The Hermetica: The Lost Wisdom of the Pharaohs

By Timothy Freke, Peter Gandy

Penguin Putnam Inc. Paperback / softback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, The Hermetica: The Lost Wisdom of the Pharaohs, Timothy Freke, Peter Gandy, 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.

Reviews

Definitely one of the better books we have possibly read. We have read through and I also am certain that I am going to gonna study once again yet again in the foreseeable future. Once you begin to read the book, it is extremely difficult to leave it before concluding.
-- Enrique Labadie

It is fantastic and great. It is written in easy words and phrases instead of confusing. I am just delighted to explain how this is actually the best book I have got read through during my individual life and might be the finest publication for ever.
-- Prof. Murl Shanahan DDS
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In The Hermetica: The Lost Wisdom of the Pharaohs, Timothy Freke and Peter Gandy present a translation of the Greco-Egyptian sage Hermes Trismegistus’s writings. Thought to have been written around 3000 BC, these teachings encompass the mystical philosophy of ancient Egypt and have been ascribed as inspiration for artists, philosophers, and scientists such as Leonardo da Vinci, Carl Jung, and Sir Isaac Newton. While the current study in this issue of The Journal may not have the same far-reaching impact, the potential for advancement of our understanding of pulmonary vascular disease related The book reads simple and direct in giving various points of wisdom. Each chapter has a brief introduction followed by the free verse poem. Things that stood out for me were: 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. The Hermetica book. Read 90 reviews from the world’s largest community for readers. The first easily accessible translation of the esoteric writings that... Goodreads helps you keep track of books you want to read. Start by marking “The Hermetica: The Lost Wisdom of the Pharaohs” as Want to Read: Want to Read saving... Currently Reading. Read. Other editions. Enlarge cover.
The Hermetica is a collection of writings attributed to Thoth, a mythical ancient Egyptian sage whose wisdom is said to have transformed him into a god. Thoth, who was venerated in Egypt from at least 3000 BCE, is credited with the invention of sacred hieroglyphic writing, and his figure, portrayed as a scribe with the head of an ibis, can be seen in many temples and tombs. Previously these works had been believed to be of extreme antiquity dating back to the time of the pharaohs. In 1614 a scholar called Isaac Casaubon published a textual analysis of the Hermetica, which showed, quite correctly, that the grammar, vocabulary, form and content of the Greek versions of these works dated them to no earlier than the second and third centuries CE. The Return of the Serpents of Wisdom.

The book reads simple and direct in giving various points of wisdom. Each chapter has a brief introduction followed by the free verse poem. Things that stood out for me were 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.