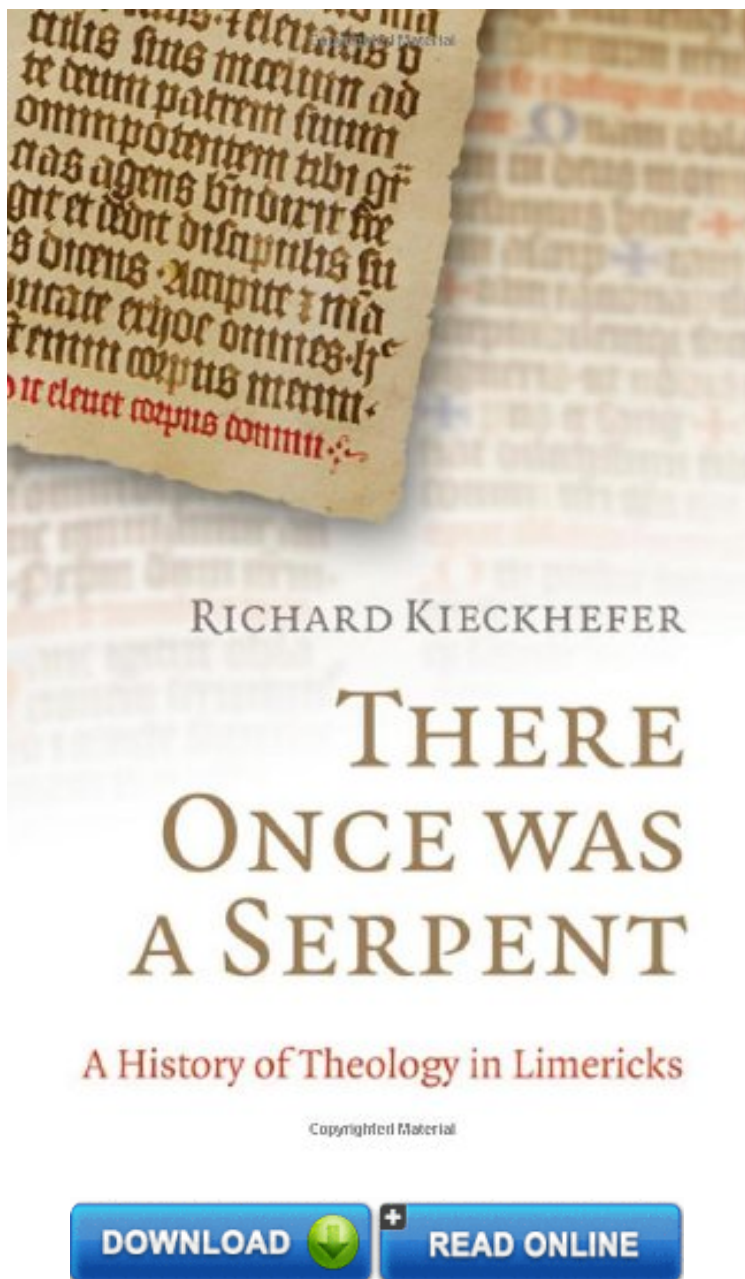


[Free read ebook] There Once was a Serpent: A History of Theology in Limericks

## There Once was a Serpent: A History of Theology in Limericks

Richard Kieckhefer

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**Richard Kieckhefer : There Once was a Serpent: A History of Theology in Limericks** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised There Once was a Serpent: A History of Theology in Limericks:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Amusing and educationalBy TaylorAfter taking a course with Dr. Kieckhefer, I thought I'd read this little book of his. Just as I would expect, it was full of whimsy and humor, but also had plenty of solid theological information packed into it. It's a real quick read (I got through it in a couple of days),

but it's fun, and, I think, well worth the money. 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. review found in a vatican restroom  
By Steve Rozenski  
A couple of weeks ago, I found myself in the Vatican Library to inspect some manuscripts (in search of more concrete evidence of the Suso-Seuss connection first explored by Professor Kieckhefer). Feeling the call of nature, I headed down a corridor, taking a series of turns while trying to follow the W.C. signs. Eventually the signs tapered off, and I found myself in a fairly dark, dusty hallway, apparently quite a bit below ground level. Only one door -- and by now the lunchtime *caffè corretto* was making itself felt! I entered, and soon realized that this was not just any restroom -- a sign inside boldly identified it as "The 'Other' Throne of St. Peter". Although I inspected the room thoroughly, a curious graffito supplied the only other text to be found: beneath a drawing etched in the paint of the stall of what seemed to be some sort of theological quiz show taking place outside the pearly gates, in an elegant German longhand, this: "To be dressed with the bliss of the blessed / In knowledge it's best to invest! / So go read this f'er / By Richard Kieckhefer / Or risk being trounced on the test!" Although it's impossible to identify the author of this endorsement with any certainty, several tantalizing possibilities present themselves... and reading the book is certain to enlighten all and sundry!  
3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Theology for the rest of us.....  
By Galen Burghardt  
Once, when leading an inquirers' class, I asked Richard to provide me with the briefest possible explanation of our two creeds. He replied, almost immediately, with the limericks you will find on pages 10 and 12. The class roared with laughter. Now, ten years later, he has put together a book that makes perfect reading for people with day jobs who nevertheless would like to know what their more erudite church going friends know about the history of theology. Short, light, and to the point. Thank you, thank you, thank you....

This book gives a concise history of Christian theology based on a mysteriously discovered set of seventy-four limericks. Readers who already know the history of theology will read about it from an unfamiliar perspective ? and beginners will learn the basics in an accessible form. The limericks range from Gnostic theology through to the Reformation, and on to Karl Barth and Paul Tillich. If all of this seems unfamiliar, the accompanying text should help sort it all out.

A supralapsarian fool, Sought a sublapsarian tool, Which he found in this book: Take an envy-filled look, You're predestined to wallow in drool. (Franz Bibfeldt)  
About the Author  
Richard Kieckhefer has taught in the Religion Department at Northwestern since 1975. His classes cover Christian history and his research focuses on the later Middle Ages.