



Apuleius and Africa (Routledge Monographs in Classical Studies)

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The *Metamorphoses* or *Golden Ass* of Apuleius (ca. 170 CE) is a Latin novel written by a native of Madauros in Roman North Africa, roughly equal to modern Tunisia together with parts of Libya and Algeria. Apuleius' novel is based on the model of a lost Greek novel; it narrates the adventures of a Greek character with a Roman name who spends the bulk of the novel transformed into an animal, traveling from Greece to Rome only to end his adventures in the capital city of the empire as a priest of the Egyptian goddess Isis. Apuleius' *Florida* and *Apology* deal more explicitly with the African provenance and character of their author while also demonstrating his complex interaction with Greek, Roman, and local cultures. Apuleius' philosophical works raise other questions about Greek vs. African and Roman cultural identity.

Apuleius in Africa addresses the problem of this intricate complex of different identities and its connection to Apuleius' literary production. It especially emphasizes Apuleius' African heritage, a heritage that has for the most part been either downplayed or even deplored by previous scholarship. The contributors include philologists, historians, and experts in material culture; among them are some of the most respected scholars in their fields. The chapters give due attention to all elements of Apuleius' oeuvre, and break new ground both on the interpretation of Apuleius' literary production and on the culture of the Roman Empire in the second century. The volume also includes a modern, sub-Saharan contribution in which "Africa" mainly means Mediterranean Africa.

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