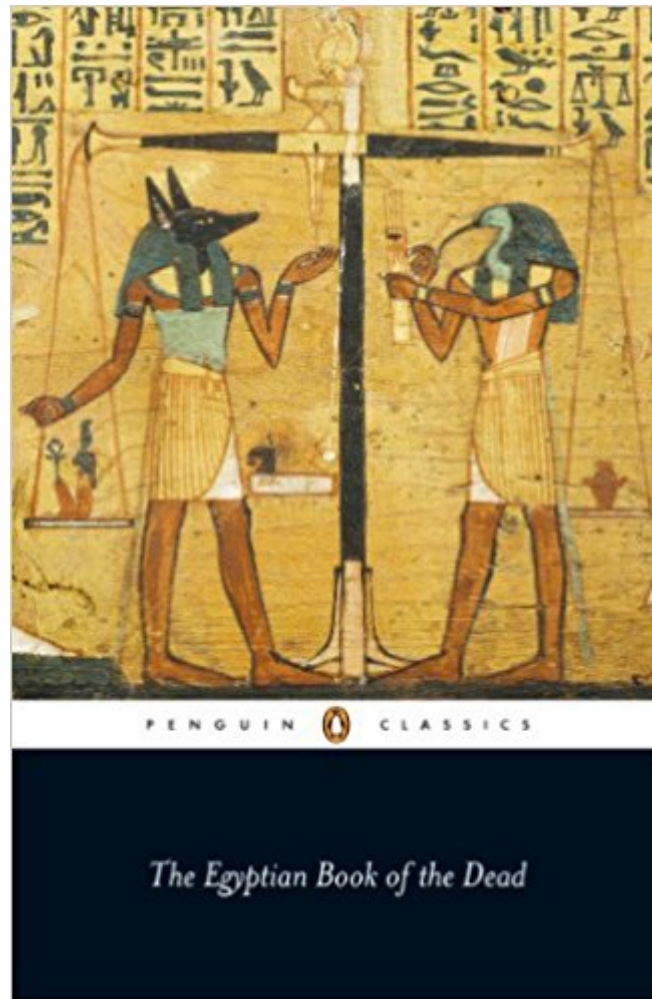


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The Egyptian Book Of The Dead (Penguin Classics)



Synopsis

A unique collection of funerary texts from a wide variety of sources, dating from the 15th to the 4th century BC. Consisting of spells, prayers and incantations, each section contains the words of power to overcome obstacles in the afterlife. The papyri were often left in sarcophagi for the dead to use as passports on their journey from burial, and were full of advice about the ferryman, gods and kings they would meet on the way. Offering valuable insights into ancient Egypt, The Book of the Dead has also inspired fascination with the occult and the afterlife in recent years. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

Book Information

Series: Penguin Classics

Paperback: 992 pages

Publisher: Penguin Classics; 1 edition (November 25, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0140455507

ISBN-13: 978-0140455502

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 1.7 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars See all reviews (25 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #231,930 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in Books > Religion &

Spirituality > Other Religions, Practices & Sacred Texts > Egyptian Book of the Dead #55

in Books > History > World > Religious > New Age, Mythology & Occult #208 in Books > History

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Customer Reviews

This edition of Budge's book of the Dead is not the same as the Dover edition (the Papyrus of Ani). It's in fact an edition Budge published a few years later (The Chapters of Coming Forth by Day), and it's a compilation of all the papyri available at the time, making this the most complete edition of the Book of the Dead available today. The translation itself has over 3 times the material in the earlier edition, and the translation is more polished than Budge's earlier work. If you have the Papyrus of

Ani, I recommend you get this as well, as you're missing out on a ton of material. While the binding and presentation is not as good as the Dover, in terms of contents it is unbeatable.

I am neither reviewing the Book of the Dead--its reputation is well known and deserved--nor the translation offered here. I am merely disappointed in the quality of this offering from Penguin Classics. This purportedly new edition is a quite literal reprint of the original edition of E.A. Wallis Budge's 1899 translation, with a new introduction tacked onto the beginning. This wouldn't necessarily be a problem--Budge's translation is good enough--but the presentation is particularly shoddy and far below the standards usually upheld by Penguin. The book has not even been reset in modern type, but is a virtual photocopy of the original. Precisely the same translation--minus the new introduction--has been available from the more economic Dover Publications for years. Budge's translation is now presumably in the public domain, and this "new" printing by Penguin looks like a money grab. Very little effort has been put into this edition. If you own no other copy of The Book of the Dead, by all means, buy this one. The Book of the Dead is worth owning. But if you're looking for a newer, updated, or otherwise revised edition than Budge's, which has been in print for a century now, skip it. Not recommended.

The Egyptian Book of the Dead is very informative. One also needs to read the Tibetan Book of the Dead to compare how both civilizations viewed the process of life after death and what one would expect. The Ancient Egyptian civilization is gone, yet this is great that the ancient esoteric teachings have been recorded. Current people living in Egypt is not from the ancient Egyptians, they keep the traditions, yet are from surrounding countries that over the centuries have moved in. This is true because archeologists are finding out information today and then letting the Egyptian Government know which then places it on display for the visitors in time. It is the archeologists that are informing this country about the history, the ancient culture, spirituality that took place, etc. This is so because the ancient esoteric spiritual teachings are not currently being practiced. Tibetan spirituality still exists and being practiced today and how they prepare people who are about to cross over to the other side of life through the Tibetan Book of the Dead. Both books are Excellent to read to have both perspectives. Tibetans are not afraid of death. They have a full understanding through their spiritual teachings which prepares them and gives them comfort. A very advanced culture in many ways. Both the Egyptians and Buddhists believe in reincarnation as well as many others and this helps one know that we are really an eternal soul. We continue to live on after one dies. All the near death experiencers say this and more. Egyptian Book of the Dead is a clear and

concise book that explains how one viewed death in ancient Egypt and what was expected in that culture. The Tibetan book of the Dead goes farther in that it explains how the process of dying takes place both spiritually and physically. Nothing to worry... As a soul/spirit we are eternal as both books and cultures explain clearly. Review written by: D. Min. Degree

Probably some of the most beautifully written language of any text. The nobility of these ancient prayers is striking, and displays an embarrassing ignorance in our modern culture, both spiritually and intellectually. This book shows modern man's de-evolution in every way but our technology. The ancients were no doubt heathens, but at least they had intellectual horsepower that shames modern society.

I love this book. Definitely a mature read, it is extremely helpful in understanding ancient Egyptian faith. Great notations too. I suggest a glossary or other accompanied book to better understand all the gods and their roles.

This book is deep!! I'm using it as a research tool to help complete my literary works. I realize that it's tampered with material as the author clearly indicates, but I'm comparing ancient Egyptian culture to my own discoveries about life. The ancients knew many things about life that governments don't want us to know anymore because they can't control people who know what the ancients knew. So I'm simply scanning for clues to compare to what I've discovered on my own, and it's turning up startling connections.

I saw this in the bookstore and was excited that someone had decided to finally produce a new version of this ancient collection of spells and other funerary miscellany. Sadly, I looked closer and found it was yet another presentation of musty old Budge's 19th century translations. Penguin could have commissioned a new or adapted a recent translation, but I guess that would have actually cost something. Why not put out some antiquated public domain junk instead? This version does have a new introduction attempting to justify their choice, but it would have been far simpler and more honest to replace it with the phrase, "CUZ IT DON'T COST NUTHIN!" I suggest seeking out the Raymond Faulkner book, which is marginally harder to find, but not only has a more recent translation but also features mountains of beautiful color photos and illustrations.

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