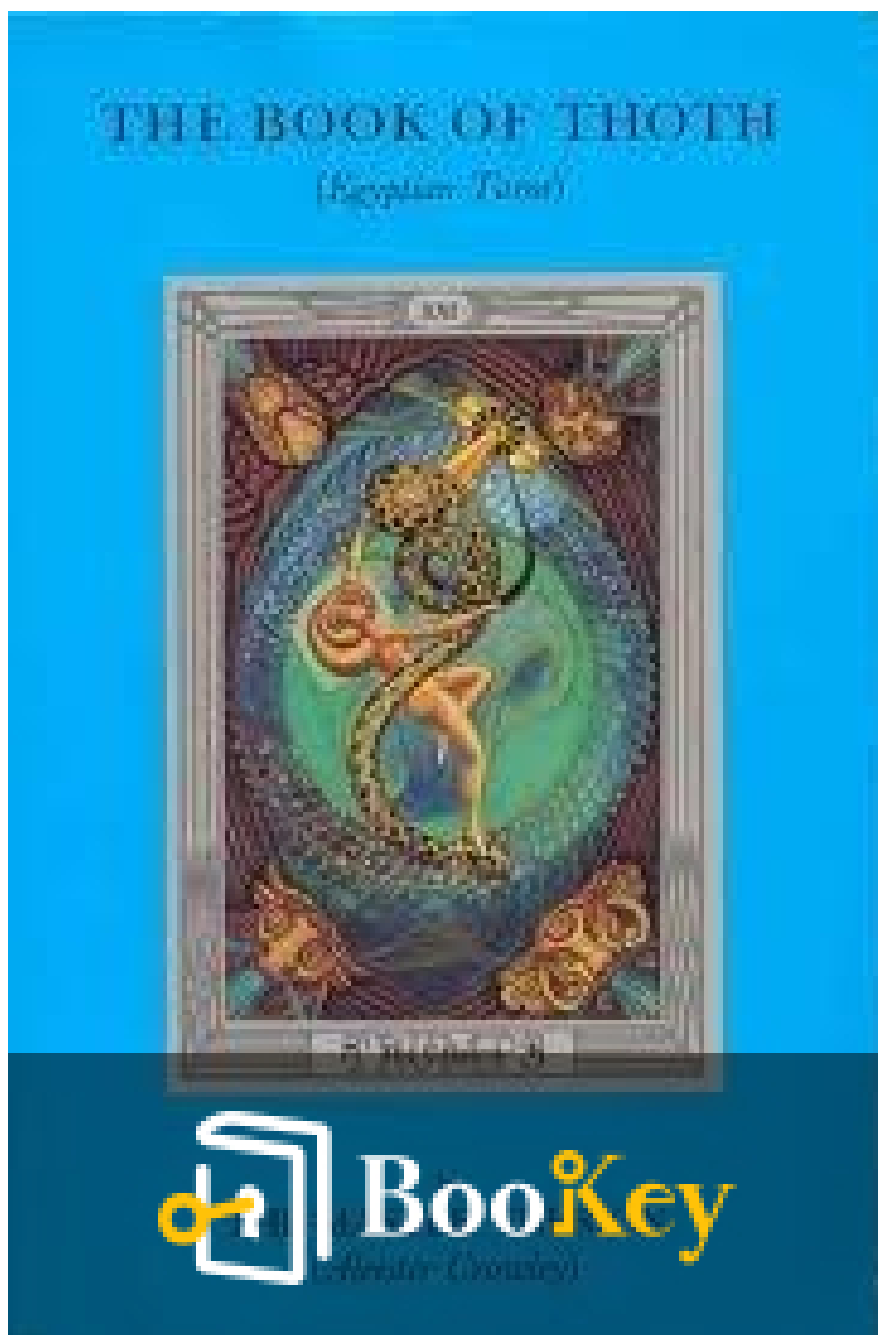


The Book Of Thoth PDF (Limited Copy)

Aleister Crowley



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The Book Of Thoth Summary

"Decoding the Mystical Language of Tarot Wisdom"

Written by Books1

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About the book

****Unlock the Mysteries: Dive into The Book of Thoth****

Welcome, seeker of wisdom, to "The Book of Thoth," a masterpiece that bridges the esoteric doctrines of ancient Egypt with the insightful depth of Western occult traditions, all while presenting a captivating exploration of the tarot. Crafted by the enigmatic Aleister Crowley, this work isn't just a guide to the cards but a profound spiritual journey. Within its pages, Crowley invites you to perceive the Tarot not merely as a tool of divination but as a comprehensive map of the universe—a symbolic script that narrates the very essence of life and consciousness. Each card is a key to hidden wisdom, ready to unlock the doors of enlightenment if you dare to delve beyond surface appearances. Prepare to be entranced, for once you enter this magical realm, ordinary reality fades, and the cosmos reveals its secrets. The journey through "The Book of Thoth" is not just reading; it's a transformation, a call to expand the horizons of your mystical and philosophical landscapes.

