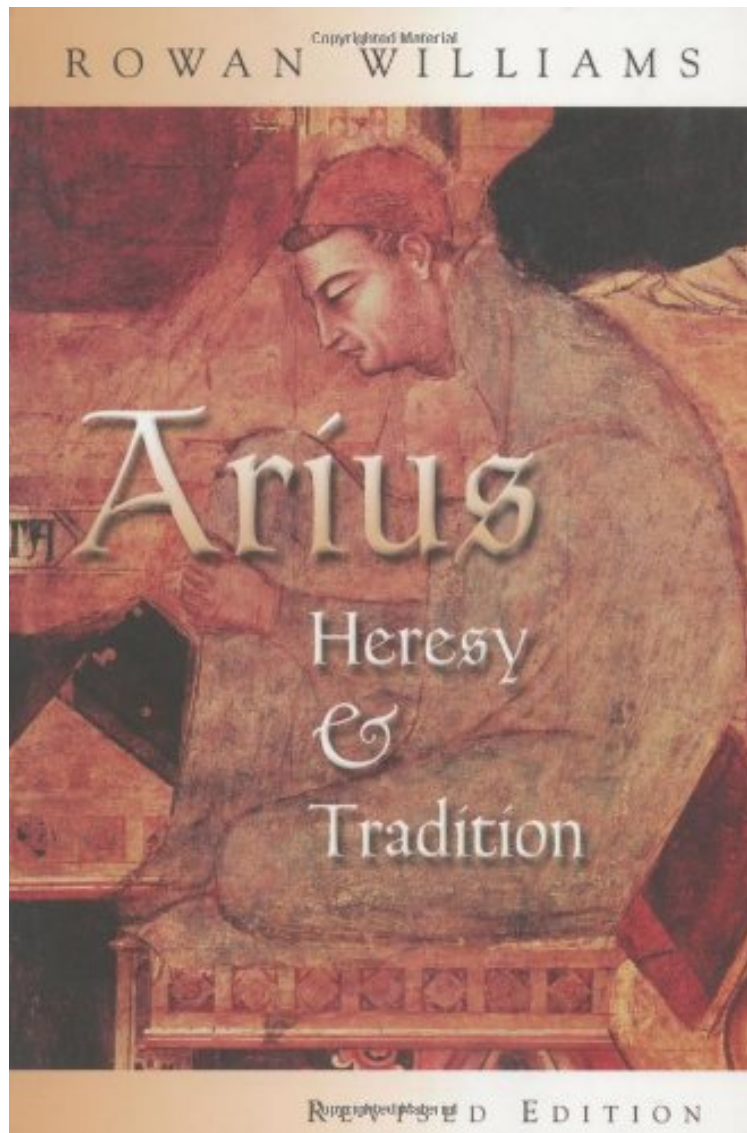


(Download ebook) Arius: Heresy and Tradition

## Arius: Heresy and Tradition

Rowan Williams

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**Rowan Williams : Arius: Heresy and Tradition** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Arius: Heresy and Tradition:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Speaks to both scholars and laymen By S. A. C. I came to Rowan Williams' book after first reading a novel titled Arius written by John Rather. I wanted to know more about how historians and theologians view the life of Arius and his influence on post-Nicene Christianity. Williams is certainly one of the most prominent scholars writing on the subject in recent decades. I appreciate Williams' ability to write a

discourse on complex philosophical and historical issues and then summarize his principal arguments in a way that can be understood by an interested layman like me. I found it helpful to read the Conclusions to Parts I, II, and III, as well as the Conclusion to Appendix 1: Arius since 1987, first, before going back to read each part in its entirety. With my question about current perspectives on the role of Arius on post-Nicene Christianity in mind, I read the Conclusion to Appendix 1. In it Williams wrote: "[Maurice] Wiles' own demonstration that Arius' theology of the semi-divine mediator does not survive very well in a cosmology where there are fewer or no intermediate levels of life between this world and God is, in fact, a very suggestive observation. One long-term effect of the Nicene settlement was that it eventually made it impossible for orthodox Christianity to conceive God as an individual" (pp. 266-267). What Rather does in Arius, the novel, is use a fictional story to consider what the impact might be if some of the ideas Williams says were excluded following the Nicene Council--that there may be intermediate levels of life between this world and God, and that it's possible God is an individual--were to reemerge in the 21st century. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Thorough research / well written By Jeffrey Diamond Rowan Williams gives an excellent account of one of the most significant events in the history of the Church, and the political influences that may have shaped the current divisions between the Orthodoxy (Eastern) and Roman (Western) thought. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A great read! By John Case Even handed examination of the historic environment; the theological discussion; and the philosophical influences around the Nicene debate. A great read!!

Arius is widely considered to be Rowan Williams's magnum opus. Long out of print and never before available in paperback, it has been newly revised. This expanded and updated edition marks a major publishing event. Arianism has been called the "archetypal Christian heresy" because it denies the divinity of Christ. In his masterly examination of Arianism, Rowan Williams argues that Arius himself was actually a dedicated theological conservative whose concern was to defend the free and personal character of the Christian God. His "heresy" grew out of an attempt to unite traditional biblical language with radical philosophical ideas and techniques and was, from the start, involved with issues of authority in the church. Thus, the crisis of the early fourth century was not only about the doctrine of God but also about the relations between emperors, bishops, and "charismatic" teachers in the church's decision-making. In the course of his discussion, Williams raises the vital wider questions of how heresy is defined and how certain kinds of traditionalism transform themselves into heresy. Augmented with a new appendix in which Williams interacts with significant scholarship since 1987, this book provides fascinating reading for anyone interested in church history and the development of Christian doctrine.

About the Author Rowan Williams served as the 104th Archbishop of Canterbury from 2002 to 2012 and is now Master of Magdalene College, University of Cambridge. A Fellow of the British Academy and an internationally recognized theologian, he was previously Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity at the University of Oxford, Bishop of Monmouth, and Archbishop of Wales.