

# Ordeal

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*ordeal in Wiktionary, the free dictionary. Ordeal may refer to: Trial by ordeal, a religious judicial practice to determine "the will of God"; Ordeal (autobiography)*

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Trial by ordeal

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Trial by ordeal was an ancient judicial practice by which the guilt or innocence of the accused (called a "proband") was determined by subjecting them to a painful, or at least an unpleasant, usually dangerous experience.

In medieval Europe, like trial by combat, trial by ordeal, such as cruentation, was sometimes considered a "judgement of God" (Latin: *jūdicium Dei*, Old English: *Godes dōm*): a procedure based on the premise that God would help the innocent by performing a miracle on their behalf. The practice has much earlier roots, attested to as far back as the Code of Hammurabi and the Code of Ur-Nammu.

In pre-industrial society, the ordeal typically ranked along with the oath and witness accounts as the central means by which to reach a judicial verdict. Indeed, the term ordeal, Old English *ordǣl*, has the meaning of "judgment, verdict" from Proto-West Germanic *\*urdail* (see German: *Urteil*, Dutch: *oordeel*), ultimately from Proto-Germanic *\*uzdailij* "that which is dealt out".

Priestly cooperation in trials by fire and water was forbidden by Pope Innocent III at the Fourth Council of the Lateran of 1215 and replaced by compurgation. Trials by ordeal became rarer over the Late Middle Ages, but the practice was not discontinued until the 16th century. Certain trials by ordeal would continue to be used into the 17th century in witch-hunts.

Ordeal (autobiography)

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Ordeal by Innocence

*Ordeal by Innocence is a work of detective fiction by British writer Agatha Christie, first published in the UK by the Collins Crime Club on 3 November*

Ordeal by Innocence is a work of detective fiction by British writer Agatha Christie, first published in the UK by the Collins Crime Club on 3 November 1958 and in the US by Dodd, Mead and Company the following year. The UK edition retailed at twelve shillings and sixpence (12/6) and the US edition at \$2.95.

A crucial witness is unaware of his role as such until two years after a man is found guilty of a murder. When he realizes the information he holds, he re-opens the pain of loss in a family, and re-opens the question of who was the murderer two years ago.

This novel received mixed reviews at the time of publication, as reviewers were not generally comfortable with the psychological aspects of the story. The plot had her "customary ingenuity" but lacked "blitheness" and was "much too like an attempt at psychological fiction". Sympathy is evoked for too many characters, "but the unravelling is sound and the story well told." Another said there is ingenuity and a good ending, but the plot "lacks a central focus" and it appears that the "serious socio-psychological approach doesn't suit" Christie's writing. A later review considered it one of the better Christie novels of the 1950s, and noted that the author sometimes called it her own favourite.

#### Ordeal of the bitter water

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In the Hebrew Bible, the ordeal of the bitter water was a Jewish trial by ordeal administered by a priest in the tabernacle to a wife whose husband suspected her of adultery, but the husband had no witnesses to make a formal case. It is described in the Book of Numbers (Numbers 5:11–31).

#### Ordeal by Innocence (film)

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#### Ordeal by Innocence (TV series)

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Ordeal by Innocence (titled on-screen as Agatha Christie's Ordeal by Innocence) is a three-part television drama series that was first broadcast in April 2018 on BBC One. It is based on the Agatha Christie novel of the same name and is the third English-language filmed version to be broadcast. The drama stars Morven Christie, Bill Nighy, Anna Chancellor, Alice Eve and Eleanor Tomlinson amongst others.

The show was originally intended to be broadcast as part of the BBC Christmas programming but was held back due to original cast member Ed Westwick being accused of sexual assault. The accusation was denied and no charges were ultimately brought. The actor's scenes were later reshot, with Christian Cooke taking Westwick's place.

The series attracted positive reviews despite some backlash over the changes made to the plot. The direction and styling were afforded particular praise.

The series was released on DVD through Universal Pictures UK on 11 March 2019.

