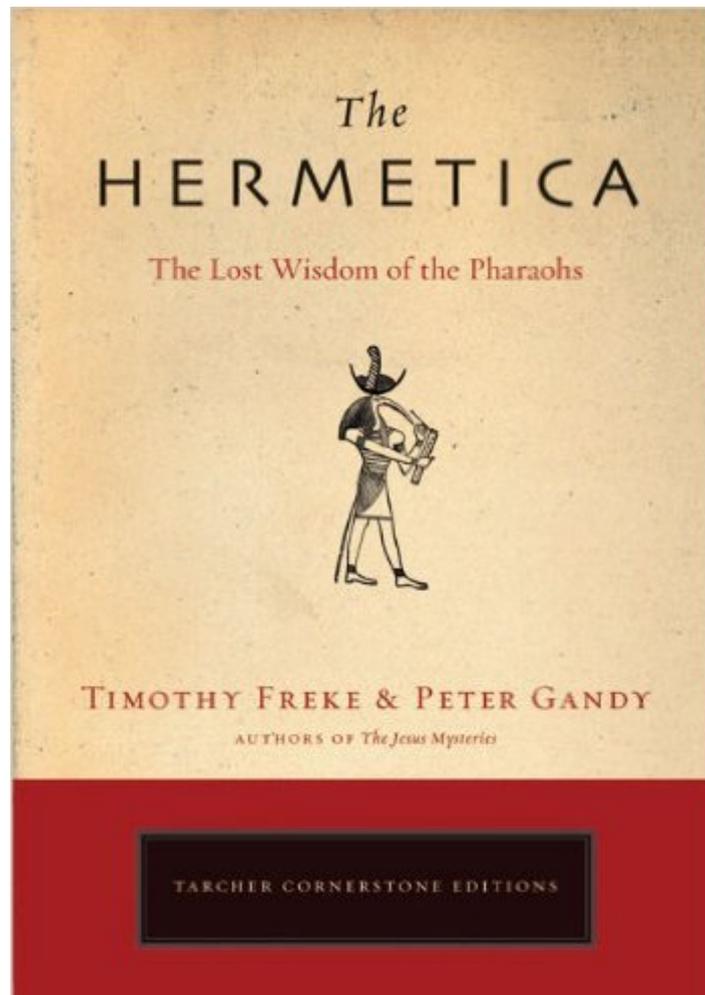


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The Hermetica: The Lost Wisdom Of The Pharaohs



Synopsis

The first easily accessible translation of the esoteric writings that inspired some of the world's greatest artists, scientists, and philosophers. Here is an essential digest of the Greco-Egyptian writings attributed to the legendary sage-god Hermes Trismegistus (Greek for thrice-greatest Hermes)?a combination of the Egyptian Thoth and the Greek Hermes. The figure of Hermes was venerated as a great and mythical teacher in the ancient world and was rediscovered by the finest minds of the Renaissance. The writings attributed to his hand are a time capsule of Egyptian and Greek esoteric philosophy and have influenced figures including Blake, Newton, Milton, Shelley, Shakespeare, Botticelli, Leonardo da Vinci, and Jung. Providing a fascinating introduction to the intersection of the Egyptian and Hellenic cultures and the magico-religious ideas of the antique world, The Hermetica is a marvelous volume for anyone interested in understanding the West's roots in mystical thought.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is basically a chop shop version of the Corpus Hermeticum and Asclepius, with translated excerpts taken from various sources including other authors who have been inspired by Hermeticism instead of the original source material itself. If that's what you're interested in, so much the better, but the title is really misleading. It would be more appropriate to say this book is a composite of Hermetic and Hermetically-inspired teachings. A number of the reviewers on here say they're newcomers to the Hermetica and that they really appreciated this approach, finding it simple and easier to digest. In fairness, I've been studying the Hermetica for years, so perhaps your needs

and views will be different from mine. I do have to say, however, that I found this book very deficient. I suppose if you want to study this subject, you could compare this book to fast food. Pros: 1) The intros are written in clear English that anyone with a high school level education should be able to understand. If you don't give a toss for footnotes, you'll like that. 2) There's a list of sources in the back for further reading, should you wish to take your Hermetic studies further. 3) There's also a list of where this book was excerpted from, which I appreciated. This book is so drastically different from the actual Hermetica that when I first opened it, I did a double-take. Cons: 1) The most obvious: this is an assortment of excerpts *from* the Hermetica as well as *about* the Hermetica.

I found this book interesting for getting the basic idea of what the Hermetica is. I guess some reviewers think it's too watered down and doesn't match the voluminous original texts. However I read one such book years ago which was overloaded with footnotes and sections written in the original language which unfortunately for me I am not fluent in. There's something to be said for creating an approachable introduction to such a metaphysical subject. The statements attributed to Thoth / Hermes in this book are very eloquent and poetic at times. He describes the universe as a goddess named Destiny who governs the stars and the constellations of the Zodiac. The Zodiac in turn governs the affairs of us mortals. On the day we are born the position of the constellations will foretell our destiny during this incarnation. I would like to find a good book about astrology that shows the connections between the Zodiac and Egyptian mysticism if anyone can think of one. I'm interested in what the 12 signs mean in relation to the effects of the constellations on the affairs of mortals. Some people see a connection between the Egyptian god Thoth and Christ like Thoth was Christ in another incarnation. Edgar Cayce stated that Thoth was the living embodiment of 'The Word' or something to that effect. The Gospel Of John describes Christ in that same way. Another possible connection with Christ is the way Thoth explained what the term 'born again' means. Christians use that term often but do they know what it really means? Perhaps they do know but they usually won't explain it in terms of Egyptian mysticism.

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