



The Secret Gospel of Ireland: The Untold Story of How Science and Democracy Descended from a Remarkable Form of Christianity That Developed in Ancient Ireland

By James Behan, Leo Behan



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As the light of their empire faded into history, the ancient Romans made one last-ditch effort to plant the seed of their civilization in a foreign land--they launched a mission to bring Christianity to Ireland. And there, on a little Emerald Isle that had never been conquered and occupied by Rome, something extraordinary happened. In the process of converting from paganism to Christianity, the ancient Irish developed a remarkable approach to the Christian faith that would one day make science, democracy, and our modern world possible.

In this joyous and illuminating journey through more than ten centuries of history, James and Leo Behan follow the astonishing story of how the holy men of Ireland shepherded the West from antiquity to the modern era. With their powerful brand of "Irish Christianity," the monks of Ireland transformed Europe and produced the key that would ultimately unlock the awesome potential of the Christian faith.

Sure to intrigue, entertain, transform, and capture the imagination, *The Secret Gospel of Ireland* lifts the veil that has for so long separated science and democracy from their Christian roots in ancient Ireland. More than a book, it is a revelation in which history, philosophy, and theology come together to show how our civilization floats in a sea of faith that was born on the Emerald Isle centuries ago.



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Editorial Review

Review

"*The Secret Gospel of Ireland* is a strong addition to international history collections with a focus on Christianity and the West." -*The Midwest Book Review*

From the Inside Flap

At the dawn of the fifth century, a man fled the Egyptian desert with something so powerful that it would forever change the course of history.

He was a holy man who served God for many years in the monasteries of Egypt. When he was a young man, perhaps not even twenty years old, he traveled from his native Romania to Bethlehem where he joined a monastery. One day, while standing in the Cave of the Nativity where Christ was said to have been born, he vowed to go to Egypt. The monasteries of Egypt were reputed to be the most disciplined in the world, the best place for a young man to get closer to God like that first Christian ascetic John the Baptist.

He had lived a holy and spiritual life in the Egyptian desert for many years when the monks of Egypt became fiercely divided by controversy. The issue was whether God had a body like a man or was a spiritual being like an angel. The holy man said God was a purely spiritual being like an angel. But the bishop of Alexandria disagreed. He held with those monks who believed God had a body like a man because, the bishop reasoned, man was made in God's image. And those who opposed the bishop faced the very bodily threat of persecution. So the holy man fled Egypt.

But like Moses and the ancient Israelites, persecution would prove to be providential. For this holy man carried something out of the Egyptian desert--from Alexandria to Constantinople to Rome and finally to Marseilles--which, in the hands of the monks in Ireland, would unlock the awesome potential of the Christian faith and open the door to our modern world.

In *The Secret Gospel of Ireland*, authors James and Leo Behan tell the remarkable story of how Western civilization was forever changed when worlds collided in ancient Ireland. Journey with them--from Egypt to ancient Rome to Ireland and back again to Europe--to learn the secret that gave birth to science, democracy, and the very world in which we live.

About the Author

James Behan is a graduate of Harvard Law School and holds a bachelor of science degree from the University of California, Berkeley. He is a lawyer who specializes in international business transactions and has practiced law in cities throughout the United States and abroad, including New York, Tokyo, Palo Alto, and Chicago. He possesses a deep interest in the relationship between science and religion, as well as a passion for golf, which he enjoys sharing with his wife and family.

Leo Behan is a graduate of Boston College Law School and holds a degree in history from the University of California, Berkeley. He is a lawyer and a military veteran, having served in the United States Air Force JAG Corps. He is passionate about history and philosophy, as well as classical guitar.

James and Leo are brothers who originally hail from the San Francisco Bay Area. They have inherited their love of Ireland and the Irish from their father, who immigrated to America from Ireland many years ago.

Users Review

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Ann Gonzalez:

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