

# The Philosophy of William Miller

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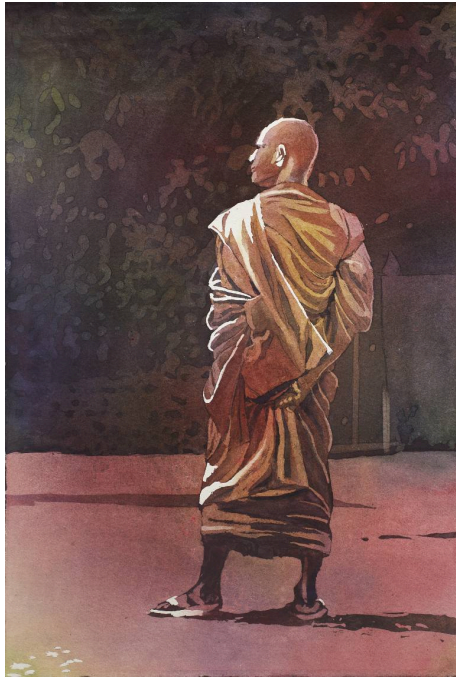
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It's What's Hot

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## Millerism, a History



### Who was William Miller?

William Miller was a cleric who lived approximately 500 years ago. He is famous for writing several books and treatises on the philosophy of free will, the corruptness of the Clergy, and favorable societal situations. Born in the capital of old Danor, Methia, it's believed that the events of the Great Malice shaped much of Miller's beliefs later in his life. Miller was nearly middle aged when he began questioning the Clergy and writing his books, though his exact age during this timeframe is unknown.

He wrote the 'Treatise on Hypocrisy', along with numerous other works. This multi-chapter book had numerous different philosophical beliefs and only about three-quarters of the entire book is known to scholars today. This book suggested that it was better to admit you are uncertain of your beliefs than to act in contradiction with your stated values. In other words, just because the Clergy dictated something, does not mean that you had to follow them if you believed otherwise.

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The book also examined possible social structures, comparing robustness and stability with various moral values. For example, he questioned whether a society based upon pure economic greed could co-exist with an altruistic government or if faith based religions could be supported by a morally ambiguous people. He postulated several new forms of government, such as one where the very small ruling class owned all businesses or one where all wealth in a nation was equally distributed to all its subjects or one where all citizens could vote on all the laws.



## What did William Miller believe?

Miller believed that free will was the greatest gift the gods gave the mortal races. He stated that faith in your own beliefs and the faith that you have in the gods was how one achieved true enlightenment. He disagreed with the generally accepted view that the Clergy was the only entity that could absolve sins or grant indulgences, as these were usually reserved only for the wealthy or overzealous. Miller became convinced that the Clergy was corrupt in its ways and had lost sight of what he saw as several of the central truths to the Faith. Primarily, Miller doubted the supreme power of the Hierarchy of the Church and believed that such a mortal should not dictate to people how to live their lives. He also questioned the Clergy's authority to start the crusades against the high elves and Seedism as he believed that people should be free to worship as they please.

Eventually Miller began to question the Heavens itself. He stated that souls may make their way to an afterlife as held by the Clergy for judgement and punishment/reward, but truly doubted

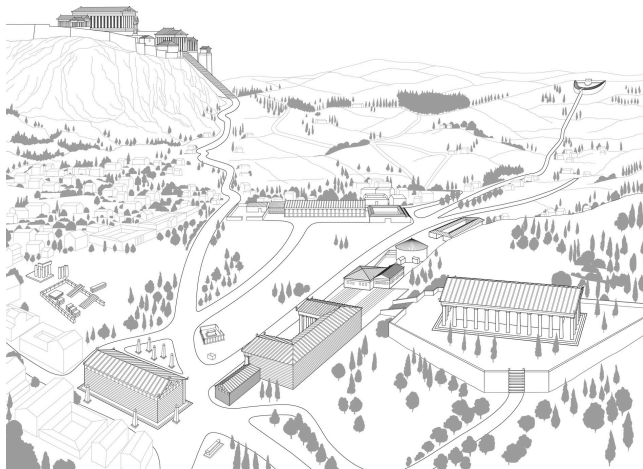
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that a soul had a place in Heaven. He also doubted the existence of celestials, such as angels, deva, and archons. He knew of the stories of nations across the seas that, at one time, could summon legions of both devils and angels, however, such power was out of reach for anyone and most likely those were only myths. Miller also questioned the Clergy's placing of Triegenes at the head of the pantheon. Miller believed that the gods, prior to the arrival of Triegenes, agreed amongst themselves that no deity would be above the others. Miller stated that the Clergy was ignoring this very important piece of theology by having Triegenes be the 'king of the gods'.

