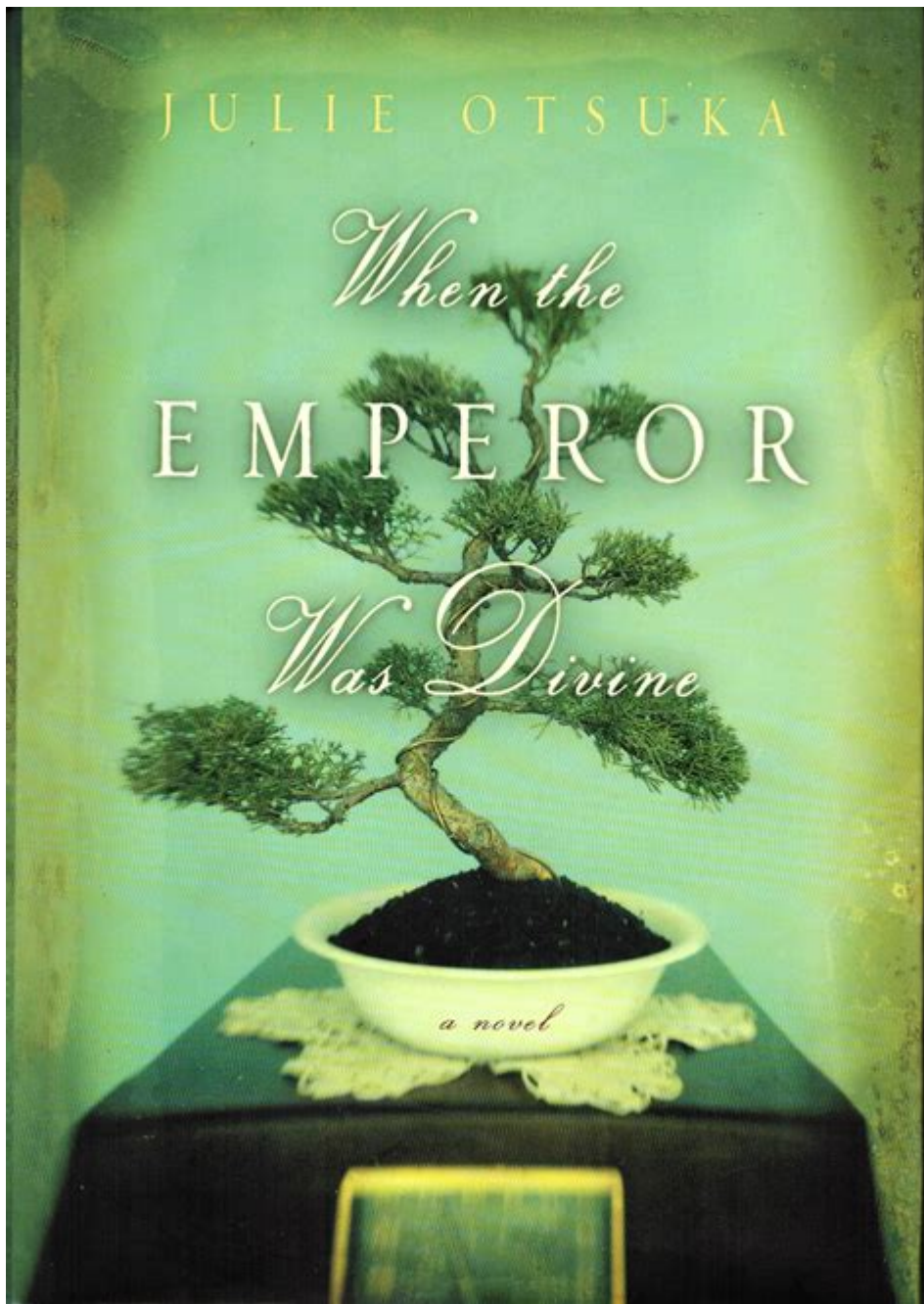


When The Emperor Was Divine



When the Emperor Was Divine: Exploring Shusaku Endo's Masterpiece

Are you captivated by stories of faith, perseverance, and the complexities of human nature amidst profound historical upheaval? Then prepare to delve into the compelling world of Shusaku Endo's *When the Emperor Was Divine*. This post will explore the novel's captivating narrative, its exploration of Japanese identity during World War II, and its enduring relevance in understanding

faith and cultural conflict. We'll dissect key themes, characters, and the novel's lasting impact, providing a comprehensive guide for both seasoned readers and those new to Endo's powerful prose.

