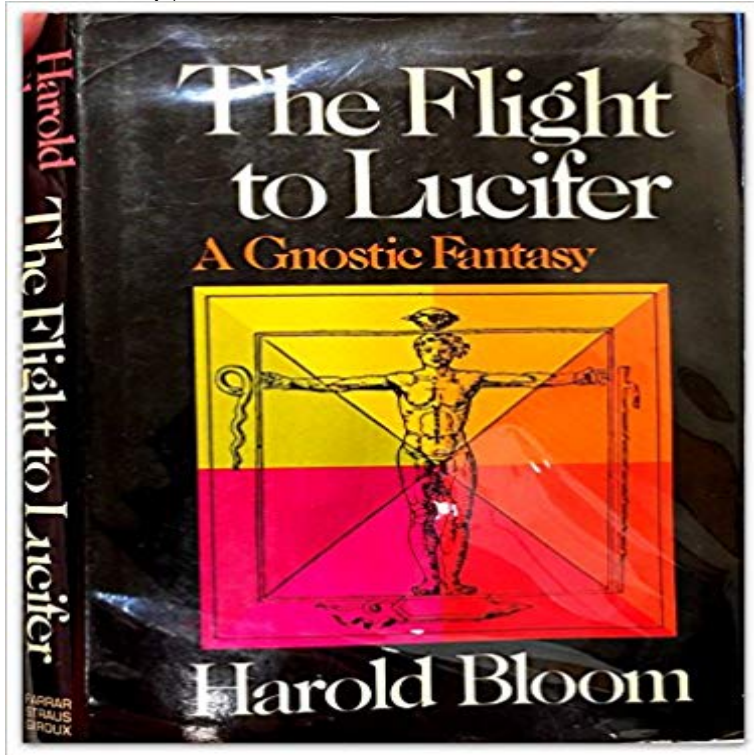


The Flight to Lucifer



Bloom's fascination with David Lindsay's philosophical fantasy led him to compose a sequel in 1979. *The Flight to Lucifer*, his only work of fiction. The reviews were positive, he disowned it. His self-conscious theoretical interest in the nature of fantasy literature weighed it down too heavily. He said he'd remove every copy of the book from every library if he could. Lindsay's *A Voyage to Arcturus*, supplied the concept of a voyage thru space to a planet created by a demiurge & other incidental features of the book. However, most of its content derives fairly directly from gnosticism. In Lindsay, the passionate giant Maskull & the thin, intense Nightspore, are taken from Earth to the planet Tormance by Krag, a mysterious figure whose residue of the true godhead, Muspel, unassimilated by the false creations of Tormance's demiurge, Crystalman. Bloom's novel reproduces this formula with names drawn directly from gnostic history & cosmology. Maskull becomes Thomas Perscors, thru fire, identified as an incarnation of Primal Man. Nightspore's correlate is Seth Valentinus, a reincarnation of the theologian. Their guide is an Aeon, Olam, an emanation of the true god. Lucifer is controlled by Saklas, gnostic name for the false creator. Olam has brought Perscors to Lucifer to fight Saklas, & has brought Valentinus so he can remember his true self. This is also drawn from Lindsay. However, the details of their adventures differ & in the end Perscors cripples Saklas & changes the order of things on Lucifer, whereas Nightspore's victory is to escape Crystalman's clutches & see reality as it is, then vowing to return to Earth to free others.

The Flight to Lucifer is a fantasy, nothing more, nothing less set on a distant world where time and space shift back and forth and where the conflicts of *The Flight to Lucifer: A Gnostic Fantasy* Paperback 1980. *The Flight to Lucifer: A Gnostic Fantasy* Harold Bloom First Vintage Books Edition May 1980. First & foremost, you MUST read David Lindsay's nightmarish classic, *A Voyage to Arcturus*, a novel highly praised by Bloom. *The Flight to Lucifer* by Harold

