

the book of law by aleister crowley

The Book of Law by Aleister Crowley: Unlocking the Mysteries of Thelema

the book of law by aleister crowley stands as one of the most intriguing and controversial texts in modern occult literature. Officially titled **Liber AL vel Legis**, this work has captivated mystics, scholars, and seekers of esoteric knowledge since its publication in 1904. But what exactly is this enigmatic book, and why does it continue to inspire such fascination? In this article, we'll dive deep into the origins, themes, and lasting impact of the book of law by aleister crowley, shedding light on its complex symbolism and spiritual significance.

The Origins of The Book of Law

The story behind the book of law by aleister crowley is as mysterious as the text itself. Crowley claimed to have received the entire text through a supernatural experience during his stay in Cairo, Egypt, over three days in April 1904. According to Crowley, the text was dictated to him by a praeterhuman intelligence named Aiwass, whom he described as his Holy Guardian Angel.

This claim places the book in the category of "channeled" or "revealed" literature, similar to other religious texts that believers say were transmitted from higher powers. Crowley's role was that of a scribe, transcribing the words he heard without alteration. This origin story adds a mystique that continues to fuel interest and debate among occultists and historians alike.

Context of Early 20th Century Occultism

The early 1900s saw a surge of interest in esoteric traditions, from Theosophy to Hermeticism and spiritualism. Crowley was already an established figure in occult circles, known for his involvement with the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn. The book of law by aleister crowley emerged at a time when many sought new spiritual frameworks beyond traditional religion, making its radical ideas particularly resonant.

Core Themes and Philosophy of the Book of Law

At its heart, the book of law by aleister crowley introduces the philosophy of Thelema, a spiritual system centered around the concept of individual will and freedom. The famous maxim "Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the

Law” encapsulates this ethos, emphasizing personal sovereignty and self-realization above all else.

The Concept of True Will

One of the most profound ideas in the book is the notion of True Will – a person’s genuine purpose or path in life, often obscured by societal conditioning or personal fears. According to Crowley, discovering and following your True Will is the highest spiritual calling, and it requires deep introspection, discipline, and courage.

Symbolism and Language

The book of law by aleister crowley is famously cryptic, filled with symbolic language, numerical references, and allegories. Crowley employed a mix of poetic verses, mystical imagery, and references to Egyptian mythology, reflecting both his scholarly background and his desire to evoke multi-layered meanings.

For example, the number 93 is significant within Thelemic circles, representing both the Greek words “Agape” (love) and “Thelema” (will), which are central to the book’s teachings. Understanding these symbols often requires study and reflection, making the text a lifelong companion for many adherents.

The Impact of the Book of Law on Modern Occultism

The influence of the book of law by aleister crowley extends far beyond its initial publication. It effectively laid the foundation for Thelema as a distinct spiritual movement, influencing a variety of esoteric traditions and even popular culture.

Thelema as a Living Tradition

Following the book’s release, Crowley and his followers established Thelema as a religious and philosophical path. Thelemites interpret the book’s teachings in diverse ways, but all emphasize the primacy of individual will and the pursuit of spiritual freedom.

Many modern occult organizations trace their roots to Crowley’s work, incorporating Thelemic rituals, meditation practices, and ethical principles.

The book of law remains a central text for these groups, studied and revered as a source of profound wisdom.

Influence in Art and Culture

Beyond occult circles, the book of law by aleister crowley has inspired artists, musicians, and writers. Its themes of rebellion, freedom, and mystical exploration resonate with creative minds seeking to push boundaries. Notable figures such as Led Zeppelin's Jimmy Page famously collected Crowley's works, and references to Thelema appear in various films, novels, and music.

Approaching the Book of Law: Tips for New Readers

For those curious about exploring the book of law by aleister crowley, it's important to approach it with an open mind and a willingness to engage with its complexities.

- **Read Slowly and Reflectively:** The text's layered meanings often require multiple readings to grasp fully.
- **Study Contextual Material:** Background on Crowley's life, Egyptian mythology, and Thelemic philosophy can illuminate the text's references.
- **Join Study Groups:** Many occult communities offer discussions and interpretations that enrich understanding.
- **Keep a Journal:** Recording your insights and questions can deepen your personal connection to the material.

Common Misconceptions

It's worth noting that the book of law by aleister crowley is often misunderstood. Some portray it as a call to hedonism or chaos, but its core message is more nuanced, emphasizing responsibility alongside freedom. Crowley himself framed Thelema as a spiritual discipline requiring commitment and ethical consideration.