Understanding the Historical Context of When the Emperor Was Divine

To fully appreciate *When the Emperor Was Divine*, it's crucial to understand its historical setting: the tumultuous years of World War II and its aftermath in Japan. The novel isn't merely a historical fiction; it's a deeply insightful exploration of Japanese society grappling with defeat, the shifting perception of the emperor, and the lingering effects of militarism. Endo masterfully intertwines personal narratives with the broader historical canvas, painting a picture of a nation struggling to redefine its identity and reconcile its past.

The Narrative Power: Family, Faith, and the Weight of Silence

When the Emperor Was Divine unfolds through the eyes of several characters, primarily focusing on the experiences of a Japanese family impacted by the war. The narrative isn't linear; it weaves between the past and present, revealing the gradual unraveling of their family structure and the profound impact of state-imposed ideologies on personal beliefs. The silence surrounding certain events – a potent symbol in the novel – becomes a central theme, reflecting the suppression of individual expression and the difficulty of confronting painful truths.

Exploring the Character of Dr. Masuji Ono

Dr. Masuji Ono, the central figure, embodies the complexities of the Japanese experience during this period. He's a man torn between loyalty to the emperor and his growing awareness of the horrors committed in the name of nationalistic fervor. His internal struggle mirrors the larger societal conflict within Japan. His journey becomes a powerful exploration of moral compromise, the weight of guilt, and the search for redemption.

The Role of the Emperor and Shifting National Identity

The emperor, traditionally considered divine, undergoes a significant shift in perception throughout the novel. The narrative explores the crumbling of this divine image as the realities of war and defeat become undeniable. This shift isn't merely a political event; it represents a profound societal and spiritual crisis, forcing individuals to confront their beliefs and re-evaluate their place in the world.

The Significance of Faith and Spiritual Conflict

Faith, both Buddhist and Christian, plays a central role in *When the Emperor Was Divine*. The characters grapple with their beliefs, questioning their faith in the face of suffering and moral ambiguity. Endo skillfully depicts the conflict between traditional Japanese spirituality and the growing influence of Christianity, reflecting the internal struggles within Japanese society.

The Enduring Relevance of When the Emperor Was Divine

Even decades after its publication, *When the Emperor Was Divine* retains its power and relevance. The novel's exploration of national identity, the consequences of blind obedience, and the enduring struggle between faith and doubt continues to resonate with readers. It serves as a timely reminder of the importance of critical thinking, questioning authority, and confronting uncomfortable truths about the past. The novel's themes of reconciliation, forgiveness, and the search for meaning transcend its specific historical context, making it a timeless masterpiece of literature.

Conclusion

When the Emperor Was Divine is more than a historical novel; it's a profound exploration of human nature, the complexities of faith, and the enduring impact of war on individual lives and national identity. Shusaku Endo's masterful storytelling and insightful character development create a lasting impression, prompting readers to grapple with difficult questions and confront the enduring legacies of the past. The novel's power lies not just in its historical accuracy but in its ability to resonate with contemporary anxieties about power, faith, and the search for meaning in a turbulent world.

FAQs

1. Is *When the Emperor Was Divine* a difficult read? While the subject matter is serious, Endo's writing style, although detailed, remains accessible. The emotional depth might be challenging for some, but the rewards are substantial.
2. What makes *When the Emperor Was Divine* unique compared to other World War II novels? The novel uniquely focuses on the internal struggles within Japanese society, exploring the spiritual and psychological impact of the war, rather than solely focusing on the battlefield.
3. Is the novel solely focused on the Japanese perspective? While primarily from a Japanese perspective, the novel offers nuanced insights into the human experience during wartime, transcending national boundaries.
4. What is the overall message of the novel? The novel's message is multifaceted, but central themes include the importance of critical thinking, confronting historical truths, and the enduring power of

human resilience and the search for meaning amidst suffering.

5. Are there any other works by Shusaku Endo I should read? Yes, Endo's *Silence* is another critically acclaimed work exploring themes of faith, doubt, and persecution in 17th-century Japan. It's a powerful companion piece to *When the Emperor Was Divine*.

when the emperor was divine: *When the Emperor Was Divine* Julie Otsuka, 2007-12-18
From the bestselling, award-winning author of *The Buddha in the Attic* and *The Swimmers*, this commanding debut novel paints a portrait of the Japanese American incarceration camps that is both a haunting evocation of a family in wartime and a resonant lesson for our times. On a sunny day in Berkeley, California, in 1942, a woman sees a sign in a post office window, returns to her home, and matter-of-factly begins to pack her family's possessions. Like thousands of other Japanese Americans they have been reclassified, virtually overnight, as enemy aliens and are about to be uprooted from their home and sent to a dusty incarceration camp in the Utah desert. In this lean and devastatingly evocative first novel, Julie Otsuka tells their story from five flawlessly realized points of view and conveys the exact emotional texture of their experience: the thin-walled barracks and barbed-wire fences, the omnipresent fear and loneliness, the unheralded feats of heroism. *When the Emperor Was Divine* is a work of enormous power that makes a shameful episode of our history as immediate as today's headlines.

