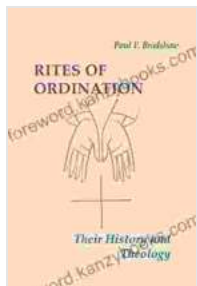


Rites of Ordination: Their History and Theology



Rites of Ordination: Their History and Theology

by Paul F. Bradshaw

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Ordination is a sacred 仪式 that marks the transition of a person from the laity to the clergy. It is a rite of passage that signifies the individual's call to serve God and the Church. The rites of ordination vary depending on the Christian tradition, but they all share certain common elements.

The History of Ordination Rites

The origins of ordination rites can be traced back to the early Church. In the New Testament, we see examples of the apostles ordaining deacons and elders (Acts 6:6; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9). These early ordination rites were simple and informal, but they gradually became more elaborate over time.

By the Middle Ages, the ordination rites had become highly ritualized. They were often performed in a cathedral or other large church, and they involved a number of complex ceremonies. The ordination process could take several days, and it included a variety of prayers, readings, and anointings.

The Reformation brought about a number of changes to the ordination rites. Protestants generally simplified the ceremonies, and they placed greater emphasis on the individual's call to ministry. However, the basic structure of the ordination rites remained largely the same.

The Theology of Ordination Rites

Theology of ordination rites varies depending on the Christian tradition. However, there are some common themes that can be found in all of them.

First, ordination is seen as a sacrament. This means that it is a sacred rite that is instituted by Christ and that it conveys grace. Through ordination, the individual is empowered to perform the ministry of the Church.

Second, ordination is seen as a call to service. The individual who is ordained is called to serve God and the Church. This service may take many different forms, but it always involves the proclamation of the Gospel and the care of souls.

Third, ordination is seen as a lifelong commitment. The individual who is ordained is making a commitment to serve God and the Church for the rest of their life. This commitment is not to be taken lightly, and it should be made only after careful consideration.

The Rites of Ordination Today

The rites of ordination vary depending on the Christian tradition. However, there are some common elements that can be found in all of them.

The ordination rite typically begins with a call to worship. This is followed by a series of readings from the Bible. The candidate for ordination is then presented to the bishop or other ordaining authority. The bishop or ordaining authority will then examine the candidate and ask them a series of questions. If the candidate is found to be suitable for ordination, the bishop or ordaining authority will lay hands on the candidate and pray for them.

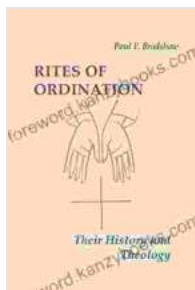
The ordination rite concludes with the giving of a charge to the newly ordained minister. This charge is a reminder of the responsibilities and privileges of the ordained ministry.

Ordination is a sacred rite that marks the transition of a person from the laity to the clergy. It is a rite of passage that signifies the individual's call to serve God and the Church. The rites of ordination vary depending on the Christian tradition, but they all share certain common elements. These common elements include a call to worship, a series of readings from the Bible, an examination of the candidate, the laying on of hands, and a charge to the newly ordained minister.

The theology of ordination rites varies depending on the Christian tradition. However, there are some common themes that can be found in all of them. These common themes include the sacramentality of ordination, the call to service, and the lifelong commitment.

The rites of ordination are a reminder of the importance of the ordained ministry. They are a time to celebrate the call of God and to pray for the

newly ordained ministers as they begin their journey of service.

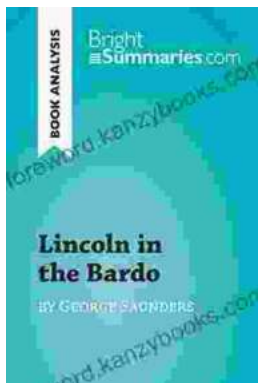


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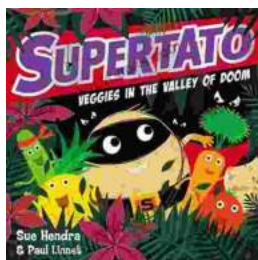
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