Legacy and Continuing Relevance

More than a century after its revelation, the book of law by Aleister Crowley continues to inspire and challenge readers worldwide. Whether approached as a religious scripture, a philosophical manifesto, or a piece of literary art, it invites each individual to question authority, explore personal truth, and embrace the mystery of existence.

In a world increasingly focused on conformity, the book's call to "Do what thou wilt" remains a powerful reminder of the importance of self-discovery and authenticity. As new generations encounter its words, the legacy of Crowley's radical text endures, evolving with each reader's unique journey.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'The Book of the Law' by Aleister Crowley?

'The Book of the Law,' also known as Liber AL vel Legis, is a short text written by Aleister Crowley in 1904, which serves as the central sacred text of Thelema, a spiritual philosophy he founded.

How was 'The Book of the Law' received when it was first published?

When first published, 'The Book of the Law' was met with both intrigue and skepticism. It was considered controversial due to its radical ideas and Crowley's reputation, but it gradually gained a significant following within occult and esoteric circles.

What is the main message of 'The Book of the Law'?

The main message of 'The Book of the Law' is the proclamation of a new era called the Aeon of Horus, emphasizing individual will, freedom, and self-realization, summarized by the famous phrase, 'Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.'

How did Aleister Crowley claim to have received 'The Book of the Law'?

Aleister Crowley claimed that 'The Book of the Law' was dictated to him in Cairo over three days in 1904 by a supernatural entity named Aiwass, whom he identified as his Holy Guardian Angel.

What role does 'The Book of the Law' play in Thelema?

'The Book of the Law' is the foundational text of Thelema, providing its core laws, principles, and spiritual guidance. Thelemites consider it a divine revelation that guides their philosophy and practices.

Are there controversies associated with 'The Book of the Law'?

Yes, 'The Book of the Law' has been controversial due to its esoteric content, Crowley's provocative lifestyle, and its challenges to conventional religious and moral norms. Some critics question its authenticity and ethical implications.

Where can one find a reliable edition of 'The Book of the Law'?

Reliable editions of 'The Book of the Law' can be found through reputable occult publishers such as Weiser Books or published by organizations like the O.T.O. (Ordo Templi Orientis). Many versions are also available online, but it's important to choose annotated editions for better understanding.

Additional Resources

The Book of Law by Aleister Crowley: An Investigative Exploration of Its Origins, Philosophy, and Impact

the book of law by aleister crowley stands as one of the most enigmatic and influential texts in modern occult literature. Officially titled **Liber AL vel Legis**, this work has fascinated scholars, practitioners, and critics alike since its mysterious reception in 1904. Exploring its origins, core tenets, and widespread influence reveals not only the complexities of Crowley's magnum opus but also its enduring resonance within esoteric and cultural domains.

Origins and Context of The Book of Law by Aleister Crowley

Aleister Crowley, a prolific writer and occultist, claimed that The Book of Law was dictated to him over three days by a supernatural entity named Aiwass while he was in Cairo, Egypt. This event, which reportedly took place in April 1904, is often described as a form of channeling or automatic writing, a process that imbues the text with an air of mystical authority. The book itself is divided into three chapters, each purportedly delivered by

different divine voices.

The historical context surrounding the book's emergence is critical to understanding its content. Crowley was deeply involved in Thelema, a spiritual philosophy emphasizing individual will and freedom. The Book of Law is considered the foundational text of Thelema, introducing ideas that diverged sharply from conventional religious and moral norms of the early 20th century.

The Textual Structure and Symbolism

Comprised of cryptic verses and poetic language, The Book of Law employs symbolism drawn from Egyptian mythology, Western esotericism, and Crowley's personal cosmology. The text's enigmatic style invites varied interpretations, complicating efforts to establish a definitive reading. For instance, the figure of Nuit, a sky goddess representing infinite space and possibilities, contrasts with Hadit, the point or core of consciousness, illustrating a dualistic tension central to Thelemic philosophy.

This symbolic density makes the book both challenging and compelling. Crowley's use of repetition, paradox, and esoteric references requires readers to engage deeply with the text, often necessitating supplementary commentaries for fuller comprehension.

