

Christian Tradition
Asceticism and Monasticism Day 2: *The Life of Antony* 2

Important names and terms:

Antony
asceticism
eremitic, cenobitic, lavra monasticism
demons

Important themes and concepts:

authority and power in the church (especially institutional authority [the bishop] and individual charismatic authority [the holy man])
gender
the body and the soul
sexuality
asceticism and monasticism
heresy and orthodoxy

What is Antony's role in the desert? Does he interact with people, how?

What is Antony's relationship to Athanasius or other church officials in this text? Remember: Athanasius wrote this book. What message does the text convey about Antony's relationship to the church hierarchy and to Athanasius in particular?

Is Antony a heretic or "orthodox" (according to Nicene definitions of orthodoxy)?

How does or does not Antony engage with the rest of the world?