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About the author

Aleister Crowley, often referred to as "The Great Beast" in popular media, was a highly controversial figure in the early 20th century due to his esoteric teachings and flamboyant lifestyle. Born in Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, England, in 1875, Crowley navigated various roles throughout his life, from mountaineer to author, mystic to ceremonial magician. A prolific writer and poet, he is best remembered for his significant contributions to modern occultism, particularly through his development of Thelema, a spiritual philosophy he claimed was bestowed upon him by a supernatural entity while in Egypt. Despite his notoriety and the sensationalist headlines often surrounding him, Crowley's works, including "The Book of Thoth," reveal a meticulous scholar and visionary deeply invested in unraveling the mysteries of the universe and human consciousness.

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Chapter 1 Summary: THE THEORY OF THE TAROT

Summary of "The Book of Thoth - Part One"

Introduction: The text begins by highlighting a colossal undertaking taken by a man, spurred by a woman who serves as his interpreter. The work combines modern science, philosophy, anthropology, and ancient Qabalistic tradition into a pictorial representation, resulting in a Tarot that aims to guide the New Aeon's seafarers with wisdom and enlightenment.

Theory of the Tarot: The Tarot consists of 78 cards, including four suits akin to modern cards but with an additional Court card and 22 "Trumps," symbolic of universal structures, especially derived from the Holy Qabalah. The origins trace back to the 14th century, though disputed, with theories ranging from ancient Egyptian mysteries to Renaissance periods. Traditionally tied with gypsies, the Tarot's exact inception remains a mystery.

Correspondences and Numerical Symbolism: The Tarot, an admirable symbol of the Universe, rests upon Qabalistic principles like Gematria—linking Hebrew words and numbers. Many important interpretations hint that the Tarot signifies Torah (Law) and ThROA (Gate), inferring cosmic philosophical doctrines like "Unity is Love" and "Zero

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equals Two."

Initiated Tradition of the Tarot:

- **Eliphas Levi & The Tarot:** Levi, a notable 19th-century Qabalist, saw the Tarot as a pictorial Qabalistic Tree of Life. Though his chapter correspondences appeared flawed, it was allegedly intentional to maintain the secrecy of Tarot's true meanings.
- **The Cipher Manuscripts:** Discovered in the late 19th century by notable figures like Dr. Wynn Westcott, these manuscripts laid out the foundation for secret societies and clarified Tarot correspondences, suggesting earlier concealment by Eliphas Levi.
- **Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn:** This order, established in 1886, played a crucial role in preserving and advancing Tarot knowledge, sourcing materials from the cipher manuscripts and later authors such as Frater Perdurabo claimed contact with Secret Chiefs, providing further authenticity to the Tarot's attribution.

The Structure of the Tarot:

- **Numerical Symbolism of the Sephiroth:** The Tree of Life, with ten numbers (Sephiroth), describes the universe's map through divine emanations, reflecting philosophical and metaphysical ideologies.
- **Elements and Court Cards:** Beyond numbers, the Tarot's

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suits—Wands, Cups, Swords, and Disks—align with classical elements (Fire, Water, Air, Earth), with Court cards depicting sub-elements (e.g., Knight of Wands as Fire of Fire).

Trumps and their Cosmic Roles: Tarot trumps are allegorical figures functioning as energies between the Sephiroth, uniting elements, zodiac signs, and sacred planets under symbolic imagery with evolving roles aligning with historical contexts.

Conclusion on the Evolution of the Tarot: The Tarot's symbolism evolves, reflecting cultural and philosophical shifts, such as transitioning from medieval to New Aeon interpretations. This progression highlights the Tarot's role as not only a spiritual map but also a medium to express contemporary cosmic insights, balancing eternal truths with timely revolutions.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The Tarot as a Symbol of the Universe

Critical Interpretation: Imagine approaching life not as a series of random events, but as a beautifully orchestrated symphony where each note holds a deeper significance, interlinking to tell a coherent story.