Core Philosophical Themes in The Book of Law

At its heart, The Book of Law articulates a radical vision of personal sovereignty and cosmic order. Several key themes emerge prominently:

The Law of Thelema: "Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law"

Arguably the most famous injunction from the book, this phrase encapsulates the principle of discovering and enacting one's True Will—an individual's unique purpose or path in life. Unlike hedonistic interpretations that reduce this to mere indulgence, Crowley's concept emphasizes disciplined self-realization and alignment with a greater cosmic will.

Rejection of Conventional Morality

The book challenges existing religious and ethical frameworks, advocating for a new morality based on individual freedom rather than societal constraints. This stance has sparked controversy, as some critics view it as anarchic or

amoral, while supporters argue it empowers authentic spiritual growth.

Cosmic Dualism and Unity

Through the interplay of Nuit and Hadit, The Book of Law explores themes of duality and unity—space and point, infinite and finite, feminine and masculine. This dynamic reflects broader esoteric traditions and underscores the text's metaphysical dimensions.

Reception and Influence of The Book of Law by Aleister Crowley

Since its publication, The Book of Law has elicited a wide spectrum of responses. Within occult circles, it is often revered as a sacred scripture, foundational to Thelemic practice and modern magical systems. Crowley's followers utilize the text as a guide for ritual, meditation, and ethical conduct.

Conversely, mainstream religious institutions and secular critics have frequently dismissed or condemned the book, sometimes focusing on Crowley's controversial persona rather than the text's philosophical content. This dichotomy highlights the tensions between esoteric traditions and conventional cultural norms.

Impact on Popular Culture and Contemporary Spirituality

Beyond occult communities, The Book of Law and its principles have permeated broader cultural arenas:

- **Literature and Arts:** Numerous authors, musicians, and artists have drawn inspiration from Thelema and Crowley's writings, embedding esoteric motifs into their work.
- **New Age and Neo-Pagan Movements:** Elements of The Book of Law's philosophy have influenced modern spiritual practices emphasizing individual empowerment and syncretism.
- **Psychology and Self-Help:** The focus on uncovering one's True Will resonates with contemporary themes of self-discovery and authenticity.

Critical Analysis: Strengths and Limitations

The Book of Law's poetic and symbolic style is both a strength and a barrier. Its openness invites personal interpretation, allowing practitioners to tailor its teachings to their experiences. However, this ambiguity can also lead to misinterpretation or superficial readings.

Moreover, the book's challenge to traditional morality raises ethical questions. While promoting freedom, it demands a high level of personal responsibility to avoid nihilism or selfishness. This balance is not always clearly delineated, which has led to divergent applications and debates within Thelemic communities.

When compared to other esoteric texts, The Book of Law is distinctive for its modern origin and explicit focus on individual will as a cosmic principle. Unlike classical grimoires that emphasize ritual mechanics, Crowley's work blends metaphysics, poetry, and religious doctrine in a unique synthesis.

The Role of Interpretation and Commentary

Given the dense symbolism and cryptic language, numerous commentaries and scholarly works have emerged to elucidate The Book of Law. These range from Crowley's own extensive writings to contemporary academic analyses. Engaging with these resources is often essential for serious students seeking to grasp the text's full depth.

Conclusion: The Enduring Legacy of The Book of Law by Aleister Crowley

The Book of Law by Aleister Crowley remains a pivotal text in the study of modern occultism and alternative spirituality. Its blend of mystical experience, philosophical innovation, and literary artistry continues to challenge and inspire readers. Whether approached as a religious scripture, a psychological tool, or a cultural artifact, the book's influence is undeniable.

As interest in esoteric traditions grows, revisiting The Book of Law offers valuable insights into the complex interplay between individual freedom, cosmic order, and the quest for meaning in the modern age.

[The Book Of Law By Aleister Crowley](#)

the book of law by aleister crowley: *The Book of the Law* Aleister Crowley, 2018-07-30 The Book of the Law, the holy text that forms the basis of Thelema, was transmitted to Crowley by the entity known as Aiwass in Cairo, on three successive days during April 1904. Acting as a medium, Crowley recorded the communications on hotel notepads and later organized his automatic writing into a short, coherent document. Aiwass/Crowley presents The Book of the Law as an expression of three god-forms in three chapters: Nuit, Hadit, and Ra-Hoor-Khuit.

