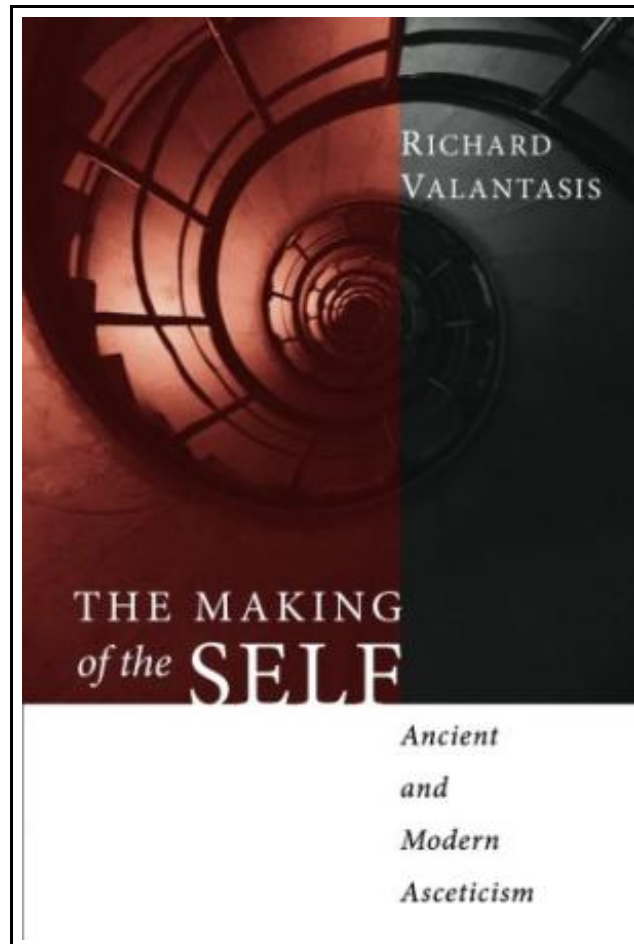


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THE MAKING OF THE SELF: ANCIENT AND MODERN ASCETICISM (PAPERBACK)

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Wipf Stock Publishers, United States, 2008. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Description: A leading scholar of ascetical studies, Richard Valantasis explores a variety of ascetical traditions ranging from the Greco-Roman philosophy of Musonius Rufus, the asceticism found in the Nag Hammadi Library and in certain Gnostic texts, the Gospel of Thomas, and other early Christian texts. This collection gathers historical and theoretical essays that develop a theory of asceticism that informs the analysis of historical texts and opens the way for postmodern ascetical studies. Wide-ranging in historical scope and in developing theory, these essays address asceticism for scholar and student alike. The theory will be of particular interest to those interested in cultural theory and analysis, while the historical essays provide the researcher with easy access to a significant corpus of academic writing on asceticism. Endorsements: In the context of belligerently hedonistic North American society, a society reduced to waging war to support our lifestyle, Richard Valantasis's *The Making of the Self* has never been more relevant. Valantasis proposes that past and present can best be compared, not through ideas, but through analysis of practices and what they produce. This book asks, What did historical people seek to achieve through the ascetic disciplines they practiced? What do we seek? Could some of the ascetic repertoire of historical people be of practical use toward our goals? Valantasis describes a theory and practice of asceticism for secular twenty-first-century society. Both informative and inspirational, *The Making of the Self* should be required reading for everyone who seeks to make intentional choices that shape the self. --Margaret R. Miles, Professor Emerita of Historical Theology, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, and author of *A Complex Delight: The Secularization of the Breast, 1350-1750...*



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