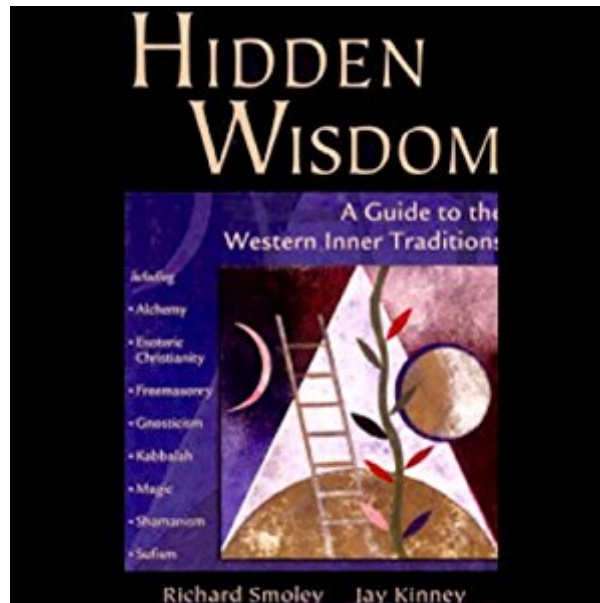




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Hidden Wisdom: A Guide To Western Inner Traditions



Synopsis

The co-editors of Gnosis magazine explore the many esoteric traditions that Western culture has to offer. While terms from Eastern spiritual practices such as Zen, mantra, and karma have become part of our daily lexicon, the traditions of Western spirituality have been largely unexplored by people searching for non-mainstream routes to spiritual experience. But for those who identify with Western culture, Western religious traditions have their own wisdom teachings that are more suitable to their needs and expectations. Many of those searching for alternative religions are not even aware that Western civilization has always had its own traditions, which are often hidden. In this fascinating introduction to non-mainstream Western spirituality, the coeditors of Gnosis magazine - today's leading journal of mystical spirituality - guide you through the teachings of Jung and Gurdjieff, the Kabbalah, neo-paganism, shamanism, alchemy, Sufism, and more. Explaining the history and practice of each tradition and describing its important figures, the authors present the ideas, strengths, and weaknesses of each tradition and offer a wealth of resources for those interested in pursuing these paths further.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a review of Hidden Wisdom by Smoley and Kinney. The subtitle of the book is A Guide to the Western Inner Traditions. Overall, I liked the book, and it was well written for the most part. My only real problem with it is that it often left me wanting to know more on the various traditions it covered. That might actually be a good thing depending on one's point of view, however. Also, the authors did supply lists of Suggested Reading at the end of each chapter where more relevant information

could be found. There were 12 chapters, each on a different tradition or different set of related traditions. There was quite a range, starting with Jung and the Unconscious and ending with the New Age. Lots of useful and interesting background was provided, along with explanation of the main points of the traditions. Reading this book inspired me to make further investigation into 3 of the traditions covered. I'll get started on that very soon.

A wonderful book. Well written, thoughtful, well researched. Smoley, the former editor of the magazine, Gnosis, has written an excellent introductory overview of some of the main themes of the Western mystery traditions such as gnosticism, alchemy and hermeticism, kabbalah, shamanism, and esoteric Christianity. Each of the 12 chapters explores a different topic and serves as an excellent springboard for deeper more serious study of the subject. The subjects are well-researched but not scholarly in tone. An enjoyable read for the casual reader and a useful preliminary resource for a more serious student.

Richard Smoley and Jay Kinney have produced a book that gives a person an excellent over view of the different strands that compose the western esoteric tradition. Their writing is factual and balanced. The suggested reading at the end of each chapter provides people with an excellent jumping off point for further study.

This book will educate everyone about Western Inner Traditions, and oh my goodness the types presented here are many. Richard Smoley is one brilliant author and his explanations are both easily understood and poignant. He makes no judgments upon anything here, but presents it all as gifts to us. This is a must-read for anyone wanting this deeper knowledge.

Good overview with annotated bibliography. Very valuable for all seekers. Practical advice given is also very useful.

For anyone interested in the unseen world, theology and the people who traverse and write about it all, this book is the ticket. Smiley ties together famous figures, historical events and relevant topics you may know a bit about yet feel the need for more knowledge. Smiley, a Seeker par excellence, offers you his invaluable peek into the world we all guess at, beyond everyday experience.

Great read. Keeps you involved. Easy to read and answers some questions one may have previously had from reading other books and articles.

Smoley is one of the clearest and coherent writers on the Western Esoteric tradition and one can not pick a better introductory text than this, even for one familiar with the esoteric tradition this is a good general reference and the recommended reading list is excellent as well.

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