the book of law by aleister crowley: *The Book of the Law* Aleister Crowley, 2023-12-21 Aleister Crowley's 'The Book of the Law' presents a groundbreaking philosophical framework that defines modern occult theory through its unique literary style combining poetic prose, oracular declarations, and esoteric symbolism. Written in 1904, during a transformative period for western esotericism, the book claims to be the result of Crowley's reception of a mystical revelation from a higher intelligence known as Aiwass. This work serves as the foundational text for Thelema, advocating individual will as the ultimate means of spiritual attainment and freedom, encapsulated in its key tenet: Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law. Aleister Crowley, often referred to as the Great Beast, was a complex figure characterized by his fervent advocacy for personal liberation and his quest to integrate Eastern mysticism with Western esoteric traditions. His extensive travels, studies in various mystical arts, and his positions within several occult organizations uniquely equipped him with the philosophical insights necessary to confront the spiritual dogmas of his time. Thus, 'The Book of the Law' emerges from Crowley's concerns about the repressive moral structures of the early 20th century, dabbling in themes of spiritual and sexual liberation. Readers seeking to delve into the intricacies of spiritual autonomy and the intersection of modernity with ancient wisdom will find 'The Book of the Law' an engaging and provocative exploration. Crowley's work challenges not just the philosopher's view of morality but also invites an engaging dialogue on the nature of existence. For those intrigued by metaphysics, mysticism, or the occult, this seminal text is a must-read that fervently advocates for the exploration of one's true self.

the book of law by aleister crowley: *The Book of the Law* Aleister Crowley, Rose Edith Crowley, 2004-03-01 For the first time the Book of the Law is offered in a deluxe, hardcover edition fittingly issued in celebration of the 100th anniversary of Liber AL vel Legis's transmission to Crowley.

the book of law by aleister crowley: *Aleister Crowley's Liber Al Vel Legis* Aleister Crowley, Dennis Logan, 2017-03-09 Liber AL vel Legis, also known as The Book of the Law, is the central sacred text of Thelema. Channeled by Aleister Crowley and transcribed by his wife Rose Edith Crowley, The Book of the Law has become a cornerstone of New Age thought. **This version exists as accompaniment to the audiobook narrated by Dennis Logan, now available on CDBaby under the same title.

the book of law by aleister crowley: *Liber Al Vel Legis* Aiwass, Aleister Crowley, 1998-01

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the book of law by aleister crowley: *The Collected Works of Aleister Crowley* Aleister Crowley, S. L. MacGregor Mathers, Mary d'Este Sturges, 2023-11-20 The Collected Works of Aleister Crowley offers an unprecedented glimpse into the multifaceted oeuvre of one of the most controversial and influential figures in the esoteric tradition. This anthology weaves together a rich tapestry of poetry, essays, and hermetic teachings, showcasing the diversity of Crowley's literary output. Here, readers will encounter a profound exploration of mysticism, metaphysics, and the occult, artfully complemented by the editorial insights of S. L. MacGregor Mathers and Mary d'Este Sturges. The collection holds an eclectic mix of genres and styles, from the lyrical to the instructional, reflecting the complexity and genius that defined Crowley's prolific career. Crowley's works are curated alongside the interpretations and enhancements offered by his contemporaries, Mathers and Sturges, who themselves were pivotal figures in the late 19th and early 20th-century occult renaissance. These contributors draw upon their rich backgrounds in the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn and other esoteric circles, providing a coherent yet diverse spectrum of thought.

Mathers' translations and Sturges' own literary contributions serve to frame Crowley's revolutionary ideas within broader historical and cultural discourses, thus highlighting their lasting influence and resonance. This anthology is an indispensable resource for anyone interested in understanding the vibrant literary and mystical landscape of the time. The *Collected Works of Aleister Crowley* invites readers to engage with a range of themes and perspectives, offering a deeply educational journey into the world of esotericism. Whether a seasoned occultist or a curious newcomer, this curated collection fosters a dialogue that enriches one's appreciation of the mystical and magical in literature. Dive into this unique anthology to explore the boundless imagination and insights of some of the most iconic figures in modern esoteric thought.

the book of law by aleister crowley: *The Book of Law and The Book of Lies* Aleister Crowley, 2017-01-01 This single-volume edition unites two centerpieces of twentieth-century occult thinking by the wickedest man in the world. Notorious mystic and esoterist Aleister Crowley (1875-1947) remains a towering figure among occultists. His long and noteworthy career encompassed countless writings and the creation of his own religion, Thelema, the chief precept of which was Do what thou wilt. Crowley asserted that the content of *The Book of the Law* was dictated to him from the spirit world, and the 1909 publication formed the basis for Thelema. The volume's 1912 successor, *The Book of Lies*, features aphorisms and paradoxes that invoke the symbolism of Freemasonry and other traditions. *The Book of the Law* and *The Book of Lies* continue to rank among Crowley's most widely read writings. Both books have exercised a vast influence on popular culture and the practice of magic, offering fascinating glimpses into the author's mystic pursuits.

