

[*6] It was no accident, in my view, that all of this happened in the immediate aftermath of the Romanization of the Christianity via Emperor Constantine's conversion in the fourth century, initiating a process that, within about a century, utterly transformed a very diverse and in many ways subversive congeries of religious communities, oriented around local scriptures, into a monolithic and monocultural "State" religion (the Catholic Church) organized hierarchically and patriarchally in much the same way as the Roman imperial system was; as pretty much (me talking again, not Pagels) any dictatorial system is, whether it is based on cultural privilege, economic/political domination, or religious orthodoxy.