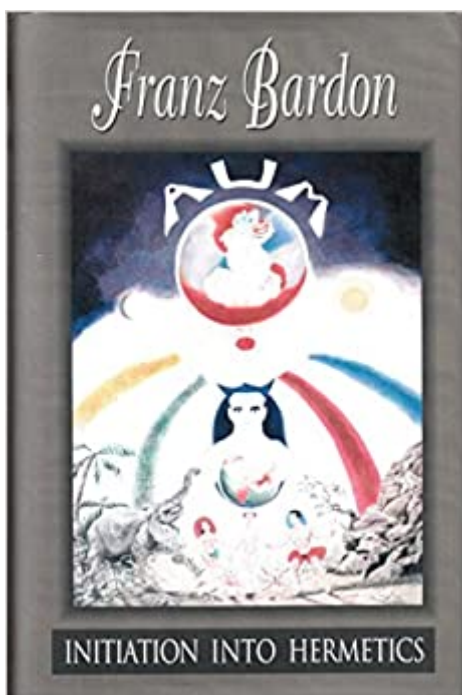


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Initiation Into Hermetics



Synopsis

Initiation into Hermetics is the first and most important of Franz Bardon's works and is rightly regarded as the cornerstone of his entire opus. In contrast to other books on the subject of magic, Bardon focuses his attention on the practical training necessary for all true magical attainment. Using the four elements of fire, water, air and earth as a foundation, Bardon teaches the student how to master these universal forces in the three worlds of body, soul, and spirit. Bardon leads the student step by step through exercises providing detailed training in the entire arcana of magic, from basic techniques in thought control to advanced teachings in astral travel, and much more. No other writer has ever developed such a clear, concise, and practical program of magical development.

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Customer Reviews

This is really not an introductory magical text. In spite of the author's warnings that readers with prior magical experience might have to unlearn a lot while studying his books (which is true!), I don't think very many beginners would find themselves well-served to rely on this book as an introduction.

Initiation into Hermetics is a dense book that frequently, actually, assumes that the reader already has some background in magic. This book is not a history lesson. This book is not a comprehensive overview of the subject of hermetics. This book is not just a preparation for more serious work - it IS the more serious work, for those who are prepared. The author explains many things in depth, but much of it will sound like nonsense to a magical novice. It takes a little foreknowledge and practice to properly navigate Bardon's idiosyncrasies and outdated science (although not as much as it takes to interpret even the most lucid writings of Aleister Crowley, or any pre-20th century occultist), and he devotes very little time to joking, bragging, or making lurid claims. Less mature occultists will quickly become frustrated and/or bored. This newer translation is improved, but some passages are still difficult to decipher. There are good reasons for why there is a market for supplemental material! The book starts with a whirlwind "Theory" section, at the end of which the author insists that anybody wishing to embark on the practical exercises (which comprise the bulk of the text) must first review and meditate and reflect until they fully grasp all of the theory. The process could take years, he says! Yeah, well, that was in 1956, and it's 2015 now, and there are many effective ways for a novice to gain a lot of mystical insight and experience very quickly. Buy yourself a copy of Modern Magick, or Liber Null if you're cheap, and magic yourself silly, kid. You would just roll your eyes at Bardon's warnings and claims, because they would sound outrageous to you right now. You would not treat this book with the proper respect. That's okay. You do not know any better yet. Come back when you've got a few bruises, when you've developed a healthy fear of your own power, when you need a real teacher but you don't want to join a cult. And be ready to unlearn a lot. For you who are already on a self-directed mystical path and who have never found complete satisfaction in all of your wanderings, congratulations. This is what you have been looking for. All of the magical texts you have read until now - all of the legitimate ones, at least - have basically handed you a series of increasingly deadly firearms. The authors of these books have instructed you to juggle all of these firearms, and they have told you to try to shoot and hit moving targets while you continue to juggle the entire armful. They have assured you that all of the old gun-juggling books, the ones that traditionally warned readers about the severe dangers of juggling guns, were just written by paranoid people and elitists, and you definitely probably maybe won't shoot your own face off. You have realized this by now. You have stopped being stupid. Magic isn't a toy. Magic is an armful of loaded guns. And you aren't even thoroughly educated in the care and maintenance of a simple pistol yet. Initiation into Hermetics is not an introduction, it is an initiation. It will break you down to square one and build you back up as a true magician, and it will not always hold your hand along the way. Because Franz Bardon respects you. Franz Bardon knows that you can figure a lot out on

