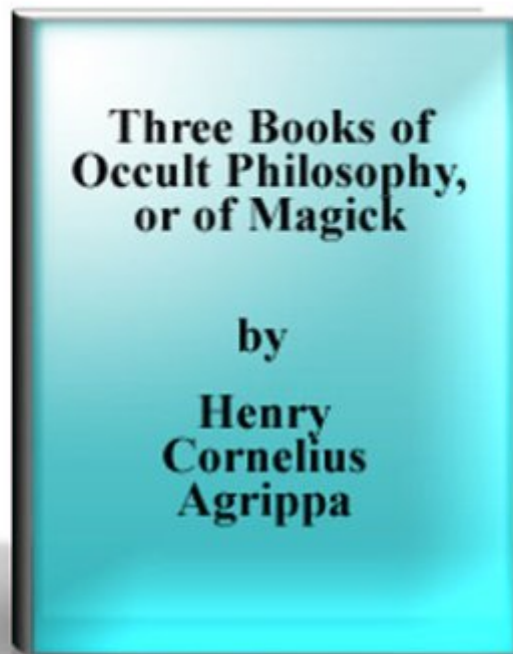




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Three Books Of Occult Philosophy, Or Of Magick



Synopsis

How Magicians Collect vertues from the three-fold World, is declared in these three Books. Seeing there is a three-fold World, Elementall, Celestiall, and Intellectual, and every inferior is governed by its superior, and receiveth the influence of the vertues thereof, so that the very original, and chief Worker of all doth by Angels, the Heavens, Stars, Elements, Animals, Plants, Metals, and Stones convey from himself the vertues of his Omnipotency upon us, for whose service he made, and created all these things: Wise men conceive it no way irrationall that it should be possible for us to ascend by the same degrees through each World, to the same very originall World it self, the Maker of all things, and first Cause, from whence all things are, and proceed; and also to enjoy not only these vertues, which are already in the more excellent kind of things, but also besides these, to draw new vertues from above. Hence it is that they seek after the vertues of the Elementall world, through the help of Physick [=medicine], and Naturall Philosophy in the various mixtions of Naturall things, then of the Celestiall world in the Rayes, and influences thereof, according to the rules of Astrologers, and the doctrines of Mathematicians, joyning the Celestiall vertues to the former: Moreover, they ratifie and confirm all these with the powers of divers Intelligencies, through the sacred Ceremonies of Religions. The order and process of all these I shall endeavor to deliver in these three Books: Whereof the first contains naturall Magick, the second Celestiall, and the third Ceremoniall. But I know not whether it be an unpardonable presumption in me, that I, a man of so little judgement and learning, should in my very youth so confidently set upon a business so difficult, so hard, and intricate as this is. Wherefore, whatsoever things have here already, and shall afterward be said by me, I would not have any one assent to them, nor shall I my self, any further then they shall be approved of by the Universall Church, and the Congregation of the Faithfull.

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Customer Reviews

A classic for those into the occult! This edition is easy to read while it stays true to the original text and meaning. A recommended reading for any one practicing any form of magic!

I absolutely love it. It is textbook-quality. It has a wealth of information about Agrippa's life, as well as other stuff. It is formatted as though it were a textbook, and loaded with sources, citations, footnotes, and commentaries. It seems like it was printed by a university's press. It is the ultimate source for somebody researching Agrippa, as well as an extremely spiritual and enlightening piece of illuminating literature for the student interested in alchemy and occult philosophy. Agrippa's language and writing are beautiful. I've been reading at least a chapter a day since I've gotten the book, in somewhat of the fashion of a daily bible reading. The chapters are short, but there is a lot to digest therein, and there are commentaries in the footnotes, which are almost as long as the chapter itself in some cases, that explain what Agrippa is talking about. This is one of the best transliterations of this work, and formatted for modern times I.E., Agrippa didn't use paragraph breaks in the original. I would definitely recommend this book to any student of the great work, or an academic researching the aforementioned topic.

This is not just a book, but it is an undertaking. True, that some of the information is a bit dated according to our modern sensibilities, however; the book itself is a vast tome of knowledge. The dedicated Scholar will find it intensely proliferated with points of view and examples of the inner workings of Magic. It is a wonderful read if one can make it through so thick a tome. This book makes you think outside the realms of comfort, and the authors history in and of itself would make a fine tale.