when the emperor was divine: *When The Emperor Was Divine* Julie Otsuka, 2012-04-05 'A compelling, powerful portrait of a terrible endurance. Terrific' *The Times* Four months after Pearl Harbor, signs begin appearing up and down the West Coast instructing all persons of Japanese ancestry to report to 'assembly centers'. For one family - reclassified, virtually overnight, as unwelcome enemies - it is the beginning of a nightmare of oppression and alienation that will alter their lives forever. There is the mother, reeling from the order to 'evacuate', and the daughter, travelling on the long train journey away from freedom. There is the son, who struggles to adapt to their new life in the dust of the Utah desert, and the father, who, after four bitter years in captivity, returns to his family a stranger. Based on a true story, Julie Otsuka's powerful, deeply humane first novel tells of a forgotten generation who found themselves imprisoned in their own country, and evokes an unjustly overlooked episode in America's wartime history. 'Outstandingly accomplished and moving' *Sunday Telegraph* 'Exceptional' *New Yorker* **LOGLISTED FOR THE ORANGE PRIZE WINNER OF THE ASIAN AMERICAN LITERARY AWARD 2003 WINNER OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ALEX AWARD 2003**

when the emperor was divine: *The Buddha in the Attic* Julie Otsuka, 2011-08-23 **NATIONAL BESTSELLER • PEN/FAULKER AWARD WINNER •** The acclaimed author of *The Swimmers* and *When the Emperor Was Divine* tells the story of a group of young women brought from Japan to San Francisco as "picture brides" a century ago in this understated masterpiece ... that unfolds with great emotional power (*San Francisco Chronicle*). In eight unforgettable sections, *The Buddha in the Attic* traces the extraordinary lives of these women, from their arduous journeys by boat, to their arrival in San Francisco and their tremulous first nights as new wives; from their experiences raising children who would later reject their culture and language, to the deracinating arrival of war. Julie Otsuka has written a spellbinding novel about identity and loyalty, and what it means to be an American in uncertain times.

when the emperor was divine: *Constantine, Divine Emperor of the Christian Golden Age* Jonathan Bardill, 2012 Constantine was the first Roman emperor to convert to Christianity. The book explores the emperor's image as conveyed through literature, art, and architecture, and shows how Constantine reconciled the tradition of imperial divinity with his monotheistic faith. It demonstrates how the traditional themes and imagery of kingship were exploited to portray the emperor as the saviour of his people and to assimilate him to Christ. This is the first book to study simultaneously both archaeological and historical information to build a picture of the emperor's image and

propaganda. It is extensively illustrated --Provided by publisher.

when the emperor was divine: Goodness and the Literary Imagination Toni Morrison, 2019-10-01 What exactly is goodness? Where is it found in the literary imagination? Toni Morrison, one of American letters' greatest voices, pondered these perplexing questions in her celebrated Ingersoll Lecture, delivered at Harvard University in 2012 and published now for the first time in book form. Perhaps because it is overshadowed by the more easily defined evil, goodness often escapes our attention. Recalling many literary examples, from Ahab to Coetzee's Michael K, Morrison seeks the essence of goodness and ponders its significant place in her writing. She considers the concept in relation to unforgettable characters from her own works of fiction and arrives at conclusions that are both eloquent and edifying. In a lively interview conducted for this book, Morrison further elaborates on her lecture's ideas, discussing goodness not only in literature but in society and history—particularly black history, which has responded to centuries of brutality with profound creativity. Morrison's essay is followed by a series of responses by scholars in the fields of religion, ethics, history, and literature to her thoughts on goodness and evil, mercy and love, racism and self-destruction, language and liberation, together with close examination of literary and theoretical expressions from her works. Each of these contributions, written by a scholar of religion, considers the legacy of slavery and how it continues to shape our memories, our complicities, our outcries, our lives, our communities, our literature, and our faith. In addition, the contributors engage the religious orientation in Morrison's novels so that readers who encounter her many memorable characters such as Sula, Beloved, or Frank Money will learn and appreciate how Morrison's notions of goodness and mercy also reflect her understanding of the sacred and the human spirit.

