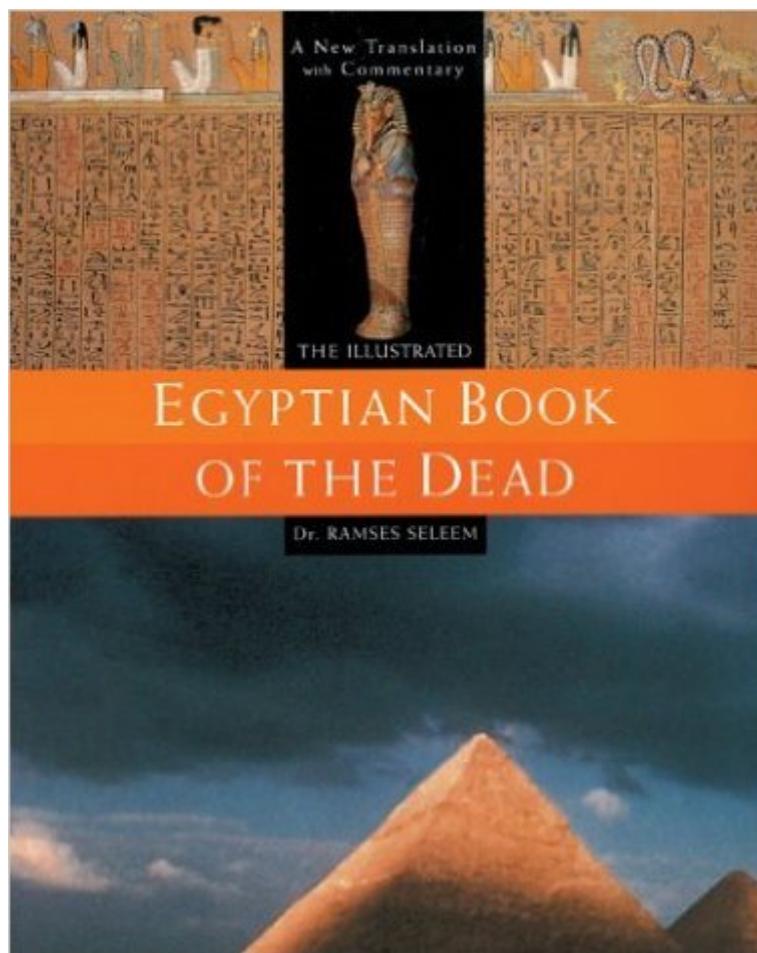


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The Illustrated Egyptian Book Of The Dead: A New Translation With Commentary



Synopsis

"Will provide a journey of enlightenment for all those interested in learning about new spiritual views toward life and death."--Booklist According to ancient Egyptian religion, we are travelers in eternity who require a body of knowledge that will take us into death...and beyond. The Egyptian Book of the Dead serves as our guide on this journey--an indispensable spiritual map. Here is the essence of that timeless guide, the complete Papyrus of Hunefer, including translation, commentary, and illustrations on every page. Brilliantly drawn hieroglyphs match the monumental art that appears on temple walls and even surpasses them in quality and clarity. Prayers, breathing exercises for protection, "negative confessions," and other rituals draw you fully into the spiritual experience. An introduction to one of the most important texts ever written, presented in visually breathtaking style.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Don't be put off by the title! The real title of 'The Egyptian Book of the Dead', is actually 'The Book of Coming Forth by the Light of Day', which describes how the soul travels through this world, the netherworld, and the spiritual realm and is therefore very relevant to the living person. This ancient text is said to be the only record of the two-fold mystery - the mystery of life and death and is meant to be read and re-enacted by the living to help them on this journey. In reality, therefore, the book of the dead is the Egyptian book of life - life now, life hereafter and life everlasting. Dr Seleem explains that a human being needs a map in order to travel both in this lifetime and beyond: 'How can you travel in life after death without knowing the way? The roads, ways, gates, hours, laws and guardians of life after death are explained in detail in the Book of the Dead and even though a copy

is buried with the deceased, it is better to learn this divine knowledge by heart and live it in this lifetime.' Dr Seleem has produced a magnificent book, beautifully illustrated with many stunning illustrations from a 19th century edition of the papyrus. As a background to his translation, he has incorporated an impressive and revelatory account of the Egyptian religion, philosophy and mythology which he studied for over 25 years, which for itself, is a sufficient reason to buy the book. He has worked with the original texts and incorporated the symbolic meaning which they contain, often missed by earlier authors. It will serve scholars, people fascinated by this most ancient of traditions and anyone seeking to understand the mystery of life and death and the journey of the soul.

There have been different editions of Illustrated Egyptian Book Of The Dead, a true spiritual and metaphysical classic; but this one from Sterling Publishing provides a new translation by Dr. Ramses Seleem of the first two chapters, extracts from the entire book selected with modern audiences in mind, and color photos and illustrations of both Egypt and ancient Egyptian relics. A gorgeous, gift quality edition offering new insights.

The translations in this book incorporate the symbolic meaning of the texts. Here is an example given by Dr. Seleem: A sentence from the text, if translated literally without consideration of the symbolic meaning, would read: "I am pure in my great double nests, in the city of Sutnn, in the day where the people gave offerings to the great principle in it." This translation is not only hard to understand, but misses the deeper meaning completely. However, if we look at the same sentence and consider its symbolic meaning we will obtain the following translation: "I achieved purification of my body and soul in the time of my youth, when other people were busy with the dazzling illusion of life." Dr. Seleem not only gives us a refreshing, new and insightful translation, but also includes valuable commentary. Included in this book is the entire Papyrus of Hunefer, and extracts from the Papyrus of Ani, the Papyrus of Enhai, the Papyrus of Gerusher, and the Negative Confessions of the Papyrus of the Royal Mother Nezembt. Dr. Seleem has also divided the translation into numbered sentences for easy reference and includes a glossary. This book is essential for understanding the True Spiritual meaning of literal translations of the texts.

While Dr. Saleem is certainly heartfelt in his presentation of the material, his work is marred by the long standing 19th century biases and a totally bizarre sense of linguistics. Much of what Saleem says reads as if taken directly from the works of Budge and the Theosophists. The idea of a

"esoteric monotheism" of ancient Egypt is unsupportable being rooted in long standing western cultural biases that look upon magic and polytheism as 'primitive' (How could Egypt be both advanced and polytheist? Take a look at Japan and find out). If you want to take an irresponsible and distorted New Age headtrip and pretend your learning about Ancient Egypt, read this book. If you would rather get a sense of the real mystery, power, beauty and magic of Egypt, read Bob Brier.

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