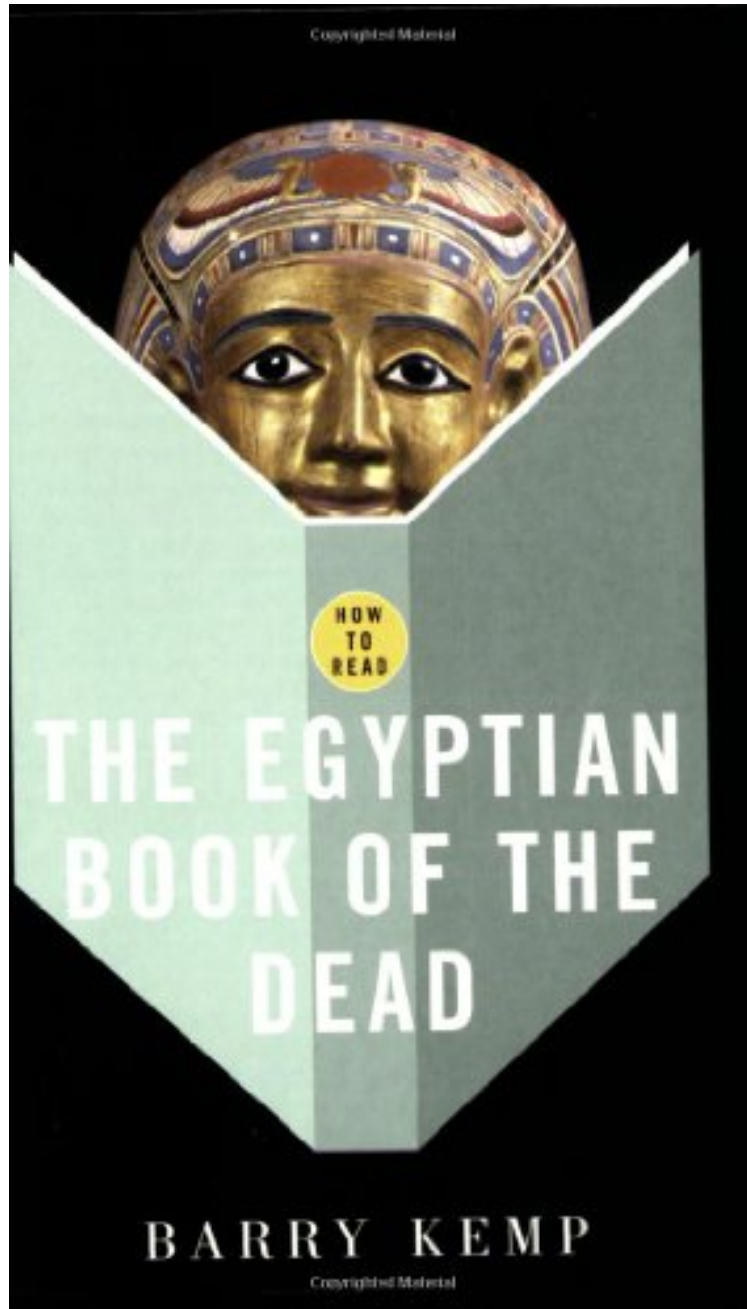


(Download pdf ebook) How to Read the Egyptian Book of the Dead

How to Read the Egyptian Book of the Dead

Barry Kemp

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Barry Kemp : How to Read the Egyptian Book of the Dead before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How to Read the Egyptian Book of the Dead:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. HelpfulBy Elizabeth A. GibsonThis book definitely offered insight and assistance in understanding the spells in the Book of the Dead, and the author does a nice job of trying to fit the spells into the everyday life and world-view of the ancient Egyptian. He seemed to me at times, however, to be a little bit condescending toward his subjects and the period, as if the Egyptian worldview and religion were inferior to our own (not in every respect, surely). Overall, though, I found it a short, helpful companion to my beautiful oversized version of the papyrus of Ani.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy RobertoExcellent.2 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Good Information, But Disappointed With Some of the DeliveryBy DellaAt roughly 110 pages, Kemp's book is more of a long pamphlet. But for those interested in understanding the mindset behind the Book of the Dead (or Peret em Heru--Coming Forth by Day), this book will be a welcome addition to the bookshelf. Kemp's writing is clear, enjoyable to read, and at times quite insightful.Kemp had a habit of subtly putting down the ancient Egyptians at times, while demonstrating a degree of respect for them at others. The part that grated most was when Kemp kept calling the ancient Egyptians' religion an invented one, as if the ancients were silly savages whose thoughts had no merit. It was really a matter of tone and how he framed it. This was the one flaw that marred an otherwise wonderful addition to my Egyptology collection.

The Egyptians created a world of supernatural forces so vivid, powerful and inescapable, that controlling one's destiny within it was a constant preoccupation. In life, supernatural forces manifested themselves through misfortune and illness, and after death were faced for eternity in the Otherworld along with the divine gods that controlled the universe. "The Book of the Dead" empowered the reader to overcome the dangers lurking in the Otherworld and to become one with the gods that governed. Barry Kemp selects a number of spells to explore who and what the Egyptians feared and the kind of assistance that the Book offered them, revealing a relationship between the human individual and the divine quite unlike that found in the major faiths of the modern world.

* 'A capsule key to the ancient Egyptian mind' Dr. Norman Hammond, Archaeology Correspondent, The Times *
'Excellent, unusual and arresting...This is most certainly a book that will challenge and reward' New World * 'A fascinating tour of the most significant hieroglyphs and the people who created them' VeloCity magazine
About the AuthorBarry Kemp is Professor of Egyptology at the University of Cambridge. He is a Fellow of the British Academy and Field Director of The Egypt Exploration Society's archaeological expedition to Tell el-Amarna. He is the author of Ancient Egypt; Anatomy of a Civilization and 100 Hieroglyphs.