

**In *The Platonizing Sethian Background of Plotinus's Mysticism*, Zeke Mazur offers a radical reconceptualization of Plotinus with reference to Gnostic thought and praxis.**

**A crucial element in the thought of the third-century CE philosopher Plotinus – his conception of mystical union with the One – cannot be understood solely within the conventional history of philosophy, or as the product of a unique, *sui generis* psychological propensity. This monograph demonstrates that Plotinus tacitly patterned his mystical ascent to the One on a type of visionary ascent ritual that is first attested in Gnostic sources. These sources include the Platonizing Sethian tractates *Zostrianos* (NHC VIII,1) and *Allogenes* (NHC XI,3) of which we have Coptic translations from Nag Hammadi and whose Greek Vorlagen were known to have been read in Plotinus's school.**

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