when the emperor was divine: Hirohito And The Making Of Modern Japan Herbert P. Bix, 2009-10-13 Winner of the Pulitzer Prize In this groundbreaking biography of the Japanese emperor Hirohito, Herbert P. Bix offers the first complete, unvarnished look at the enigmatic leader whose sixty-three-year reign ushered Japan into the modern world. Never before has the full life of this controversial figure been revealed with such clarity and vividness. Bix shows what it was like to be trained from birth for a lone position at the apex of the nation's political hierarchy and as a revered symbol of divine status. Influenced by an unusual combination of the Japanese imperial tradition and a modern scientific worldview, the young emperor gradually evolves into his preeminent role, aligning himself with the growing ultranationalist movement, perpetuating a cult of religious emperor worship, resisting attempts to curb his power, and all the while burnishing his image as a reluctant, passive monarch. Here we see Hirohito as he truly was: a man of strong will and real authority. Supported by a vast array of previously untapped primary documents, Hirohito and the Making of Modern Japan is perhaps most illuminating in lifting the veil on the mythology surrounding the emperor's impact on the world stage. Focusing closely on Hirohito's interactions with his advisers and successive Japanese governments, Bix sheds new light on the causes of the China War in 1937 and the start of the Asia-Pacific War in 1941. And while conventional wisdom has had it that the nation's increasing foreign aggression was driven and maintained not by the emperor but by an elite group of Japanese militarists, the reality, as witnessed here, is quite different. Bix documents in detail the strong, decisive role Hirohito played in wartime operations, from the takeover of Manchuria in 1931 through the attack on Pearl Harbor and ultimately the fateful decision in 1945 to accede to an unconditional surrender. In fact, the emperor stubbornly prolonged the war effort and then used the horrifying bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, together with the Soviet entrance into the war, as his exit strategy from a no-win situation. From the moment of capitulation, we see how American and Japanese leaders moved to justify the retention of Hirohito as emperor by whitewashing his wartime role and reshaping the historical consciousness of the Japanese people. The key to this strategy was Hirohito's alliance with General MacArthur, who helped him maintain his stature and shed his militaristic image, while MacArthur used the emperor as a figurehead to assist him in converting Japan into a peaceful nation. Their partnership ensured that the emperor's image would loom large over the postwar years and later decades, as Japan

began to make its way in the modern age and struggled -- as it still does -- to come to terms with its past. Until the very end of a career that embodied the conflicting aims of Japan's development as a nation, Hirohito remained preoccupied with politics and with his place in history. Hirohito and the Making of Modern Japan provides the definitive account of his rich life and legacy. Meticulously researched and utterly engaging, this book is proof that the history of twentieth-century Japan cannot be understood apart from the life of its most remarkable and enduring leader.

when the emperor was divine: *The Swimmers* Julie Otsuka, 2022-02-22 NATIONAL BEST SELLER • From the best-selling, award-winning author of *The Buddha in the Attic* and *When the Emperor Was Divine* comes a novel about what happens to a group of obsessed recreational swimmers when a crack appears at the bottom of their local pool. This searing, intimate story of mothers and daughters—and the sorrows of implacable loss—is the most commanding and unforgettable work yet from a modern master. The swimmers are unknown to one another except through their private routines (slow lane, medium lane, fast lane) and the solace each takes in their morning or afternoon laps. But when a crack appears at the bottom of the pool, they are cast out into an unforgiving world without comfort or relief. One of these swimmers is Alice, who is slowly losing her memory. For Alice, the pool was a final stand against the darkness of her encroaching dementia. Without the fellowship of other swimmers and the routine of her daily laps she is plunged into dislocation and chaos, swept into memories of her childhood and the Japanese American incarceration camp in which she spent the war. Alice's estranged daughter, reentering her mother's life too late, witnesses her stark and devastating decline.

when the emperor was divine: *Under Divine Auspices* Clare Rowan, 2012 Exploration of the role played by deities in the negotiation of imperial power under the Severan dynasty (AD 193-235).

when the emperor was divine: *Emperor Mage* Tamora Pierce, 2009-12-08 Daine must confront a powerful leader in this third book of the Immortals series, featuring an updated cover for longtime fans and fresh converts alike, and including an all-new afterword from Tamora Pierce. When Daine is sent to Carthak as part of a Tortallan peace delegation, she finds herself in the middle of a sticky political situation. She doesn't like the Carthaki practice of keeping slaves, but it's not her place to say anything—she's only there to heal the emperor's birds. Her worries only expand once she learns that her own power has grown in a dark and mysterious way. As the peace talks stall, Daine puzzles over Carthak's two-faced Emperor Ozorne. How can he be so caring with his birds, and so cruel to his people? Daine is sure he's planning something—a terrible, power-hungry scheme. And she knows that she must fight this powerful Emperor Mage; the life of her beloved teacher is at risk.