The Tarot, as presented in 'The Book of Thoth,' serves as this remarkable symbol, rooted in the rich traditions of Qabalah and Gematria, implying that our universe resonates with universal cosmic laws. By perceiving the universe as a colossal tapestry woven with threads of divine wisdom, you gain the insight to see beyond the superficial chaos, recognizing patterns, lessons, and guidance etched in the fabric of existence. This perspective can inspire profound intellectual and spiritual growth, urging you to 'read' life's symbolic language, allowing a harmonious alignment with the unfolding cosmic plan, and unveiling that unity, love, and enlightenment are at the core of all existence. Embracing this encourages a deeper connection with yourself and others, fostering an enriched, fulfilling life brimming with possibilities and enlightenment.

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Chapter 2 Summary: THE ATU (KEYS OR TRUMPS)

In "Book of Thoth, Part Two: The Atu (Keys or Trumps)," the text delves deeply into the symbology and meanings of the Major Arcana as encoded in the Tarot. This section provides a rich tapestry of esoteric teachings, set against the backdrop of Qabalistic interpretations, mythological references, and the philosophy of Aleister Crowley's Thelemic tradition.

The narrative opens with The Fool, symbolizing pure potentiality ("0"), the synthesis of the Universe, and the principle of the Beginning and the End. Through varied incarnations—from the "Green Man" of ancient traditions to the mythical and mystical personification across different cultures—The Fool is an embodiment of innocence and wisdom. The Fool's journey begins in non-being and culminates in being, integrating the masculine and feminine principles, illustrating Tetragrammaton's Formula, and embarking on a cosmic cycle of birth and rebirth.

The text then transitions through a series of intricate interpretations of the following cards, each portraying cosmic principles and universal laws. For instance, The Magus (or The Juggler) is linked to Mercury, representing wisdom, the power of words, and the force of Will. The High Priestess emerges as a virgin goddess of wisdom, articulating the reflective nature of the feminine and the underlying mysteries guarded by nature's veils.

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The Empress is depicted as the embodiment of love, fertility, and the matrix of creation, while The Emperor represents authority and control, enveloped in symbolism of power and stability. Meanwhile, The Hierophant stands as a mediator between the divine and the mundane, reflecting Taurus's energy and the mysteries of initiation.

Next, The Lovers (or The Brothers) explores duality, synthesis, and the alchemical marriage of opposites. The narrative on The Chariot discusses the triumph of spirit over matter, invoking cancerian sensitivity. Adjustment (or Justice) balances Karma with consciousness, exposing the principles of universal law and equilibrium. The Hermit reveals the introspective path to enlightenment, while Fortune (or The Wheel) illustrates luck's capricious nature and life's cyclical patterns.

Following this, Lust (formerly Strength) celebrates joy in strength and the realization of primal energies. The Hanged Man invokes themes of sacrifice and rebirth, delving into the mysteries of water, enlightenment, and a reversal of pre-Aeonic dogmas. Death signifies transformation and the cycle of life's continuance through endings.

Art synthesizes opposing forces into a harmonious whole, serving as a metaphor for alchemical processes. In contrast, The Devil card exposes the material form of creation and its inherent illusions. The Tower or War details destruction as a prelude to enlightenment within the wheel of time.

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The Star brings hope and clarity, embodying the renewal of insight and aspiration after chaotic transformations. The Moon explores the subconscious realm, unveiling perils of deception and the subtle play of illusion masking greater truths. The Sun heralds the enlightenment and the emergence of a new conservation of life, liberty, and passion.

Finally, The Aeon and The Universe cards depict the culminating journey towards the divine, balancing cosmic understanding with spiritual attainment. The Aeon, or Judgment, reflects the birth of a transformative era, while The Universe consolidates all, bringing the Fool's journey full circle to universal completion and the divine dance of existences within the continuum.

The text is steeped in the iconography and philosophy that bridge the mystical, esoteric wisdom of antiquity with modern interpretations, encapsulating the symbolic and experiential journey of life and spiritual awakening. Each card functions as both a mirror and a guide to the soul's unfolding, embodying the wisdom of the ancients reinterpreted for the Aeon of Horus.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The Fool - Symbol of Pure Potentiality

Critical Interpretation: In your journey through life, embrace the essence of The Fool as depicted in 'The Book of Thoth.' Recognize that every new beginning holds the possibility of infinite potential, much like the Fool's leap into the unknown. He symbolizes both innocence and the wisdom found in the unity of beginnings and endings. Approach life's adventures with a sense of wonder, trusting in the transformative power of each step you take. This perspective enables you to embody the spirit of renewal and embrace the cycles of birth and rebirth as integral to your growth. By aligning yourself with this archetype, find the courage to embark on paths that foster self-discovery, enlightenment, and a deeper understanding of the universe's vast mysteries. In doing so, channel the Fool's ability to bring together the masculine and feminine energies, proceeding with a harmonious spirit that nurtures both innocence and profundity.

