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Dale Martin provides the first detailed genealogy of the idea of superstition, its history over eight centuries, from classical Greece to the Christianized Roman Empire of the fourth century C.E. With illuminating reference to the writings of philosophers, historians, and medical teachers he demonstrates that the concept of superstition was invented by Greek intellectuals to condemn popular religious practices and beliefs, especially the belief that gods or other superhuman beings would harm ...

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Tracing the social, political, and cultural influences that informed classical thinking about piety and superstition, nature and the divine, Inventing Superstition exposes the manipulation of the label of superstition in arguments between Greek and Roman intellectuals on the one hand and Christians on the other, and the purposeful alteration of the idea by Neoplatonic philosophers and Christian apologists in late antiquity.

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Among his books are Inventing Superstition: From the Hippocratics to the Christians and The Corinthian Body. Patricia Cox Miller is W. Earl Ledden Professor of Religion at Syracuse University. Among her books are The Poetry of Thought in Late Antiquity: Essays in Imagination and Religion and Dreams in Late Antiquity: Studies in the Imagination of a Culture.

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INVENTING SUPERSTITION: FROM THE HIPPOCRATICS TO THE CHRISTIANS . By Dale B. Martin . Cambridge, MA : Harvard University Press , 2004 . Pp . xii + 307 . \$ 29.95 , ISBN 0-674-01534-7 . Writing for a generally educated audience, Martin sets out to demarcate the boundaries of superstition in Greek and Roman societies, an ambitious project. Tracing references to superstitio in Latin writings ...

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*Inventing Superstition from the Hippocratics to the Christians* by Dale B Martin specializes in New Testament and Christian origins including attention to social and cultural history of the Greco-Roman world before joining Yale in 1999 he taught at Rhodes College and Duke University his books include *Slavery as Salvation: The Metaphor of Slavery in Pauline Christianity* *The Corinthian Body* *Inventing Superstition from the Hippocratics to the Christians* see *Inventing Superstition from the ...*

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Inventing Superstition: From the Hippocratics to the Christians. The Roman author Pliny the Younger characterizes Christianity as "contagious superstition"; two centuries later the Christian writer Eusebius vigorously denounces Greek and Roman religions as vain and impotent "superstitions."

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Inventing Superstition from the Hippocratics to the Christians. By Dale B. Martin. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2004. xii + 307 pp. \$18.95 paper. This book has many unique characteristics, from its subject matter to its style.

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