



The Consolation of Philosophy: King Alfred's Version, Rendered into Modern English

Anicius Boethius

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The Consolation of Philosophy is a classic dialogue on the meaning of life between Boethius, bitter and despairing over his unjust imprisonment, and the spirit of Philosophy, depicted as a woman of wisdom and compassion. Alternately composed in prose and verse, the Consolation teaches acceptance of hardship in a spirit of philosophical detachment from misfortune. Parts of the work are reminiscent of the Socratic method of Plato's dialogues, as the spirit of philosophy questions Boethius and challenges his emotional reactions to adversity. The work was translated into Old English by King Alfred, and into later English by Chaucer and Queen Elizabeth; many manuscripts survive, and it was extensively edited, translated, and printed throughout Europe from the late 15th century onwards. It has been one of the most influential books in European culture. Newly designed and typeset for modern readers by Waking Lion Press.

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