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Chapter 3 Summary: THE COURT CARDS

"The Book of Thoth" by Aleister Crowley provides a comprehensive understanding of the Egyptian Tarot, specifically focusing on the Court Cards. This section, "Part Three: The Court Cards," describes the characteristics and symbolism of the sixteen Court Cards and their connection to the elements and the zodiac.

General Remarks

The Court Cards are an intricate depiction of the powers of the four elements and are aligned with the four letters of the divine Name. They incorporate complexity in their Zodiac associations; instead of following expected elemental correlations, they represent divergent astrological signs to reflect a mixture of elemental qualities. For instance, the fiery aspects do not correspond strictly to fiery astrological signs but spread across segments of opposing elements for a more balanced representation. Each card offers a rough depiction of personality types based on zodiacal positions at birth.

General Characteristics of the Four Dignitaries

1. **Knights (Yodh):** The Knights illustrate the most dynamic energy of the Elements—swift and transient power dressed in full armor and on horseback, akin to natural forces like lightning, wind, rain, or mountains.



Their actions are fast and intense.

2. **Queens (He')**: Queens receive the energy from the Knights and symbolize the nurturing and stabilizing aspect. They hold thrones, indicating their role as bearers of specific responsibilities in the creation process.

3. **Princes (Vau)**: Princes are born from the union of the Knight and Queen, symbolizing the practical outcome and the intellectual representation of their combined energy. They stand for persistent and stable force and societal record.

4. **Princesses (He' final)**: Representing the completion of elemental energy, the Princesses bring the manifested result of prior energies into a tangible form. They embody the constant cycle of beginnings and endings.

Summarized Description of the Sixteen Court Cards

- **Knight of Wands**: Representing the fiery essence of fire, covering late Scorpio to early Sagittarius, this Knight is characterized by vigorous, impulsive bravery and potentially destructive aggression if unfavorably defined. It symbolizes quick and powerful, yet fleeting actions.

- **Queen of Wands**: This card embodies the fluidity of fire, overseeing



late Pisces to Aries. She is adaptable and authoritative yet can become easily swayed with meaningless vanity. Her friendly nature can turn moody and explosive under deceit.

- **Prince of Wands:** The airy part of fire, spanning Cancer to Leo, features creative and energy-driven personalities often led by impulse and quick decision-making, capable of great deeds but equally prone to stubborn pride.

- **Princess of Wands:** The earthy manifestation of fire, she illustrates enthusiastic creation and ambition. However, if misguided, she becomes superficial and unpredictable.

- **Knight of Cups:** From Aquarius to Pisces, he reflects passionate fluid energies, prone to superficial moods, and is aesthetically sensitive. His impact can often be fleeting.

- **Queen of Cups:** Governing from Gemini to Cancer, she reflects pure emotional reception and subtlety. Her ability to transmit and receive amplifies her ethereal nature, becoming distorted when negatively aligned.

- **Prince of Cups:** Spanning Libra to Scorpio, with an aura of volatile water, he is secretive and potentially ruthless. He indicative of transformative power, embodying creative yet covert energies.



- **Princess of Cups:** The earthen dimension of water depicts a nurturing individual, enhancing subconscious desires and creative processes when positively influenced.

- **Knight of Swords:** Covering Taurus to Gemini, he embodies the combative and stormy facets of wind—a symbol of rapid change, bringing challenge and conflict.

- **Queen of Swords:** From Virgo to Libra, she signifies intellectual clarity and unrestrained observation, potentially leading to cunning and guile if negatively inclined.

- **Prince of Swords:** From Capricorn to Aquarius, representing airy intellect, he holds divergent ideas and creativity but lacks direction, often leading to unfulfilled and scattered efforts.

- **Princess of Swords:** The material element of Air represents reason and adaptability. She is decisive and practical when positively aligned, cunning and manipulative when not.

- **Knight of Disks:** Moving from Leo to Virgo, and symbolizing the dynamic aspects of Earth, he is practical and robust, yet potentially slow-moving or routine, focusing on growth and productivity.



