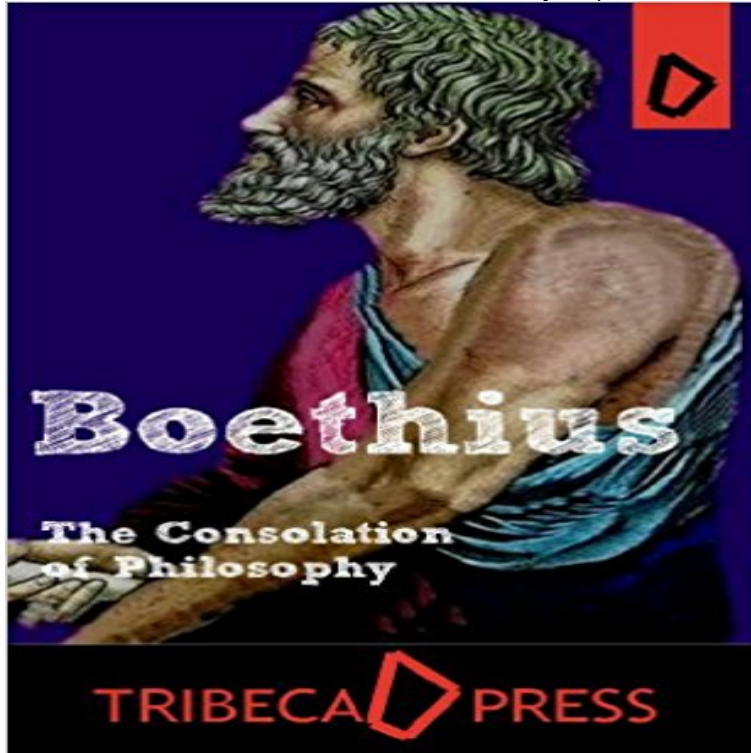


## The Consolation of Philosophy of Boethius



This Tribeca Press edition includes the full original text as well as an easy to use interactive table of contents. Consolation of Philosophy is a philosophical work by Boethius, written around the year 524. It has been described as the single most important and influential work in the West on Medieval and early Renaissance Christianity, and is also the last great Western work of the Classical Period. Consolation of Philosophy was written during a one-year imprisonment Boethius served while awaiting trial and eventual horrific execution for the crime of treason under the Ostrogothic King Theodoric the Great. Boethius was at the very heights of power in Rome and was brought down by treachery. This experience inspired the text, which reflects on how evil can exist in a world governed by God (the problem of theodicy), and how happiness can be attainable amidst fickle fortune, while also considering the nature of happiness and God. It has been described as by far the most interesting example of prison literature the world has ever seen. It is a prosimetrical text, meaning that it is written in alternating sections of prose and metered verse. In the course of the text, Boethius displays a virtuosic command of the forms of Latin poetry. It is classified as a Menippean satire, a fusion of allegorical tale, platonic dialogue, and lyrical poetry. In the 20th century there were close to four hundred manuscripts still surviving, a testament to its former popularity.

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