the book of law by aleister crowley: *The Law Is for All* Aleister Crowley, 1996-12-01

the book of law by aleister crowley: *The Law is for All* Aleister Crowley, 1996 Crowley discovered that the *Book of the Law* held the keys to the next step in human evolution but he felt he was too near to the subject matter to judge the value of his own commentaries. This authorized version of the commentaries was produced by editor Louis Wilkinson and completed posthumously.

the book of law by aleister crowley: *The Book of the Law* Aleister Crowley, 1983

the book of law by aleister crowley: *The Weiser Concise Guide to Aleister Crowley* Richard Kaczynski, 2009-04-01 Shrouded in mystery and misunderstanding, Aleister Crowley is one of the 20th century's most revered occult figures. With *The Weiser Concise Guide to Aleister Crowley*, readers are given a careful, comprehensive overview of Crowley's life from poet to practicing magician as well as his life's work, including the basic principles and rituals of his magical practices. Set aside your preconceptions and dismiss the rumors. Crowley was certainly a complex, controversial, and colorful man, but the truth is far more interesting than the legend.

the book of law by aleister crowley: *The Book of the Law* Aleister Crowley, 2011-06-01 2011 Reprint of 1938 American Edition. Liber AL vel Legis' or *The Book of the Law* is the central sacred text of Thelema, written by Aleister Crowley in Cairo, Egypt in the year 1904. Crowley says that the author was an entity named Aiwass, whom he later referred to as his personal Holy Guardian Angel (or Higher Self). The interpretation of the often cryptic text is generally considered a matter for the individual reader. The general method that Crowley used to interpret the obscurities of the book was the Qabalah. This edition also reproduces the original manuscript in Crowley's hand from which the printed version is composed.

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the book of law by aleister crowley: *THE RELIGION OF THELEMA* Aleister Crowley, S. L. MacGregor Mathers, Mary d'Este Sturges, 2021-07-16 Thelema is an esoteric and occult social or spiritual philosophy and religious movement developed in the early 1900s by Aleister Crowley. The Thelemic pantheon—a collection of gods and goddesses who either literally exist or serve as symbolic archetypes or metaphors—includes a number of deities, primarily a trio adapted from ancient Egyptian religion, who are the three speakers of The Book of the Law: Nuit, Hadit and Ra-Hoor-Khuit. This book thoroughly explains thelemic belief system which is synthesised from many sources, including Eastern Yoga, Hermeticism, medieval grimoires, contemporary magical theories from writers like Eliphas Levi and Helena Blavatsky, and Crowley's own original contributions. Aspects of Thelema and Crowley's thought in general inspired the development of Wicca and, to a certain degree, the rise of Modern Paganism as a whole, as well as chaos magick and some variations of Satanism. _x000D_ Contents: _x000D_ The Book of the Law (Liber AL vel Legis) _x000D_ The Law of Liberty (Liber DCCCXXXVII) _x000D_ Ecclesiæ Gnosticæ Catholicæ Creed _x000D_ Liber A'ash vel Capricorni Pneumatici _x000D_ Liber B vel Magi _x000D_ Liber Cheth vel Vallum Abiegni _x000D_ Liber Cordis Cincti Serpente _x000D_ Liber DCCCXIII vel Ararita _x000D_ Liber III vel Jugorum _x000D_ Liber Liberi vel Lapidis Lazuli _x000D_ Liber Librae _x000D_ Liber LXI vel Causæ _x000D_ Liber Porta Lucis _x000D_ Liber Resh vel Helios _x000D_ Liber Stellæ Rubeæ _x000D_ Liber Tzaddi vel Hamus Hermeticus

the book of law by aleister crowley: *Magick: Liber Aba* Aleister Crowley, Mary Desti, Leila Waddell, 1997-01-01 This profusely illustrated new edition brings together the complete texts of all four parts of Liber ABA (Book 4) in one volume under the overall title 'magick' This edition incorporates Crowley's own additions, corrections and annotations, and restores dozen of passages omitted from the first editions. 'Magick' is the fundamental textboool of modern magick in the New Eon. Ita also has invaluable teachings for studentes of Yoga and meditation. Crowley mastered the practices of Yoga during his studies in the East and writes about them lucidly, without recourse to the imprecise language of mysticism. Beginning with a discussion of the universal origin of world religions in mystical revelation, 'Magick' then explores the theory and practice of mysticism and magick in the light of modern scientific thought.