when the emperor was divine: *Embracing Defeat* John W Dower, 2000-07-04 This study of modern Japan traces the impact of defeat and reconstruction on every aspect of Japan's national life. It examines the economic resurgence as well as how the nation as a whole reacted to defeat and the end of a suicidal nationalism.

when the emperor was divine: *Emperor Wu Zhao and Her Pantheon of Devis, Divinities, and Dynastic Mothers* N. Harry Rothschild, 2015-06-16 Wu Zhao (624–705), better known as Wu Zetian or Empress Wu, is the only woman to have ruled China as emperor over the course of its 5,000-year history. How did she—in a predominantly patriarchal and androcentric society—ascend the dragon throne? Exploring a mystery that has confounded scholars for centuries, this multifaceted history suggests that China's rich pantheon of female divinities and eminent women played an integral part in the construction of Wu Zhao's sovereignty. Wu Zhao deftly deployed language, symbol, and ideology to harness the cultural resonance, maternal force, divine energy, and historical weight of Buddhist devis, Confucian exemplars, Daoist immortals, and mythic goddesses, establishing legitimacy within and beyond the confines of Confucian ideology. Tapping into powerful subterranean reservoirs of female power, Wu Zhao built a pantheon of female divinities carefully calibrated to meet her needs at court. Her pageant was promoted in scripted rhetoric, reinforced through poetry, celebrated in theatrical productions, and inscribed on steles. Rendered with deft political acumen and aesthetic flair, these affiliations significantly enhanced Wu Zhao's authority and

cast her as the human vessel through which the pantheon's divine energy flowed. Her strategy is a model of political brilliance and proof that medieval Chinese women enjoyed a more complex social status than previously known.

when the emperor was divine: *The Infinite and The Divine* Robert Rath, 2021-07-20 Explore a story told across the millennia that delves deep into a pair of fascinating necron characters, their relationship and their plans for the galaxy. Before the being called the Emperor revealed Himself, before the rise of the aeldari, before the necrontyr traded their flesh for immortal metal, the world was born in violence. Even when they inhabited bodies of flesh, Trazyn the Infinite and Orikan the Diviner were polar opposites. Trazyn, a collector of historical oddities, presides over a gallery full of the most dangerous artefacts – and people – of the galactic past. Orikan, a chronomancer without peer, draws zodiacs that predict and manipulate the future. But when an artefact emerges that may hold the key to the necrons' next evolution, these two obsessives enter a multi-millennia game of cat and mouse that ends civilisations, reshapes timelines, and changes both forever. As riddles unwind and ancient secrets are revealed, the question remains: will their feud save the necron race or destroy it?

when the emperor was divine: *The Coquette* Hannah Webster Foster, 1855

when the emperor was divine: *Revelation*, 1999-01-01 The final book of the Bible, Revelation prophesies the ultimate judgement of mankind in a series of allegorical visions, grisly images and numerological predictions. According to these, empires will fall, the Beast will be destroyed and Christ will rule a new Jerusalem. With an introduction by Will Self.

when the emperor was divine: *100 Years of the Best American Short Stories* Lorrie Moore, Heidi Pitlor, 2015 Collects forty short stories published between 1915 and 2015, from writers that include Ernest Hemingway, John Updike, and Alice Munro that exemplify their era and stand the test of time --

when the emperor was divine: *Soldier, Priest, and God* F. S. Naiden, 2019 This is the first life of Alexander the Great to explore his religious experience, to put his experience in Egypt and Asia on a par with his Macedonian upbringing and Greek education, and to explain how the European conqueror became a Moslem saint--

when the emperor was divine: *What the Emperor Built* Aurelia Campbell, 2020-06-30 One of the most famous rulers in Chinese history, the Yongle emperor (r. 1402–24) gained renown for constructing Beijing's magnificent Forbidden City, directing ambitious naval expeditions, and creating the world's largest encyclopedia. *What the Emperor Built* is the first book-length study devoted to the architectural projects of a single Chinese emperor. Focusing on the imperial palaces in Beijing, a Daoist architectural complex on Mount Wudang, and a Buddhist temple on the Sino-Tibetan frontier, Aurelia Campbell demonstrates how the siting, design, and use of Yongle's palaces and temples helped cement his authority and legitimize his usurpation of power. Campbell offers insight into Yongle's sense of empire—from the far-flung locations in which he built, to the distant regions from which he extracted construction materials, and to the use of tens of thousands of craftsmen and other laborers. Through his constructions, Yongle connected himself to the divine, interacted with his subjects, and extended imperial influence across space and time. Spanning issues of architectural design and construction technologies, this deft analysis reveals remarkable advancements in timber-frame construction and implements an art-historical approach to examine patronage, audience, and reception, situating the buildings within their larger historical and religious contexts.

