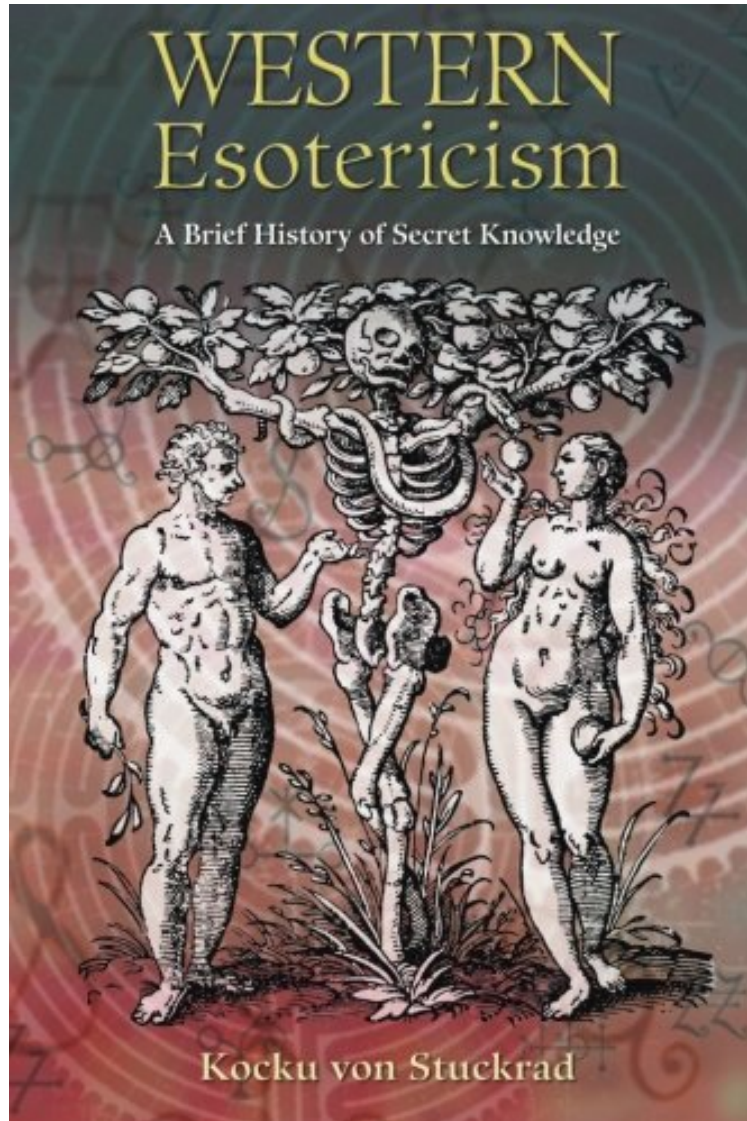


(Mobile book) Western Esotericism: A Brief History of Secret Knowledge

Western Esotericism: A Brief History of Secret Knowledge

Kocku von Stuckrad, Nicholas Goodricke-Clarke
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Kocku von Stuckrad, Nicholas Goodricke-Clarke : Western Esotericism: A Brief History of Secret Knowledge before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Western Esotericism: A Brief History of Secret Knowledge:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Great Starting Point For Anyone Interested in Western Esotericism By Grant Hemingway Kocku Von Stuckrad teaches at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands and is respected as an expert in the field of Western Esotericism. I have just completed my MA in Western Esotericism at

the University of Exeter in the UK and this book was an invaluable guide to the topic. The book is translated by Nicholas Goodrick-Clarke who is the Course Director at the University of Exeter. It is easy to read and understand even for a newcomer to the field and provides a broad overview of the key subjects in Western Esotericism. I would highly recommend this book to anyone wishing to learn more about esoteric philosophy and especially the idea of *philosophia perennis* or eternal philosophy that can be traced from ancient Greece through the Renaissance to the present day. It is a fascinating subject and well worth investigating further. 4 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A college level "history of" class. By m mann. Not for someone seeking to pursue personal, in depth exploration of esotericism from a practice point of view..it's an academics point to point history of the who when where..it doesn't raise or answer any questions. 12 of 13 people found the following review helpful. A New Classic - the model of what this kind of writing can be. By Albert Hand. This is exactly the textbook that students of Western Esotericism has been waiting for. Condensed, readable introductions to the key terms and figures are accompanied by detailed notes. The writing is tidy and logical, free of the kinds of ideological baggage that have accompanied too much scholarship on the subject, doing justice to the complex and often unfairly-judged historical personalities involved. Anybody who has despaired of the difficulty in "finding good information about the occult" need look no further--they will likely be delightfully surprised to discover readable summaries of so much current research in the field. Academic specialists in the field will find this book indispensable, but it may be of interest to spiritual seekers and practicing occultists as well as a source for the historical background to their own path. Even advanced occultists will likely find much scholarly information of value in this text, which is the most handy single reference source of its size in the field.

A controversial issue of public debate during the recent years, esotericism can be described as the search for an absolute but hidden knowledge that people claim to access through mystical vision, the mediation of higher beings, or personal experience. In Western cultural history these claims often led to conflicts with more established forms of scriptural religions and with reductionist interpretations in science and philosophy. In this highly readable book Kocku von Stuckrad describes the impact of esoteric currents from antiquity to the present and pursues the continuities and breaks in a tradition that significantly influenced the formation of modernity. When Hermes Trismegistos reveals wisdom of an absolute quality, the unveiling of hidden knowledge in Jewish Kabbalah is transformed by Christians, Renaissance thinkers speak of an 'eternal philosophy,' or when in the 'New Age' people try to get in contact with a source of superior understanding--in every case the dynamic of concealment and revelation is at stake and the ways this hidden knowledge can be made accessible for human curiosity.

"Von Stuckrad is one of the most respected figures in the rich and blossoming field of Western esotericism. Impressive in breadth, analysis and clarity, this text is an excellent introduction to Western esotericism and a welcome addition to any undergraduate or graduate syllabus. Highly recommended." --Religious Studies "Combines chronological organization with an encyclopedic richness." --The Journal of Religion "A handy orientation to newcomers to the vast field of esoteric studies - Stuckrad traces the historical reach of Gnosticism, hermeticism, alchemy, Kabbalah, Neoplatonism, Rosicrucians, Freemasonry and Theosophy into the modern world." --www.wordtrade.com About the Author Kocku von Stuckrad is a Professor in the Religious Studies Department at the University of Groningen.