I just purchase Agrippa's Three Books of Occult Philosophy and I must say so far it has been one of, if not the best, book I've read on occultism, magic, or western occulticism/religion/metaphysics. Here are a few of the things that really impressed me: For starters, Agrippa seems very modern in that, whether he was aware of it or not, he brings up two points that I've only heard from more contemporary occultists. First, much of his book, to me, seems to tie in with Joseph Campbell's The Power of Myth (which discusses world myths and comparative religion). Agrippa, often when discussing a single concept, simultaneously pulls from Hebrew and the Qabalah, Christianity and the Bible, Greek, Roman, and Egyptian mythology, and Greek philosophers such as Plato and Pythagoras. It seems that in his mind, all these beliefs and philosophies hold truths in them and he takes them all into consideration, like a scientist would take in all the facts he receives from the natural world. I'm certain that if Agrippa was familiar with far east philosophy, such as Taoism and the concept of Yin and Yang, he would have incorporated that too, since it easily ties into a lot of the concepts he already elaborates on through the ideas of multiple religious and spiritual schools of thought. And secondly, the idea that what a magician is really doing is using words, symbols, etc. to focus and strengthen the mind and will, and that it is really the human mind and will that creates all the magic, is also suggested by Agrippa. I've read this theory from Aleister Crowley and another modern occultist (Brennan, I think). Agrippa states that words, numbers, and symbols have power because of the way they interact with our souls and that it is our souls that are actually effecting the world, not the words, symbols, etc. themselves. Furthermore, while the book has no apparent actual magic rituals, spells, etc., it provides the philosophy and concept behind the magic, which I feel is ultimately more important. The book is thoroughly annotated, to the point where the footnotes are often longer than the chapters, so that everything is understandable to a modern reader, and provides a great springboard for further and more in-depth study into all of Agrippa's sources and influences, and into some of the most important spiritual and philosophical writings in western history. And, just to make me love it more, Agrippa is probably the first occult writer who doesn't write with that annoying pompous, or arrogant attitude, nor talks down or oversimplifies things as if he thinks his readers are too stupid to understand. So many occult writers come off this way, either oversimplifying or overdoing it to the point of sounding arrogant or full of themselves. Agrippa talks like an educated scientist, talking to someone of equal intelligence on a subject that is serious, but accessible to all. In his words, occultism and magic don't seem to be some mysterious, shadowy, and dark subject, but rather a divine science and wisdom that can and should be used to elevate all mankind. So far I've been extremely inspired, pleased, and excited with this book. I strongly suggest

this book to anyone and everyone interested in not only occultism, but also religion, spirituality, metaphysics, and even history.

Cornelius Agrippa's Three Books of Occult Philosophy must rank as one of, if not the most important work ever written on the Western Occult tradition. Written in relative youth, it nevertheless has an immensely broad range of topics covering malefic and benefic magic while still remaining in the Christian tradition. Agrippa's work certainly provides numerous practical instructions, but always ties together a wide range of classical and traditional sources in a broad theoretical framework. As a traditional astrologer I found Agrippa's exposition of astrological magic to be among the best available in English, on a par with the Kaske and Clarke translation of Marsilio Ficino's Three Books on Life. This is not surprising as Agrippa draws directly from Picatrix, De Imaginibus of Thabit Ibn Qurra, Hermes on the 15 Fixed Stars and other key astrological magic texts. Donald Tyson, the editor of this modern edition of the original 17th century English translation of Three Books of Occult Philosophy, has done a good job of providing references and citations, though he occasionally makes technical mistakes. A perusal of the Brill Latin critical edition of Three Books of Occult Philosophy can be useful in this respect. In common with other traditional sources Agrippa does not lay out a recipe style method of magic (step 1, a, b, c, step 2, etc.) Instead as he states in the final chapter of book III, he deliberately scatters information throughout the three books. This points the way to the best method to learn from and absorb what Agrippa has written: deep and repeated study, practice and meditation. If I could have only one book on the Western occult tradition (perish the thought!) this would be it. Anyone with a serious interest in studying or practicing in this area should have this book.

I liked this book because it helps one to see more clearly. I would only recommend this book to those who are not fooled by christian hypocrisy and can think on their own.

Came on time and everything went well. Shipping was fast and I had no issues here.

Excellent book.

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