the book of law by aleister crowley: *The Book of the Law* Aleister Crowley, 2022-05-31 Aleister Crowley most important work the seminal holy book of his thelemic religion The Book of the Law, Liber AL vel Legis. New pocket edition measuring 4 x 6 inches. The book was allegedly received on 8 April, 9 April, and 10 April in Cairo in the 1904. Crowley attributed the authorship to an praeterhuman intelligence named Aiwass. Crowley would later identify the entity as his personal Holy Guardian Angel.

the book of law by aleister crowley: *The Book of the Law* Aleister Crowley, 2022 'The Book of the Law' is the source book and key for Crowley students, for the occult in general as well as Thelema. The holy text that forms the basis of Crowley's belief system, Thelema, was transmitted to him by the entity known as Aiwass over the course of three fateful April days in Cairo in 1904. With his wife Rose as the medium for what would become known as the Cairo Working, Crowley dutifully transcribed the communications on hotel stationery. This...edition contains the corrected text of the 1938 edition with a high resolution facsimile of Crowley's handwritten manuscript.-- Amazon.com.

the book of law by aleister crowley: *Understanding Aleister Crowley's Thoth Tarot* Lon Milo Duquette, 2017-09-01 Originally published in 2003, Understanding Aleister Crowley's Thoth Tarot has proved to be the essential guide to accessing the unique symbolism and meaning of

Aleister Crowley's remarkable tarot deck along with the deeply textured artwork of Lady Frieda Harris. Crowley authority Lon Milo DuQuette starts by providing an insightful historical background before delving into descriptions of each card in depth, from a tarot perspective and from an expanded, magickal point of view. He first describes the tarot meaning of each card in detail and then explains all the other attributions Crowley intended. This unique guide has been updated with a new introduction that provides information on the unicursal hexagram cards included with the deck but never explained. Replaces ISBN 9781578632763

the book of law by aleister crowley: Overthrowing the Old Gods Don Webb, 2013-11-02
New commentaries on Aleister Crowley's Book of the Law reveal how it is connected to both Right- and Left-Hand Paths • Examines each line of the Book of the Law in the light of modern psychology, Egyptology, Gurdjieff's teachings, and contemporary Left-Hand Path thought • Explores Crowley's identification with the First Beast of Revelations as well as his adoption of the Loki archetype for becoming a vessel of love for all humanity • Recasts the Cairo Working as a text of personal sovereignty and a relevant tool for personal transformation • Includes commentary on the Book of the Law by Dr. Michael A. Aquino, who served as High Priest of the Temple of Set from 1975 to 1996
Received by Aleister Crowley in April 1904 in Cairo, Egypt, the Book of the Law is the most provocative record of magical working in several hundred years, affecting not only organizations directly associated with Crowley such as the Ordo Templi Orientis but also modern Wicca, Chaos Magic, and the Temple of Set. Boldly defying Crowley's warning not to comment on the Book of the Law, Ipsissimus Don Webb provides in-depth interpretation from both Black and White Magical perspectives, including commentary from Dr. Michael A. Aquino, who served as High Priest of the Temple of Set from 1975 to 1996. Webb examines each line of the Book in the light of modern psychology, Egyptology, existentialism, and competing occult systems such as the teachings of G. I. Gurdjieff and contemporary Left-Hand Path thought. Discarding the common image of Crowley formulated in a spiritually unsophisticated time when the devotee of the Left-Hand Path was dismissed as a selfish evil doer, Webb unveils a new side of Crowley based on his adoption of the Loki archetype and his aim to become a vessel of love for all humanity. In so doing, he shows how the Book of the Law is connected to both Right- and Left-Hand Paths and reveals how Crowley's magical path of mastery over the self and Cosmos overthrew the gods of old religion, which had kept humanity asleep to dream the nightmare of history. Providing in-depth analysis of Crowley's sources and his self-identification with the First Beast of Revelation from a profound esoteric perspective, Webb takes his views out of the Golden Dawn matrix within which he received the Book of the Law and radically recasts the Cairo Working as a text of personal sovereignty and a relevant tool for personal transformation.

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