when the emperor was divine: *The Divine Wind* Garry Disher, 2012-11-01 `an outstanding piece of writing...a powerful novel...? Reading Time Friendship is a slippery notion. We lose friends as we change and our friends don't, or as we form other alliances, or as we betray our friends or are ourselves betrayed? In the pearling town of Broome, against the backdrop of World War II, a young man and a young woman fall in love. Hart is the son of a pearling master, Mitsy the daughter of a Japanese diver. Can their love survive as Japan enters the War and Mitsy encounters prejudice and hate? In this beautifully written novel, Garry Disher evokes a war-devastated Australia and its effects

on young adults forced to leave their childhood behind.

when the emperor was divine: The Emperor Justinian and the Byzantine Empire James Allan Stewart Evans, 2005-01-30 This survey of the reign of the Emperor Justinian and the Byzantine Empire dissects the complicated political and military environment surrounding Constantinople and the Byzantine Empire in the 6th Century CE, and discusses the ambitions and achievements of the Emperor Justinian.

when the emperor was divine: What Did Jesus Look Like? Joan E. Taylor, 2018-02-08 Jesus Christ is arguably the most famous man who ever lived. His image adorns countless churches, icons, and paintings. He is the subject of millions of statues, sculptures, devotional objects and works of art. Everyone can conjure an image of Jesus: usually as a handsome, white man with flowing locks and pristine linen robes. But what did Jesus really look like? Is our popular image of Jesus overly westernized and untrue to historical reality? This question continues to fascinate. Leading Christian Origins scholar Joan E. Taylor surveys the historical evidence, and the prevalent image of Jesus in art and culture, to suggest an entirely different vision of this most famous of men. He may even have had short hair.

when the emperor was divine: The Master of Mankind Aaron Dembski-Bowden, 2018-06-26 As war splits the galaxy, the Emperor toils in the vaults beneath the Imperial Palace. But his great work is in peril, and the forces of Chaos are closing in... While Horus' rebellion burns across the galaxy, a very different kind of war rages beneath the Imperial Palace. The 'Ten Thousand' Custodian Guard, along with the Sisters of Silence and the Mechanicum forces of Fabricator General Kane, fight to control the nexus points of the ancient eldar webway that lie closest to Terra, infested by daemonic entities after Magnus the Red's intrusion. But with traitor legionaries and corrupted Battle Titans now counted among the forces of Chaos, the noose around the Throneworld is tightening, and none but the Emperor Himself can hope to prevail.

when the emperor was divine: Collective Trauma and Its Narrative Techniques. Julie Otsuka's "When the Emperor Was Divine" and "The Buddha in the Attic" Marnie Hensler, 2021-07-05 Seminar paper from the year 2020 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 2.0, University of Freiburg (Englisches Seminar), language: English, abstract: Julie Otsuka novels When the Emperor was Divine(2002) and The Buddha in the Attic (2011) narrate the collective trauma experienced by Japanese immigrants in America during the Second World War. With the help of different narrative techniques, both novels communicate the collective trauma to the contemporary reader. This paper analyses the different narrative strategies and their effects on the Western reader in greater detail through traditional close reading strategies. While When the Emperor was Divine narrates the collective trauma through alternating, individual perspectives of a representative Japanese family, The Buddha in the Attic manages to create a more powerful communal voice with its consistent first-person plural narration.

when the emperor was divine: Divine Honours for the Caesars Bruce W. Winter, 2015 In this book Bruce Winter explores the varied responses of the first Christians to requirements to render divine honors to the Caesars as the conventional public expression of loyalty to Rome and its rulers. How did they cope with the culture of emperor worship when they were required to give their undivided loyalty to Jesus? First examining the significant primary evidence of emperor worship and the enormous societal pressure the first Christians would have faced to participate in it, Winter then looks at specific New Testament evidence in light of his findings. He examines individual cities and provinces and the different ways in which Christians responded to the pressure to fulfill their obligations as citizens and participate in the conventional expressions of loyalty to the Roman Empire.

