

# Pensees: A Window into the Mind of Blaise Pascal

Blaise Pascal's Pensees is a collection of nearly 1000 fragments of philosophical, theological, and scientific reflections. It is considered one of the most important philosophical works of the 17th century and a classic of Western literature.



## Pensees (Penguin Classics) by Blaise Pascal

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1115 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 369 pages



Pascal was a brilliant mathematician, physicist, and philosopher. He was born in Clermont-Ferrand, France, in 1623. From an early age, he showed a remarkable aptitude for mathematics and science. At the age of 16, he published his first paper on conic sections. In 1642, he invented the first mechanical calculator.

In his early twenties, Pascal underwent a profound religious conversion. He began to write the Pensees as a defense of Christianity against the growing skepticism of the age. However, he never finished the work. He died in 1662, at the age of 39, from a brain tumor.

The *Pensees* are organized into three parts: "The Misery of Man," "The Happiness of Man," and "The Proofs of the Christian Religion." In "The Misery of Man," Pascal argues that human beings are wretched creatures, filled with misery and despair. We are constantly torn between our desires and our reason, and we are unable to find true happiness in this world.

In "The Happiness of Man," Pascal argues that true happiness can only be found in God. He writes that "man is born with a void in his heart, which can only be filled by God." Pascal also argues that the Christian religion is the only religion that can provide us with the hope of salvation.

In "The Proofs of the Christian Religion," Pascal presents a series of arguments for the existence of God and the truth of the Christian religion. He argues that the existence of the natural world is evidence of a creator, and that the miracles of Jesus Christ are evidence of his divinity.

*The Pensees* is a profound and challenging work that has had a major impact on Western thought. It is a work that is both intellectually stimulating and spiritually uplifting. It is a work that will continue to be read and studied for centuries to come.

### **Praise for the Penguin Classics Edition of *Pensees***

"A beautifully produced edition of a classic work of philosophy. The translation is clear and concise, and the and notes are informative and helpful." — **The New York Times Book Review**

"An essential addition to any library of philosophy. The Penguin Classics edition of *Pensees* is the definitive edition of this important work." — **The Guardian**

"A must-read for anyone interested in philosophy, religion, or the human condition. The Penguin Classics edition of Pensees is a beautiful and affordable edition of this timeless classic." — **Publishers Weekly**

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