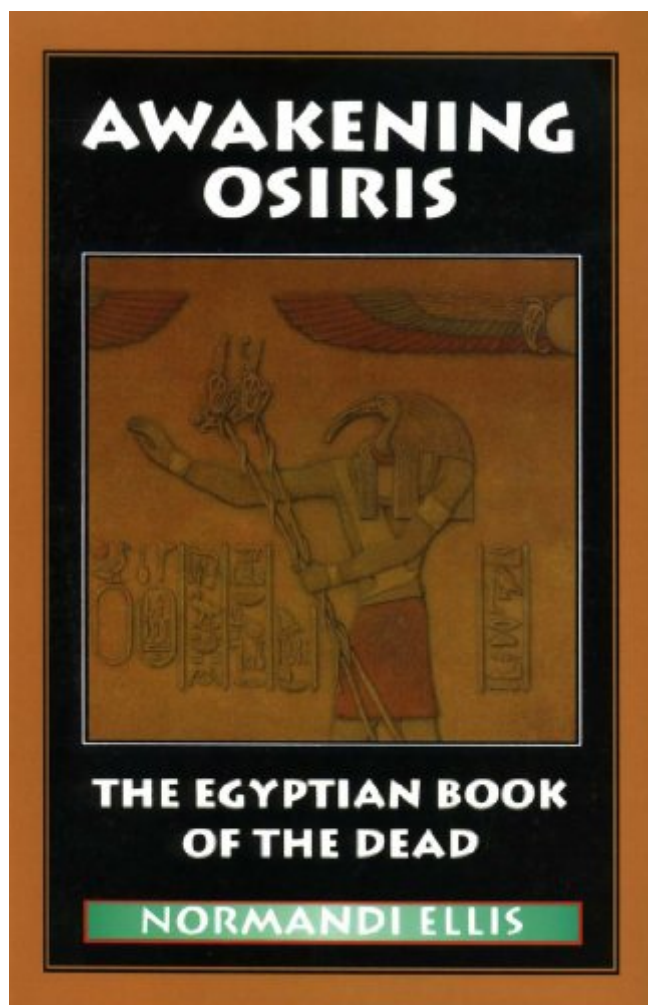


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Awakening Osiris: A New Translation Of The Egyptian Book Of The Dead



Synopsis

The Egyptian Book of the Dead is one of the oldest and greatest classics of Western spirituality. Until now, the available translations have treated these writings as historical curiosities with little relevance to our contemporary situation. This new version, made from the hieroglyphs, approaches the Book of the Dead as a profound spiritual text capable of speaking to us today. These writings suggest that the divine realm and the human realm are not altogether separate/ they remind us that the natural world, and the substance of our lives, is fashioned from the stuff of the gods. Devoted like an Egyptian scribe to the principle of "effective utterance", Normandi Ellis has produced a prose translation that reads like pure, diaphanous verse.

Book Information

File Size: 1958 KB

Print Length: 234 pages

Publisher: Phanes Press (June 5, 2009)

Publication Date: June 5, 2009

Sold by:Ã Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B009S8UORE

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #490,575 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #24

inÃ Â Books > Religion & Spirituality > Other Religions, Practices & Sacred Texts > Egyptian Book of the Dead #200 inÃ Â Books > History > World > Religious > New Age, Mythology & Occult #332 inÃ Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Religion & Spirituality > New Age > Reincarnation

Customer Reviews

This isn't a novel so the buttons above don't really apply. This is a re-imagining of the Book Of The Dead as poetry. In fact it's plausible that the original was intended to be less instruction manual and more poetry, or a poetic instruction manual. I have read other interpretations and enjoyed the fresh view!

Translators who simply translate from language to language often produce rather jarring versions that do no honor to the original author; one senses the off-key notes, the apparently missed nuances of meaning, the grating word choices that do not feel right. Better translators are highly in touch with the original's language and are capable of immersing themselves accurately in the culture, the milieu, the feelings and thoughts of the author. But the best translators are also gifted writers in their own right with the capacity to breathe life into a translation, to convey its heart, its original power, and its literary beauty. Normandi Ellis is one of those rare, gifted translators, and it seems she has given this Egyptian masterwork the translation it has so long deserved. She has channeled through her own heart the original texts' emotion, its sensitivity, its ability to take us deep into the heart of being alive and shake from us for a time our habituated thought processes. Her translation conveys so well the original writers' insight and concision - their ability to express their lives with the delicate accuracy of the scalpel and the power of the sledgehammer. I find myself deeply affected by the focused beauty of their poetry... its tactile sense of the physical, its phrasing, its fire, its awareness... the thoughts, images, and metaphors are at times so profound I cannot shake them from my mind. Nor would I want to. Finally readers of English can feel the beating heart of Egypt, embrace and cherish the Egyptians' uniquely beautiful rendering of what we also know our lives to be. The Egyptian soul is the soul of us all - and *Awakening Osiris* is a gift because this writer has been able to convey those sensory images chosen from lives lived fully... the profound understandings and metaphors derived from lives considered deeply... joys, griefs, beauties, reactions, realizations, all expressed so simply and symbolically... This book has gripped my heart, lifted me into a surprisingly deep sense of unity with the Egyptian heart, and even carried me up onto new pinnacles of insight. This is rare; it is golden. *Awakening Osiris* is so deep, so wise, so beautiful and moving, I already keep it by and hold it dear. It is one of two books I would now grab (the other being *Fool's Crow: Wisdom and Power*) were fire to approach. I find it uniquely profound and all the more powerful for its memorable symbolic phrasing. The words and images are so beautiful and so deep they can arrest my habitual thinking and rivet me uncharacteristically for long moments of appreciation and remembrances of my own. How rare! And how amazing, to find so much of my own heart expressed by writers living perhaps 3000 years ago. Not knowing your nature or where you are in your life journey, I do not presume to know how you yourself will perceive the book. I can only share my experience. So as with all things involving opinion I add that perpetual caveat: Your mileage may vary.

I read this book several years ago and loved it. As an adaption from the initial Book of the Dead, it is much easier to read and actually take in. Being a Wiccan whose principal god is Osiris, it made him even more real to me. However, I recommend it to anyone who is interested in Egyptian Culture.

I thought this book was out of print; but I was wrong!!! I have a first edition which is dog-eared.

There is something new with each reading. Now I have a kindle version. What a pleasure!

This is great book, deeply spiritual, beautifully translated and full of life lessons and meaning. It has the heart of Judeo-Christian ethics long before those religions began. Ancient Egypt was a profound and spiritual civilization, as made clear by this translation of parts of the Egyptian Book of the dead, one of the central texts of those great ancient people. Normandy Ellis' translation is beyond superb.

I read this book from my local library and wanted one of my own. "The Bath" is worth the price of the book on its' own. Inspiring, interesting.

The translations are easy to grasp, and Normandi has captured the writing style of each of the books brilliantly. She has a deep understanding of the meanings behind the documents and translates them for us in a way that we are captured by the poetry as well as the spiritual understanding. I really love this book, and quote it often.

The quality of the translation, in my humble opinion is refreshing, so many editors just rehash Budge, but Ms. Ellis gives an illuminating and quality presentation, it presents ancient texts in lighter, less mystical mumbojumbo.

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