## What exactly IS the philosophy of William Miller?

Millerism can be explained in four main points:

1. Mortals must not only have freedom of thought and speech, but also freedom from influence.
2. A perfect society can exist, but mortals must learn to put aside their differences to learn what it is.
3. Only faith in the gods as a whole, not the Clergy and not just in Triegenes, can grant a mortal absolution.
4. One not need be certain of their own beliefs, as long as they do not act against their own personal values.



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## Where did William Miller live?

Miller lived much of his life in Methia. After the Great Malice, Miller founded a small city-state nation called Pala. It was located somewhere in the chaos of the Malice Lands along the Eastern Piscine Mountains that borders Danor. Pala became a nation of thinkers and philosophers. In his treatise, Miller referenced that he had ideas for several ideal nations that he would list later in his book. Pala was the only nation that he was able to found before his death. His descriptions for other ideal nations are part of the long lost sections of his book.

William Miller was joined at Pala by numerous scholars, philosophers, and scientists- several of them tieflings. He often stated in his works that he remorseful for what the Clergy had done to the high elves and declared Pala a 'safe zone' for any surviving female high elves. It's unknown if any high elves actually made it as far as Pala, though the high elf poet Vekesh had written Miller several letters commending him on his efforts to help his people. It's believed that Miller was unmarried and had no children or other family members.

Miller, unfortunately, attracted Crisillyir as an enemy. Miller greatly angered the Clergy when he published his treatise, questioning and doubting the power and structure to the Clergy. He especially questioned the Clergy's current wealth, being greater than most other nations combined. Miller actually began his attacks against the Clergy a few years prior to the Great Malice. It was after the Great Malice that Miller fled and founded Pala.

The Clergy armies invaded Pala in 18 AOV and burned the city to the ground. They spared no expense in eliminating every brick, tree, book, and stone in the city. Today, the location of Pala can only be guessed at, as there were no ruins left by the time the Clergy finished demolishing it. Few adherents to Millerism are able to brave the Malice Lands long enough or are wealthy enough to conduct official archaeological research to Pala's location.



## How did William Miller die?

The Clergy branded Miller a heretic 18 years after the Great Malice. After the Clergy invaded Pala and burned it, Miller was captured by them. He was shipped to Alais Primos, seat of the Clergy, where he was tortured. Miller refused to recant his works and even further infuriated his tormentors by laughing during lengthy sessions. After he refused to recant, his captors made a pyre of his heretical writings and burned him alive upon it.



## Does William Miller's philosophy have a common symbol?

Most philosophers use a book on fire as the symbol that most represents their beliefs. This represents the pyre of burning books that Miller died upon. This is the symbol most seen in

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iconography and illustrations. Those philosophers that are spellcasters carry with them a burnt book as a focus for their powers.



## Where is the rest of William Miller's work?

There is about a quarter of the book 'Treatise on Hypocrisy' still missing. Most of the books were destroyed by the Clergy, which was quite simple as most of the copies of the book rarely left Pala. What few copies were found in Drakr, various Border States, and Danor were quickly found and destroyed. Rumors say that copies of Miller's final chapters are kept in a library vault in Alais Primos, where it shares shelf space with other "heretical" texts.

## What's new among Millerites?

It is a truly exciting time to be a follower of Millerism. A new age of analysing his texts and learning from them dawns- all thanks to world-shattering new discoveries made in Risur! With the possibility of reshaping the rules, trends and foundations of the world as we know it, it's never been more important for thoughtful, intelligent people to follow in Miller's footsteps. Everyone- not only Millerites- should sit down and discuss what it means for a society to be ideal, and how a society- perhaps with its own brand-new plane system- can respect the values of free will, universal brotherhood and sisterhood, and the right to pursue happiness.

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