



Esoteric Orders and Their Work

Dion Fortune , Gareth Knight (Introduction)

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Esoteric Orders and their Work examines how and why esoteric schools have restricted admission to their secret societies and orders, and shrouded their practices in mystery. The knowledge guarded by these schools passed down through the ages, and revised from time to time by great teachers is a secret traditional science that studies the causes that lie behind observable phenomena.

Dion Fortune reveals every aspect of these secret organizations and the training they offer to initiates.

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From Reader Review Esoteric Orders and Their Work for online ebook

Valenfore Alestreneon says

A must read for Occultists and critics of the Occult who ignorantly babble about our secretive tendencies as if it were some kind of a flaw.

Claire Lawrence says

5*

Good read. Informs how an adept journeys upon the path. Recommended reading for those already on the path. BrilliAnt Dion fortune

Gwyndyllyn says

A must read for all occultists.

Araminta Matthews says

My study into Esoteric Orders have revealed a few things. First, while Fortune is clearly the lesser of two evils when paired with Crowley, it is still an evil. This book alone is so peppered with casual racism that I even wonder is her work inspired some of the fascists of her day. Second, esoteric orders are designed to create a system of power and we all know the first order of anyone in power is to maintain that power. The term “Master” to apply to the Person guiding the initiate and the frequent use of actual torture to perpetuate it (I.e. Gardnerian Wicca, for instance, an esoteric order possibly inspired by Gerald Gardner’s work in The Golden Dawn, requires initiates to strip naked and be whipped forty lashes by the “master,” who then gets whipped in return.” Given that esoteric knowledge is supposed to enlighten us to a greater version of ourselves, don’t you find it suspect that these esoteric orders begin with subjugation—the very act that creates the enslaved mind in the first place? In the same breath, Fortune tells us “Beware Of the self-taught occultist; he is as unreliable as the self-taught healer” (32), and then “... it is possible to obtain access to the source of the secret wisdom by purely intuitional and meditative method” (56), and in that cheap linguistic trick manages to saw the lady in half before our eyes and retain that He is the only one able to reassemble her. Or, put more concretely, Fortune says you can’t trust people who train themselves because they weren’t chosen by someone else (which is classist at best, perhaps ableist and racist as well), and also that some special people actual CAN self-teach if they are first blessed by intuition (implying selected by God/dead Herself), so riddle me this, Fortune: who is whom? Because it is mighty convenient that we are to trust no one but the perpetrators of our abuse (initiations and torture) and that those perpetrators are perhaps selected intuitively... I’m the master because I’m the master—my intuition told me so—and you’re not because you are my slave.

No.

In my world, knowledge is power and we all have a right to power over ourselves but not over others. And furthermore, education and spirituality are rights and therefore should be accessible and free of hierarchy. You have no power over me, and what scares you most is that you see clearly the power I have over myself. I hold my power. I know it well. Even the allure of esoteric knowledge cannot make it waver. I'm as terrifying as a gorgon, aren't I?

And oh-2 stars and not 1 because at least some of the philosophy (once cleansed if it's tainted patriarchal hegemony and violent subjugation) still holds a little water.

James Hein says

This provides a good overview of the esoteric world. Like all of these books the more you know the more they make sense but this does address a number of important issues for the Seeker. It gives you some hints on how to find a teacher, what to look for and what to avoid.