- **Queen of Disks:** From Sagittarius to Capricorn, represents nurturing stability, practical wisdom, and a devotion to appreciative growth and prosperity, although potentially mundane when ill-defined.
- **Prince of Disks:** The airy aspect of Earth covers Aries to Taurus and highlights reliable, meditative, and industrious traits, promoting thoughtful progress and steady labor.
- **Princess of Disks:** Symbolizes the ultimate form of earthly elements with potential for future transformation. She embodies fertility, silence, and hidden mysteries, showcasing the nurturing aspect of growth and fruition.

In these descriptions, the cards reflect not just archetypal personalities but symbolic forces within the metaphysical and natural worlds of the Tarot, forming a coherent system of knowledge, challenge, and growth.

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Chapter 4: THE SMALL CARDS

In Part IV of "The Book of Thoth," Aleister Crowley delves into the detailed analysis and symbolism of the Small Cards in the Tarot, specifically focusing on their relation to the Tree of Life in the Kabbalistic tradition. These cards are significant for understanding the manifestation of elemental forces in the material world. The small cards are broken down by their number, from Aces to Tens, across the four suits: Wands, Cups, Swords, and Disks, each representing one of the four classical elements: Fire, Water, Air, and Earth, respectively.

The Four Aces

The Aces embody the purest essence or seeds of their respective elements, linking to the Princesses who rule the celestial skies. They symbolize potential rather than manifested reality. The Ace of Wands represents the fiery, initiating energy; the Ace of Cups pertains to the beginnings of emotional or spiritual experience; the Ace of Swords signifies the intellectual spark; and the Ace of Disks embodies material potential.

The Four Twos

The Twos correspond to Chokmah, representing the first manifestation of the element itself. It's in these cards that the elements appear in their pure, original forms. The Two of Wands suggests dominion and the pure energy of fire; the Two of Cups is love or the pure energy of water; the Two of Swords



is intellectual peace; and the Two of Disks signifies harmonious change through Earth's material influence.

The Four Threes

Associated with Binah, the Threes signify understanding and the stability from which new life can emerge. The Three of Wands represents virtue or the manifestation of will; the Three of Cups is abundance from love; the Three of Swords is sorrow, an echo of Binah's somber depth; and the Three of Disks embodies solid and productive work.

The Four Fours

The Fours relate to Chesed and the realization of the elements in a stable form. The Four of Wands indicates completed energy; the Four of Cups luxuriates in emotional overindulgence; the Four of Swords represents truce and stability; and the Four of Disks emphasizes power and material stability.

The Four Fives

The Fives, under Geburah, introduce instability or struggle. This card is marked by the disruptive, active energy of the number five, and heralds a break from stability. The Five of Wands is strife; the Five of Cups delves into disappointment; the Five of Swords signifies defeat; and the Five of Disks brings worry.

The Four Sixes

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Attributed to Tiphareth, the Sixes show an element in its most harmonious and balanced form. The Six of Wands is victory; the Six of Cups symbolizes pleasure; the Six of Swords represents science or smooth understanding; and the Six of Disks reflects material success.

The Four Sevens

Netzach's plane shows the elements degenerating in the Sevens, which express weaknesses. Valour emerges from the Seven of Wands; Debauch from the Seven of Cups; Futility from the Seven of Swords; and Failure from the Seven of Disks.

The Four Eights

Moving to Hod, the Eights suggest a reactionary element or disease remedy, especially after the Sevens' disruption. Here, Swiftiness is highlighted by the Eight of Wands; Indolence by the Eight of Cups; Interference by the Eight of Swords; and Prudence by the Eight of Disks.

The Four Nines

Yesod enriches the power and achievement of each element in the Nines. Strength from the Nine of Wands; Happiness from the Nine of Cups; the cruelty of the Nine of Swords; and Gain from the Nine of Disks.

The Four Tens

Representing Malkuth's manifestation, the Tens signify the endpoint of the



element's journey. Oppression from the Ten of Wands; Satiety from the Ten of Cups; Ruin from the Ten of Swords; and Wealth from the Ten of Disks.

Part IV also explores the spiritual and esoteric dimensions of these cards. Each card illustration is rich with alchemical and mystical symbolism, often interwoven with references to classical literature, astrology, and other metaphysical systems. Throughout, Crowley encourages a deeper understanding of how these archetypes and energies influence both the individual and the universe.

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