when the emperor was divine: The Art of Prose Paul A. Jorgensen, 1965

when the emperor was divine: The Son of God in the Roman World Michael Peppard, 2011-07-18 Winner of the 2013 Manfred Lautenschlaeger Award for Theological Promise Michael Peppard examines the social and political meaning of divine sonship in the Roman Empire. He begins by analyzing the conceptual framework within which the term "son of God" has traditionally

been considered in biblical scholarship. Then, through engagement with recent scholarship in Roman history - including studies of family relationships, imperial ideology, and emperor worship - he offers new ways of interpreting the Christian theological metaphors of "begotten" and "adoptive" sonship. Peppard focuses on social practices and political ideology, revealing that scholarship on divine sonship has been especially hampered by mistaken assumptions about adopted sons. He invites fresh readings of several early Christian texts, from the first Gospel to writings of the fourth century. By re-interpreting several ancient phenomena - particularly divine status, adoption, and baptism - he offers an imaginative refiguring of the Son of God in the Roman world.

when the emperor was divine: *Meditations* Marcus Aurelius, 2023-11-14 Now available in an accessible, new translation, *The Emperor's Handbook* is an important piece of ancient literature that remains more relevant than ever today.

when the emperor was divine: *Invented History, Fabricated Power* Barry Wood, 2020-11-16 *Invented History, Fabricated Power* begins with an examination of prehistoric beliefs (in spirits, souls, mana, orenda) that provided personal explanation and power through ritual and shamanism among tribal peoples. On this foundation, spiritual power evolved into various kinds of divine sanction for kings and emperors (Sumerian, Egyptian, Greek, Roman, Indian, Chinese and Japanese). As kingdoms expanded into empires, fictional histories and millennia-long genealogies developed that portrayed imperial superiority and greatness. Supernatural events and miracles were attached to religious founders (Hebrew, Hindu, Buddhist, Christian, Islamic). A unique variation developed in the Roman Church which fabricated papal power through forgeries in the first millennium CE and the later "doctrine of discovery" which authorized European domination and conquest around the world during the Age of Exploration. Elaborate fabrications continued with epic histories and literary cycles from the Persians, Ethiopians, Franks, British, Portuguese, and Iroquois Indians. Both Marxists and Nazis created doctrinal texts which passed for economic or political explanations but were in fact self-aggrandizing narratives that eventually collapsed. The book ends with the idealistic goals of the current liberal democratic way of life, pointing to its limitations as a sustaining narrative, along with numerous problems threatening its viability over the long term.

when the emperor was divine: *The Divinity of the Roman Emperor* Lily Ross Taylor, 2011-10

when the emperor was divine: *Divine Misfortune* A. Lee Martinez, 2010-03-02 *Divine Misfortune* is a story of gods and mortals -- in worship, in love, and at parties. Teri and Phil had never needed their own personal god. But when Phil is passed up for a promotion -- again-it's time to take matters into their own hands. And look online. Choosing a god isn't as simple as you would think. There are too many choices; and they often have very hefty prices for their eternal devotion: blood, money, sacrifices, and vows of chastity. But then they found Luka, raccoon god of prosperity. All he wants is a small cut of their good fortune. Oh -- and can he crash on their couch for a few days? Throw in a heartbroken love goddess and an ancient deity bent on revenge and not even the gods can save Teri and Phil.

when the emperor was divine: *The Barefoot Emperor* Philip Marsden, 2007 A fascinating narrative excursion into a bizarre episode in 19th century Ethiopian and British imperial history, featuring a remote African despot and his monstrous European-built gun. Towards the end of 1867, Emperor Tewodros II of Ethiopia burnt his own capital, took his vast mortar named 'Sevastopol' and began a retreat to the mountain stronghold of Mekdala. For months thousands of his followers struggled to build a road for the great gun, levelling the soil of the high plains, hacking out a way down into mile-deep gorges. At the same time, a hostile British force, under General Napier, was advancing from the coast. It was the climax to the reign of one of the most colourful and extraordinary rulers in African history. Discovering traces of the road in the highlands, and drawing on years of involvement with Ethiopia, Philip Marsden recounts the story of Tewodros. From his spectacular rise - from camel-raider to King of Kings - Tewodros was a man who combined a sense of Biblical destiny with personal charisma and military genius. He restored the fortunes of the ancient Christian kingdom, introduced reforms to his army and to the church, and dreamed of an alliance with the great powers of Europe. But as his reforms stalled and the British Foreign Office

lost his letter to Queen Victoria, Tewodros's behaviour became more and more violent and erratic. When he imprisoned the British consul, years of negotiation culminated in one of the most bizarre - and expensive - campaigns of the Victorian age. 'The Barefoot Emperor' is history at its most thrilling and dramatic. Using narrative skills proven in such acclaimed books as 'The Bronski House' and 'The Chains of Heaven', Philip Marsden recreates scenes and characters of glittering intensity - and the intriguing paradoxes of a central figure grappling not only with his own people and his own demons, but with the seductive and unstoppable approach of the modern world.