your own. Franz Bardon sits down with you and plainly says, "Here are the universal, fundamental building blocks of magic. Here is what they are, here is how they work. Here is a fantastic, structured way to completely master these fundamentals. And as you master them, you can invent countless creative new ways to apply them. Here are some examples. BE CAREFUL." Initiation into Hermetics is a ruthlessly pragmatic and technical book about utterly mastering the four/five primal elements in both understanding and practice. This involves a variety of intensive mental exercises. There are no elaborate rituals - Bardon's firm assertion is that rituals constitute an advanced form of magic, and in the hands of novices they amount to simple acts of ignorant sorcery, achieving nothing better than that which is achievable through simple applications of elemental mastery. His second book is about ritual magic, but he insists that students must painstakingly master the primal elements and their own consciousness, in accordance with the guidelines in Initiation into Hermetics, before attempting advanced work. The author is not the most well-spoken, at least in the English edition. He uses many of his own proprietary terms, and some of the word choices - whether the fault of the author or the translator, I can't say - can be confusing until you adapt to them. There are things that he over-explains, and there are things that you will find yourself wishing he would explain more thoroughly. All of this is excusable, in my opinion, because the end result is still the greatest occult text I've ever read.

Franz Bardon was one of the foremost authorities on Hermetics and other mystical subjects. His book, Initiation into Hermetics, is very thorough and helps one to master spirituality and embark on a journey for self discovery and development. It comes off as a little 'instructional' like he is a guru or teacher, and the claims, per my logical mind, are not all possible for one person to master however, once you go through some of the exercises, you will definitely notice there is truth and power to these exercises and definitely deserve its place as a classic. Unlike most books, it teaches you how to do magic, not just gives you spells.

I have been searching for this (type of) book since I was twelve years old, an organized text on the Hermetic Teachings. And though I've read a lot of books that reference Hermeticism (or as it is sometimes called, "The Western Mystery Tradition") I had never even heard the name Franz Bardon until very recently. Not to be overly dramatic, but it's as if Bardon and I waited all these years to be introduced to each other. When the student is ready, they say, the teacher shall appear. Yet, when I began reading INITIATION INTO HERMETICS it seemed comfortably familiar. Hermeticism takes its name from Hermes Trismegistus, "Hermes the Thrice-Renowned,"

who most scholars of mythos identify as a syncretism of two equivalent deities, the Egyptian god Thoth and the Greek god Hermes, who arose during the Hellenization of the Near East. Hermes Trismegistus is the legendary author of the Hermetic Corpus, a partially-extant collection of writings that form the basis of one branch of Western Magick. The true author (or authors) of the Hermetic Corpus is (or are) unknown, though it's entirely possible that at least one of the authors used the name "Hermes Trismegistus" as a convenient alias. Otilio Vivanti, Franz Bardon's secretary claimed that Bardon himself was the reincarnation of Hermes Trismegistus (presumptively the author, not the god). INITIATION TO HERMETICS is Bardon's core work, in which he summarizes the theoretical bases of Hermeticism (in the first quarter of the book) and then provides the serious student a lengthy series of exercises to acquire the Hermetic knowledge. This is not a book for the dilettante. For one thing, anyone who comes here thinking they are going to rush through the exercises and suddenly be able to levitate (or some such nonsense) in ninety days is going to be sorely disappointed. For most students, the theory alone will take months to absorb and intellectually integrate. For another thing, the exercises, even the initial ones, will take immense work to master. Bardon's brief paragraphs on the first exercise, "Meditation" barely scratch the surface of meditative practice. I have been a Zen practitioner for many years and meditate daily, yet I am not entirely certain that I have developed the requisite focus that Bardon speaks of in order to move forward with the necessary surety. I say this only to advise those contemplating this path to prepare themselves for an intense apprenticeship and a profoundly meaningful experience.

This is everything a course text-book should be, if only there could be a translation of the work done that was more current. Because of this there is unintentionally erroneous information in the book. This would not normally be worth a star, save the fact that there is also intentionally erroneous information in the book as well. There is reason for this; most of the incorrect information is a form of safety for the practitioner. It is to ensure that one does not go too far, too fast or without truly grasping what came before. Still, these two things keep a rather perfect read from getting that coveted 5 stars.

This is a book I see myself using for the rest of my life. You see results in your development from the 1st exercise (if you do the practices consistently). You must be dedicated in following Mr. Bardon's instructions. You can tweak it to suit your personal needs. Not just works to become a magician, but an Adept.

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