



Magick Without Tears

Aleister Crowley , Israel Regardie (Editor) , Karl Germer (Foreword) , Christopher S. Hyatt (Epilog)

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In 1943 Aleister Crowley initiated a circle of correspondence by way of magickal training for a number of his students. It eventually resulted in this volume of 80 letters, Crowley's personal commentary on his own magickal training and insight. This is Crowley at his best, leading you gradually into the magickal philosophy behind one of the great mystics of our century and illuminating all that was previously unapproachable in earlier writing. These letters show him not to be a "drug dimmed addict," an image fostered by legend, but rather as a vital, intelligent avatar, perhaps more lucid in these last years than in his youth.

Magick Without Tears is no less than a personal encyclopedia of magickal instruction, annotated by experience and explained in unguarded language. Crowley covers: how to use the Qabalah as a tool rather than merely a system of reference; the symbols of magick; etymology and its philosophy; the three major schools of magick—white, black, and yellow—and their approach to life and use of power; hints for meditation and astral projection; the Yi King; *The Book of the Law*; *the Tarot*; *Astrology*; *the importance of talismans, lamens and pentacles*; *how to distinguish prophecy from coincidence*; etc. etc.

Magick Without Tears Details

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From Reader Review Magick Without Tears for online ebook

Koyote Blind says

This is a most valuable tome that shows Crowley's mature thought, helping the reader navigate his previous work on Magick and Yoga. Clear and concise, it provides the key that opens the lock to understanding of the titanic opus he authored.

Tim says

If you want to know what Thelema is, and you want it straight from The Beasts mouth, then this is the book for you. Magick without tears is a collection of over 80 letters between Aleister Crowley and several other students, but to avoid confusion, the recipient is given one name: Cara Soror.

The candidness with which Aleister Crowley writes, makes one wonder why he was so cryptic in most of his other writings.

Oh that's right, because he was learning as he went, and thus the mystery of Aleister Crowley is that he was one of really only a handful of occultists that documented his successes *and* failures.

He answers questions pertaining to The Book of the Law, The O.T.O., Yoga/meditation, ceremonies and several other topics. The price of the book is among the more costly of his books, but worth it on every level.

Fredstrong says

This is among the most comprehensive introductions to magickal theory ever written. Caveat emptor, Crowley makes it quite easy to spiral into his system, Thelema, at the exclusion of the traditional Western paths, i.e. the Golden Dawn, (from which Crowley emerged). It's good to read other authors along with Crowley to gain a holistic understanding of the Western paradigm. That being said, this book in conjunction with Book 4, is a pretty thorough introduction to the principles of ceremonial magick. Liber ABA is an expensive hardcover that contains Book Four, Magick Without Tears, and an explanation of Thelema as well.

However, before one could even think about Practical Qabalah, they should have at least a cursory understanding of Qabalistic theory, and the Tarot. For an introduction to the Qabalah, The Mystical Qabalah, by Dion Fortune is a great start. For the Tarot, The Book of Thoth, by Aleister Crowley, is the best, but like Liber ABA, or Magick Without Tears, may be a bit advanced. The Qabalistic Tarot, by Robert Wang, is a great place to start. By comparing four different decks including the Thoth Deck, it also provides the reader with the changes Crowley made to the traditional attributions and the reasoning behind them. The Book of Tokens, by Paul Foster Case, may also be of assistance.

An online version of Magick Without Tears, can be found here:

Chris says

The first half of Crowley's last book, commented by Motta--if you have this edition, you are quite lucky--is compulsive reading for anyone interested in the occult. Crowley answers letters about various occult topics including astral travel, meditation, God, and whatnot. A lot of the time it seems Crowley is answering the question with a question or beating around the bush with his clever sophistry, or go on a digression promising it will lead to an answer, usually leaving one hungering for more. But as one knows there are no simple answers to these kinds of questions and Crowley does point us in the right direction in the end. One has to put in hard work to get results. What does one expect when this book was published for the public? Motta's comments come off as annoyingly interruptive to Crowley's writing because it cuts off typically in the middle of his paragraphs and sentences in brackets! Not even footnotes or different font. Also, it may seem like he wasn't the biggest fan of jews (though he repeatedly says he admires them), but once you can get over these issues his comments actually do add a lot to Crowley's text, though I'm sure Crowley would not have wholly approved of this edition, it will become evident to the non naive reader that Regardie's edition is a deliberate distortion. Motta's edition shows why Regardie cut what he did and has a history, albeit short, of the O.T.O. In the end you will thank Motta for illuminating many of Crowley's cryptic responses. I will have to read a pdf of this online when I reread because I fear of harming my moderately rare Motta edition of *Magick Without Tears*! It did cost me a pretty penny... Highly recommended!

Stewart says

A magnificent and articulate collection of letters on what might otherwise be unfathomable subject matter. Neither scandalous nor shocking, this is Aleister Crowley at perhaps his most cogent -- person to person.

