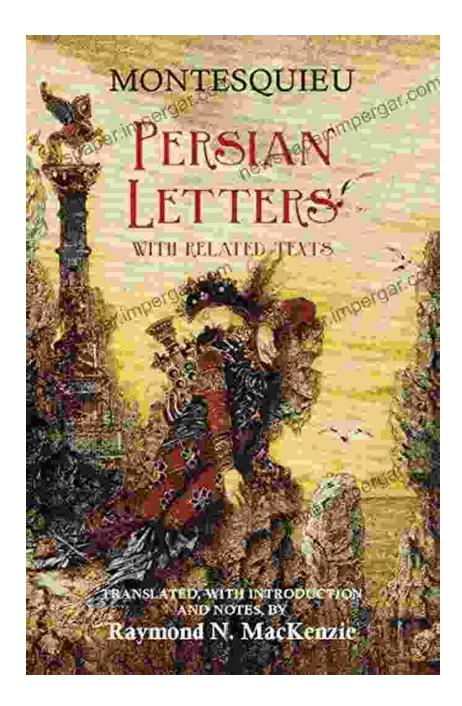
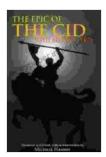
## Persian Letters with Related Texts: An Enlightening and Entertaining Exploration into the World of Enlightenment



In the annals of literary history, "Persian Letters" stands as a beacon of Enlightenment thought, a satirical masterpiece that captivated readers with its witty observations on human nature and the foibles of society. First published in 1721 by the French philosopher Montesquieu, "Persian Letters" has since become a classic of Western literature, renowned for its sharp wit, penetrating insights, and enduring relevance.



#### Persian Letters: With Related Texts (Hackett Classics)

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Language	;	English
File size	:	1456 KB
Text-to-Speech	:	Enabled
Screen Reader	;	Supported
Enhanced typesetting	:	Enabled
Word Wise	:	Enabled
Print length	;	346 pages



#### Step into the World of Enlightenment

"Persian Letters" offers a unique glimpse into the intellectual and philosophical landscape of the Enlightenment era. Through the eyes of two Persian travelers, Rica and Usbek, Montesquieu skillfully satirizes the customs, beliefs, and political systems of his time. By juxtaposing Eastern and Western perspectives, "Persian Letters" sheds light on the universal human experience while exposing the absurdities and contradictions of 18th-century European society.

#### **Enlightenment Themes Explored**

"Persian Letters" deftly navigates central Enlightenment themes, including:

 Reason and Rationalism: Rica and Usbek's outsider perspective allows them to question long-held beliefs and traditions, challenging the authority of the Church and the monarchy.

- Religious Tolerance: Montesquieu advocates for religious freedom and tolerance, denouncing persecution and fanaticism while highlighting the importance of interfaith understanding.
- Political Satire: The novel's satirical lens targets the corruption, hypocrisy, and inefficiency of European governments, exposing the gap between ideals and reality.
- Social Critique: "Persian Letters" critiques social conventions, gender roles, and prevailing attitudes towards women, minorities, and the poor.

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The Hackett Classics edition of "Persian Letters" is enriched with a range of related texts that enhance the reader's understanding and appreciation of the work. These include:

- Translator's : Professor Daniel Gordon provides an informative that contextualizes the novel, its author, and its enduring significance.
- Select Letters by Lady Mary Wortley Montagu: These letters offer a female perspective on 18th-century society, complementing the viewpoints of Rica and Usbek.
- Excerpt from Montesquieu's "The Spirit of the Laws": This selection provides insights into Montesquieu's political philosophy and his belief in the importance of laws based on reason and justice.
- Glossary of Terms and Biographical Index: A comprehensive glossary and biographical index assist readers in understanding

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#### **Critical Acclaim and Enduring Legacy**

"Persian Letters" has received widespread critical acclaim and has been translated into numerous languages. Voltaire praised the novel as "the most philosophical book ever written," while the prominent literary critic Harold Bloom included it in his prestigious Western Canon. "Persian Letters" continues to be taught in universities and studied by scholars around the world, its themes and insights remaining relevant and thoughtprovoking in the 21st century.

"Persian Letters with Related Texts Hackett Classics" is an indispensable edition of this literary masterpiece, offering readers an unparalleled opportunity to delve into the world of Enlightenment thought, experience the wit and wisdom of Montesquieu, and gain a deeper understanding of the enduring human condition. Whether you are a student of literature, history, or simply a curious reader seeking enlightenment, "Persian Letters" is an essential addition to your library.

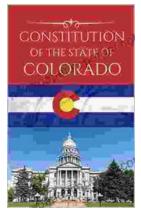
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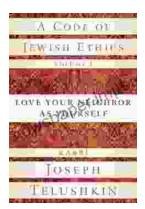
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