

The Secret Lore Of Magic

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first published in 1957 the secret lore of magic contains within it a series of major source books of magical arts many of them translated into english for the first time these works are annotated and fully illustrated the book's title in itself signalled the fact that the bulk of material in this bibliographical study had never been published openly before together with oriental magic which appeared in the preceding year it provided a complete survey of fundamental magical literature and thus a comprehensive reference system for psychologists ethnologists and others interested in the rise and development of human beliefs both books also introduced the general reader to dependable information about what was a shadowy and confusing subject

egyptomania takes us on a historical journey to unearth the egypt of the imagination a land of strange gods mysterious magic secret knowledge monumental pyramids enigmatic sphinxes and immense wealth egypt has always exerted a powerful attraction on the western mind and an array of figures have been drawn to the idea of egypt even the practical minded napoleon dreamed of egyptian glory and helped open the antique land to explorers ronald h fritze goes beyond art and architecture to reveal egyptomania's impact on religion philosophy historical study literature travel science and popular culture all those who remain captivated by the ongoing phenomenon of egyptomania will revel in the mysteries uncovered in this book

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toward the end of the mesopotamian epic of gilgamesh king gilgamesh laments the untimely death of his comrade enkidu my friend whom i loved dearly similarly in the bible david mourns

his companion jonathan whose love to me was wonderful greater than the love of women these passages along with other ambiguous erotic and sexual language found in the gilgamesh epic and the biblical david story have become the object of numerous and competing scholarly inquiries into the sexual nature of the heroes relationships susan ackerman s innovative work carefully examines the stories sexual and homoerotic language and suggests that its ambiguity provides new ways of understanding ideas of gender and sexuality in the ancient near east and its literature in exploring the stories of gilgamesh and enkidu and david and jonathan ackerman cautions against applying modern conceptions of homosexuality to these relationships drawing on historical and literary criticism ackerman s close readings analyze the stories of david and gilgamesh in light of contemporary definitions of sexual relationships and gender roles she argues that these male relationships cannot be taken as same sex partnerships in the modern sense but reflect the ancient understanding of gender roles whether in same or opposite sex relationships as defined as either active male or passive female her interpretation also considers the heroes erotic and sexual interactions with members of the opposite sex ackerman shows that the texts language and erotic imagery suggest more than just an intense male bonding she argues that though ambiguous the erotic imagery and language have a critical function in the texts and serve the political religious and aesthetic aims of the narrators more precisely the erotic language in the story of david seeks to feminize jonathan and thus invalidate his claim to israel s throne in favor of david in the case of gilgamesh and enkidu whose egalitarian relationship is paradoxically described using the hierarchically dependent language of sexual relationships the ambiguous erotic language reinforces their status as liminal figures and heroes in the epic tradition

london more than any other city has a secret history concealed from view behind the official facade promoted by the heritage industry lies a city of esoteric traditions obscure institutions and forgotten locations occult london rediscovers this history unearthing the hidden city that lies beneath our own from the elizabethan magic of dr dee and simon forman to the occult designs of wren and hawksmoor from the victorian london of spring heeled jack to the fin de siecle heyday of madame blavatsky and aleister crowley this book describes these practitioners of the occult and their unorthodox beliefs alongside the myths and legends through which the city has always been perceived the role of the occult within london s literary history is also outlined while a gazetteer maps the sites of london s most resonant occult locations today we are experiencing a renewal of interest in the occult tradition and merlin coverley examines the roots of this revival exploring the rise of new age philosophies and the emergence of psychogeography in shaping a new vision of the city

this groundbreaking first basic reference work on ancient religious beliefs collects and organizes available information on ten ancient cultures and traditions including greece rome and mesopotamia and offers an expansive comparative perspective on each one

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