#### Ordeal in the Arctic

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Ordeal in the Arctic is a television film written by Paul F. Edwards and directed by Mark Sobel. The film stars Richard Chamberlain, Catherine Mary Stewart, Melanie Mayron, Scott Hylands and Page Fletcher.

The accident that Ordeal in the Arctic depicted, occurred on October 30, 1991, when Canadian Forces Lockheed CC-130E Hercules (130322), from 435 Transport and Rescue Squadron (a part of Operation Boxtop), was flying from Edmonton, Alberta via Thule Air Base, Greenland on a bi-annual resupply mission to Canadian Forces Station Alert (CFS Alert). At night, while on final approach to the airstrip, the pilot, John Couch, apparently was flying by sight rather than relying on instruments. The aircraft struck a rocky slope and crashed on Ellesmere Island, approximately 16 km (9.9 miles) short of the runway, resulting in the death of four of the 18 passengers and crew. Subsequent rescue efforts by personnel from CFS Alert, USAF personnel from Thule AB and CF personnel from 440 Squadron, CFB Edmonton, Alberta, and Trenton, Ontario, were hampered by a blizzard and local terrain. Couch died of exposure while awaiting rescue.

### Hero's journey

*cave* or the central crisis of his adventure, where he must undergo "the ordeal" where he overcomes the main obstacle or enemy, undergoing "apotheosis";

In narratology and comparative mythology, the hero's quest or hero's journey, also known as the monomyth, is the common template of stories that involve a hero who goes on an adventure, is victorious in a decisive crisis, and comes home changed or transformed.

Earlier figures had proposed similar concepts, including psychoanalyst Otto Rank and amateur anthropologist Lord Raglan. Eventually, hero myth pattern studies were popularized by Joseph Campbell, who was influenced by Carl Jung's analytical psychology. Campbell used the monomyth to analyze and compare religions. In his book *The Hero with a Thousand Faces* (1949), he describes the narrative pattern as follows:

A hero ventures forth from the world of common day into a region of supernatural wonder: fabulous forces are there encountered and a decisive victory is won: the hero comes back from this mysterious adventure with the power to bestow boons on his fellow man.

Campbell's theories regarding the concept of a "monomyth" have been the subject of criticism from scholars, particularly folklorists, who have dismissed the concept as a non-scholarly approach suffering from source-selection bias, among other criticisms. More recently, the hero's journey has been analyzed as an example of the sympathetic plot, a universal narrative structure in which a goal-directed protagonist confronts obstacles, overcomes them, and eventually reaps rewards.

### Ordeal of the Union

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Ordeal of the Union is an eight-volume series of books (published 1947–1971) on mid-19th century American history, and particularly on the American Civil War and its background, written by historian Allan Nevins. Two further volumes, intended to cover the Reconstruction era were planned, but not written as a result of Nevins's 1971 death. The first two books in the series have the collective title *Ordeal of the Union* (with differing subtitles), the third and fourth the collective title *The Emergence of Lincoln*, and the fifth through the eighth the collective title *The War for the Union*; the series is, however, generally referred to as *Ordeal of the Union* as a whole, and the individual volumes have also been republished under this umbrella title.

The individual books are:

*Ordeal of the Union: Fruits of Manifest Destiny, 1847–1852* (1947)

Ordeal of the Union: A House Dividing, 1852–1857 (1947)

The Emergence of Lincoln: Douglas, Buchanan, and Party Chaos, 1857–1859 (1950)

The Emergence of Lincoln: Prologue to Civil War, 1859–1861 (1950)

The War for the Union: The Improvised War, 1861–1862 (1959)

The War for the Union: War Becomes Revolution, 1862–1863 (1960)

The War for the Union: The Organized War, 1863–1864 (1971)

The War for the Union: The Organized War to Victory, 1864–1865 (1971)

For the last two volumes, published in 1971, Nevins won the U.S. National Book Award in History.

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