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Dr. Mitchell Kalpakgian

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MITCHELL KALPAKGIAN



The Lost Arts

OF MODERN
CIVILIZATION

How to Taste and See
the Abundance of Life

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Dr. Mitchell Kalpakgian : The Lost Arts of Modern Civilization: How to Taste and See the Abundance of Life before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Lost Arts of Modern Civilization: How to Taste and See the Abundance of Life:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Lost Arts of Modern Civilization is a disappointment. The main

reason for my low ratingBy Read Yourself to SleepDNF 71%. I was drawn to this title because of the Dr. Kalpakgian's interview with Brett McKay on The Art of Manliness Podcast. The conversation they shared was illuminating and interesting, and I walked away both interested in reading the book that inspired such a meeting of minds. However, in comparison with the interview, *The Lost Arts of Modern Civilization* is a disappointment. The main reason for my low rating, as well as the reason I did not finish the book, is the lack of clear organization. The author jumps from one topic to another within chapters with no real transition, and the book starts out cold with no introduction to speak of. We are given no real reason for why Dr. Kalpakgian claims these arts of modern civilization are lost, or indeed why we should trust his judgment. Another huge turn-off is the broad sweeping statements he makes about the modern generation, which come across like curmudgeonly fist-shaking. He cites no sources when he makes claims about contemporary behavior, and he offers no suggestions as to how we can adopt these lost arts into a modern lifestyle. I am left to believe that he expects everyone to chuck their computers, phones, and televisions into the dumpster and resume life as if it's 1920, rather than come up with a solution to integrate letter-writing, hospitality, courtship, etc.--arts that I actually agree should make a comeback--into our modern life. I also found his analyses of some of the literary works--particularly *King Lear*--to be just dead wrong. He paints *King Lear* as the victim of Regan and Goneril, completely absolving the king of his own role in the tragedy. Had he not held a court so fixated on flattery, perhaps his two eldest daughters would not have turned into backstabbing sycophants. Does this excuse their behavior? Absolutely not. However, based on the brief reading provided by Dr. Kalpakgian, we are expected to believe *King Lear* is an innocent, doddering old man who was done nothing to deserve the ill treatment he receives. That is just incorrect. Perhaps if he had expanded each chapter and talked more about the works and people he quoted this book would have made more sense. Instead, he assumes that everyone who picks this book up will be familiar with every single person and work referenced and finds no need to recap or summarize anything. If anyone has been thinking about reading this book, I really recommend you look up and listen to the episode of the Art of Manliness Podcast instead. The information given there is more helpful and applicable than what you'll find here. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. WONDERFUL. By _scm_1 This is basically a book about bringing the human touch back into humanity. His chapters on letter-writing and hospitality really spoke to me. Dr. Kalpakgian has a lot to say to the modern world. Do get this wonderful book, and buy it for a few of your friends that you know will read it. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A must read for all By grandmarsh This is a small easy to read book. The book contains so much information that modern society would benefit if they went back to these common sense practices. Inspiring!

In a world gone crazy one might wonder if simple acts of civility are worth the trouble. Dressing with dignity, writing letters, and innocent courtship are just some of the lost arts of kindness and integrity that Dr. Michael Kalpakgian tries to dig up and dust off, imploring us to regain the honor and worth our society once had. These noble habits of living fill common life with an abundance of simple pleasures that adorn day to day existence. *The Lost Arts of Modern Civilization* will inspire you to seek out and nourish the simple joys that lift the spirit, rejoice the heart, and enliven the mind.

About the Author Dr. Mitchell Kalpakgian (Ph.D., University of Iowa) has taught English literature for fifty years at several colleges. Professor Emeritus of Humanities at Wyoming Catholic College, he has recently been an adjunct professor of literature at The College of Saint Mary Magdalen and at Thomas More College in New Hampshire and currently teaches at Mount Royal Academy. He is the author of six books: *The Marvelous in Fieldings Novels*, *The Mysteries of Life in Childrens Literature*, *An Armenian Family Reunion*, *The Lost Arts of Modern Civilization*, *Modern Manners: The Virtue of Civility and the Poetry of Conduct*, and, most recently, *The Virtues We Need Again*. He writes for *Saint Austin*, is a contributing editor of *New Oxford*, and reviews books for *The Wanderer*. Also he does online articles for www.setonmagazine.com, www.truthandcharityforum.org, and www.crisismagazine.com.