Michael says

Probably the best introduction to Crowley's thinking about Magick, certainly the easiest to get into. The book is based on a letter exchange that he did with a fairly beginner student. Each letter or essay covers one topic almost exclusively, and there are ~50 of them.

All very succinctly written and to the point. Highly recommended for anyone interested in Magick, Metaphysics, Paganism, Ritual, and other, whether interested in Thelema or not.

Chris says

Anyone interested in the OTO Outer Head scandal involving Marcelo Motta and Karl Germer and Samuel Weiser should definitely check this book out (if you ever find it). Otherwise Motta's Unexpurgated and Commented version should be online.

oh carlyn what key says

this is like THE IDIOT'S GUIDE TO CROWLEY. typical him, it's like he's on a stage reciting it as you're reading it and drinking tea with his pinkie up. played.

Walter Five says

This book is a marvelous compendium of letters from the pen of arguably the greatest Occultist of the 20th Century, written in the 1940's to various of his beginning and intermediate students. In them Crowley is the soul of brevity and wit, going straight to the point, time and time again, without the blinds, without the double meanings, without cryptic references, without obscure Greek and Latin passages, written in plain English: the private letters of a great Teacher to his inquiring students.

An amazing work, Crowley discusses the principles and practice of various magical disciplines in an easy to understand manner without becoming over-simplistic. He explains many of the pitfalls in the path, and gives details on the "Black Brothers" who fall from the Great Work. Those who seek more specific practical instruction would do well to seek out Crowley's own Magick: Liber ABA (Book 4) and/or Lon Milo Duquette's The Magick of Aleister Crowley: A Handbook of the Rituals of Thelema

This book, and the The Book of Thoth give lie to the myth that in his declining years Crowley was a confused and bitter old man in his dotage: these two works both illustrate that Crowley's mind was as sharp as it ever was, and that his grasp of the Mysteries had deepened as his admittedly acerbic character mellowed in his old age.

It makes no matter if you are a student of the Golden Dawn, the O.T.O., the Servants of Light, the Builders of the Atydium, or the A.'.A.'., if Qabbalistic Hermeticism is your cup of tea, you'll find much to quench your thirst for knowledge with this volume. My only criticism with this particular edition is that Mr. Regardie edited over 300 pages of material included in the 1954 1st edition. Be aware that there exists a two-volume edition of this book, published about 30 years ago-- that edition is unexpurgated and heavily commented on by Marcello Motta, but the second volume of the set is devilishly tricky to find.

Francesco D'Isa says

All words are magical; that's the secret of witchcraft. Brilliant insights and funny delusions on every one out of two pages.

Plot: A correspondence course of magic.

- See more at: <http://www.rtbookreviews.com/rt-daily...>

Anna says

This is an odd book, full of obscure occult references and ideas, moments of lucidity, and other moments of pure nonsense. It is however entertaining, and is a good place to start reading Crowley, as it sums up a lot of his ideas in one volume. Written as a series of letters to a students, "Cara Soror," it has a very immediate and conversational feeling, and works just as much in a literary sense as in an instructive sense, almost as if it were a fake epistolary novel. Crowley's interests indeed have as much to do with literature as with magick or

religion. As one point he even points to Virgil as a supremely magickal writer! This book by a British wag and wit (albeit a "wicked" one), is fun to read if not terribly disciplined in form or content.

Justin says

Easier to read than most of Crowley's works, still very difficult for me.
I will try to find a more suitable (for me) launch pad into new ways of thought.

The Elves says

the title alone...

dear conjurers,

... nearly makes this book worthwhile. In the form of a series of letters in response to a Sister of the Order, Crowley tells us much and in detail of various aspect of magic and the occult. It is a truly worthy book. However, the copy we had from New Falcon Publications, had a collating error so about 20-30 pages or so in the earlier part of the book appeared again and replaced a section later in the book. So you might wish to check with your seller to see if this is the case. Nonetheless, even with that difficulty, which was a bit frustrating, we thoroughly enjoyed this book and were glad we read it, and if it hadn't been for that error would probably have kept the book instead of trading it back in to the used bookstore from which we had purchased it.

kyela,

the silver elves

authors of books on elven magic and enchantment, including Ruminations on Necromancy

Fratrem Ozomahtli says

This really is one of the best starting points for anyone who is interested in the work of Aleister Crowley. Perhaps before this, Book 4 (the small black version) should be read prior and definitely have on hand to refer back to being that Crowley asks that of Cara Soror many times. There are indeed quite a few cringeworthy moments, especially considering todays more socially aware audiences but if one can understand that Crowley was also a product of his time as well as read the letters to the very end, it's easy to understand that these are simply - again - products of their time. Definitely reccomend and if one can, find a physical copy to be able to visit back to time and time again.

Nicole says

Crowley is at best a pompous ass...