when the emperor was divine: The Deeds of the Divine Augustus Augustus, 2017-04-24 Res Gestae Divi Augusti (Eng. The Deeds of the Divine Augustus) is the funerary inscription of the first Roman emperor, Augustus, giving a first-person record of his life and accomplishments. The Res Gestae is especially significant because it gives an insight into the image Augustus portrayed to the Roman people. Various inscriptions of the Res Gestae have been found scattered across the former Roman Empire. The inscription itself is a monument to the establishment of the Julio-Claudian dynasty that was to follow Augustus. The text consists of a short introduction, 35 body paragraphs, and a posthumous addendum. These paragraphs are conventionally grouped in four sections, political career, public benefactions, military accomplishments and a political statement. The first section (paragraphs 2-14) is concerned with Augustus' political career; it records the offices and political honours that he held. Augustus also lists numerous offices he refused to take and privileges he refused to be awarded. The second section (paragraphs 15-24) lists Augustus' donations of money, land and grain to the citizens of Italy and his soldiers, as well as the public works and gladiatorial spectacles that he commissioned. The text is careful to point out that all this was paid for out of Augustus' own funds. The third section (paragraphs 25-33) describes his military deeds and how he established alliances with other nations during his reign. Finally the fourth section (paragraphs 34-35) consists of a statement of the Romans' approval for the reign and deeds of Augustus. The appendix is written in the third person, and likely not by Augustus himself. It summarizes the entire text, and lists various buildings he renovated or constructed; it states that Augustus spent 600 million silver denarii (i.e. 600,000 gold denarii) from his own funds during his reign on public projects. Ancient currencies cannot be reliably converted into modern equivalents, but it is clearly more than anyone else in the Empire could afford. Augustus consolidated his hold on power by reversing the prior tax policy beginning with funding the aerarium militare with 170 million sesterces of his own money.

when the emperor was divine: The Last Mortal Bond Brian Staveley, 2016-03-15 The trilogy that began with The Emperor's Blades and continued in The Providence of Fire reaches its epic conclusion, as war engulfs the Annurian Empire in Brian Staveley's The Last Mortal Bond. The ancient csestriim are back to finish their purge of humanity; armies march against the capital; leaches, solitary beings who draw power from the natural world to fuel their extraordinary abilities, maneuver on all sides to affect the outcome of the war; and capricious gods walk the earth in human guise with agendas of their own. But the three imperial siblings at the heart of it all--Valyn, Adare, and Kaden--come to understand that even if they survive the holocaust unleashed on their world, there may be no reconciling their conflicting visions of the future. Chronicle of the Unhewn Throne
The Emperor's Blades
The Providence of Fire
The Last Mortal Bond
Other books in the world of the Unhewn Throne
Skullsworn
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when the emperor was divine: Under the Feet of Jesus Helena Maria Viramontes, 1996-04-01 Winner of the John Dos Passos Prize for Literature "Stunning."—Newsweek With the same audacity with which John Steinbeck wrote about migrant worker conditions in The Grapes of Wrath and T.C. Boyle in The Tortilla Curtain, Viramontes presents a moving and powerful vision of the lives of the men, women, and children who endure a second-class existence and labor under dangerous conditions in California's fields. At the center of this powerful tale is Estrella, a girl about to cross the perilous border to womanhood. What she knows of life comes from her mother, who has survived abandonment by her husband in a land that treats her as if she were invisible, even though

she and her children pick the crops of the farms that feed its people. But within Estrella, seeds of growth and change are stirring. And in the arms of Alejo, they burst into a full, fierce flower as she tastes the joy and pain of first love. Pushed to the margins of society, she learns to fight back and is able to help the young farmworker she loves when his ambitions and very life are threatened in a harvest of death. Infused with the beauty of the California landscape and shifting splendors of the passing seasons juxtaposed with the bleakness of poverty, this vividly imagined novel is worthy of the people it celebrates and whose story it tells so magnificently. The simple lyrical beauty of Viramontes' prose, her haunting use of image and metaphor, and the urgency of her themes all announce *Under the Feat of Jesus* as a landmark work of American fiction.

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