
Denis Diderot

Jacques the Fatalist

OXFORD WORLD'S CLASSICS

DENIS DIDEROT
JACQUES THE FATALIST

A new translation by David Coward



Title: Jacques the Fatalist

Author: Denis Diderot

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Description

Jacques the Fatalist is a provocative exploration of the problems of human existence, destiny, and free will. In the introduction to this brilliant translation, David Coward explains the philosophical basis of Diderot's fascination with fate and examines the experimental and influential literary techniques that make Jacques the Fatalist a classic of the Enlightenment.

Insightful reviews

Mahdi: ?? ????? ????? ??? ??????? ?? ??????. ?????? ??? ? ??????? ?? ?? ?? ??? ?? ?????? ?? ?? ????? ?? ?? ??? (? ?????? ?? ?????????) ??? ????? ? ?? ??? ?????? ?? ??? ?????? ??????. ????? ????????????? ????? ?????? ?????????? ????? ?? ????????? ?? ??? ? ?? ?????? ? ?? ??? ?????????? ?? ?? ????? ?????? ? ?? ? ??? ?????? ?? ??? ?? ? ? ?????? ?? ????? ?????? ?????? ? ?? ??? ????????? ?? ????????? ?????? ? ?????? ?? ?????????? ?? ??????.

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MJ Nicholls: For those exhausted or defeated by [Tristram Shandy](#), here is a precursor to the postmodern novel that packs in more incident, philosophy, bitching and warm humour in its 237 pages than most modern avant-garde writers manage in a whole corpus. Jacques—the titular Fatalist—attempts to recount the tale of his “first loves” while accompanying his Master on a series of oblique misadventures that invariably end up as digressions and more digressions. All postmodern tricks—stories-within-stories, frames-within-frames, direct reader-insulting—are present, and better than in 1971. This is a wild and hilarious romp with a fiercely readable translation from the unfortunately named David Coward, and this edition has an exemplary introduction that neither squeezes all life from the work nor drowns it in academic verbiage. Proof once again the French are the true genitors of all great literature. So it was written up there, on high.

Jocelin: Favorite quote: "Do we control our destiny or does our destiny control us?" It was written in the 1700's. I just assumed that because it was written so long ago that it would be difficult reading but it's not at all. It's about a guy named Jacques who believes that everything happens because it was written in the heavens and that destiny essentially controls everything, and he's very funny. He has a Master who argues with him a lot. The best part of the book is that author just periodically stops writing about the characters and talks to the readers about whats going on in the story and other nonsense.

Here's my favorite part: Jacques and his Master part ways for a bit and the author stops the story and tells you, the reader, that you have to choose who to follow and then tells you reasons why you should or shouldn't follow each guy and this is his description of Master: "There's not a lot going on in his head. If he happens to say something sensible, it's either because he's remembered something someone else said or has blurted something out without thinking. He has two eyes just like you and me, but most of the time you can't tell if he's using them to look with. He's not asleep but he's not quite awake either. He just exists--that's his normal state--like

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