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The Consolation of Philosophy

Anicius Manlius Severinus Boëthius (c. 480 – 525 AD)

Read by:	Multiple readers	Genre(s):	Non-Fiction, History, Politics, Political Science			
Length:	5 hours 8 minutes	Style:	Solo			
Language:	English	Format	Package	SKU	EAN/UPC	MSLP
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The Consolation of Philosophy by Boëthius is a philosophical work written around 524 AD while Boethius was imprisoned and awaiting execution. Blending prose and poetry, the text is a dialogue between Boethius and Lady Philosophy, who personifies wisdom and reason. It explores themes of fortune, happiness, fate, and divine providence.

The book begins with Boethius lamenting his fall from power and wealth, betrayed by those he once trusted. Lady Philosophy appears to console him, critiquing his misplaced reliance on external goods and the whims of fortune. She explains that material possessions, status, and even earthly happiness are transient and unreliable.

Philosophy guides Boethius toward a deeper understanding of true happiness, which resides in the pursuit of virtue and unity with the divine. She emphasizes that human suffering is part of a greater cosmic order governed by divine providence. While fortune is unpredictable, the rational soul can achieve peace by aligning itself with eternal truths and trusting in the justice of God's plan. The text also addresses the tension between free will and

predestination. Lady Philosophy assures Boethius that while God's foreknowledge encompasses all events, humans retain free will within the divine framework.

Ultimately, *The Consolation of Philosophy* is a meditation on enduring adversity by focusing on inner virtue and philosophical wisdom, offering solace to those grappling with life's uncertainties. Its blend of classical thought and Christian theology has made it a timeless work in Western philosophy and literature.

Anicius Manlius Severinus Boethius (c. 480–524 AD) was a Roman philosopher, statesman, and scholar, widely regarded as one of the last great figures of classical antiquity and a bridge to the medieval intellectual tradition. Born into a prominent aristocratic family, Boethius was educated in Greek and Latin, mastering the works of Plato, Aristotle, and other classical thinkers. His knowledge and skills earned him high-ranking positions in the Ostrogothic court of Theodoric the Great, where he served as a consul and later as a magister officiorum (chief administrator).

Despite his political success, Boethius fell victim to court intrigue. Accused of treason, he was imprisoned and eventually executed in 524 or 525 AD. During his imprisonment, he wrote *The Consolation of Philosophy*, a philosophical dialogue blending classical thought and Christian ideas. The work became one of the most influential texts in medieval Europe, shaping theological and philosophical discourse for centuries.

Boethius also contributed significantly to the transmission of ancient knowledge, translating Aristotle's works and writing on logic, mathematics, and music. His legacy lies in his ability to synthesize classical philosophy with emerging Christian theology, making him a crucial figure in the intellectual history of the West.