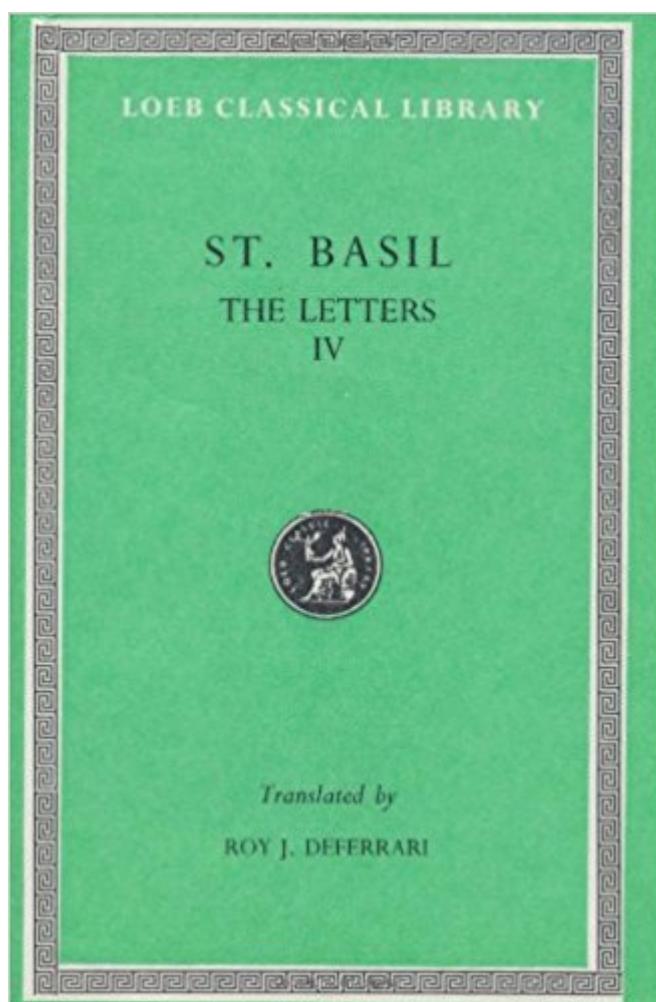


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Basil: Letters, Volume IV, Letters 249-368. Address To Young Men On Greek Literature. (Loeb Classical Library No. 270)



Synopsis

Basil the Great was born ca. 330 CE at Caesarea in Cappadocia into a family noted for piety. He was at Constantinople and Athens for several years as a student with Gregory of Nazianzus and was much influenced by Origen. For a short time he held a chair of rhetoric at Caesarea, and was then baptized. He visited monasteries in Egypt and Palestine and sought out the most famous hermits in Syria and elsewhere to learn how to lead a pious and ascetic life; but he decided that communal monastic life and work were best. About 360 he founded in Pontus a convent to which his sister and widowed mother belonged. Ordained a presbyter in 365, in 370 he succeeded Eusebius in the archbishopric of Caesarea, which included authority over all Pontus. He died in 379. Even today his reform of monastic life in the east is the basis of modern Greek and Slavonic monasteries. The Loeb Classical Library edition of Basil's Letters is in four volumes.

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St. Basil is one of the most eloquent fathers of the Church. This volume is a collection of letters. But perhaps most importantly, it contains an essay of his, To Young Men. This essay discusses clearly and succinctly the reasonable use and application of Classical sources (i.e. Greek and Latin) within a Christian's life. He successfully argues, as do other Fathers, that "all truth is God's truth." Not only may the Classics be used, but there is almost an imperative to use them, to sift through what good there is, and to identify the chaff. No Christian seriously pursuing academic studies (not just theology students, but all!) should be ignorant of this work. It will allow you to open your mind to what the

Academy has to offer without giving up your religious roots.

I bought the set of four volumes of St Basil's mail for a seminary academic; translator gets his highest marks.

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