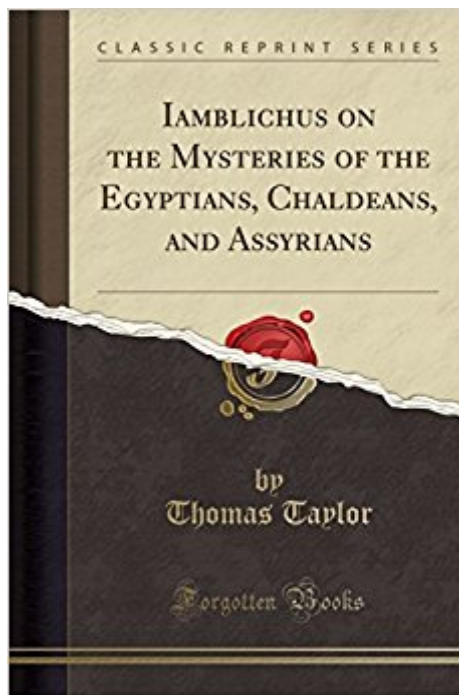


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Iamblichus On The Mysteries Of The Egyptians, Chaldeans, And Assyrians (Classic Reprint)



Synopsis

Iamblichus on the Mysteries of the Egyptians, Chaldeans, and Assyrians has been superbly translated into English by Thomas Taylor. The book is the work of Syrian philosopher Iamblichus, one of the most well known Neoplatonists. Iamblichus on the Mysteries of the Egyptians, Chaldeans, and Assyrians is structured in a question and answer format, with Iamblichus treating the reader as a disciple. The focus of the book is primarily the ancient religions of the Egyptians, Chaldeans, and Assyrians with Iamblichus detailing the practice of Theurgy, a series of rituals intended to connect the believer with divinity. Over the course of the book's nearly four hundred pages, the author espouses the virtues of building a deeper connection with God through the practice of pagan rituals. For those interested in ancient religions, there are few better sources of information than Iamblichus' work. This is an excellent translation of the author's work, and is surprisingly readable for a book written in the fourth century. Theurgy is explained in precise technical detail and handled in such a way that both newcomers and those familiar with the practice can approach the work with confidence. Iamblichus' writing is invaluable for the reader curious about ancient religions and Theurgy. Iamblichus on the Mysteries of the Egyptians, Chaldeans, and Assyrians is a fascinating book and one that deserves to be widely read. About the Publisher: Forgotten Books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books. Find more at www.forgottenbooks.com. This book is a reproduction of an important historical work. Forgotten Books uses state-of-the-art technology to digitally reconstruct the work, preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy. In rare cases, an imperfection in the original, such as a blemish or missing page, may be replicated in our edition. We do, however, repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully; any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works.

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Customer Reviews

Taylor's translation of Iamblichus' Greek text into English was first published in 1821. The Syrian-born Iamblichus (third century) is considered one of the great Neoplatonist philosophers. In this work, divided into 10 sections, he gives a complete canon of pagan religious thought and belief and explains their background. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The translator of this work, Thomas Taylor, is known for his authoritative translations of the Platonists; he was practically the sole source of Neo-Platonic thought in the transcendentalist movement of New England. Iamblichus' "Life of Pythagoras" was a constant source of inspiration to the transcendentalists and a major influence on their writings throughout the Nineteenth Century. Taylor's work was enthusiastically acclaimed by Emerson, who referred to the translator as "a Greek born out of his time, and dropped on the ridicule of a blind and frivolous age." --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

An incredibly enlightening and important work. One reviewer below who gave one star makes as a complaint that this version uses "outdated" language...I'd say that's a definite plus in our age of dumbing down.

The 1 star is a reflection of the quality of the Kindle version. The text is riddled with confusing spaces and bizarre organization. Annotations and primary text are mixed together with no indication as to which is which --- at times, one text will stop in midsentence and be interrupted with the other. The result is a confounding, frustrating version of the text that is highly disappointing, especially since the entire version can be found for free online in a much clearer presentation.

Great book.

First of all, this is an OCR document. My copy has a bit of text fade at the end of the volume, which makes for some annoying lacunae. The "Classic Reprints" series does exactly what it says it does:

OCR's the books, back page advertisements and all, and then puts them out on demand. So, don't expect modern notes or a new translation. This particular volume hails from 1895, and what they got is what you get. The translator is Thomas Taylor. He died in 1835, so the translation is even older than the volume this edition reprints. I would say the translation is good, by 19th century standards, bearing in mind that Taylor probably had a lot less editorial, critical, and source material to work with than any modern scholar. Here and there, his copious footnotes (some of them pages long) do tend to distract from the text (he spends half of them quoting from works of Proclus, which Taylor also translated). As for the work itself, Iamblichus responds to a somewhat mocking letter from Porphyry which questions the utility of prayers to the gods, as accompanied by elaborate "theurgical" rituals. Students of Neoplatonism will remember that, while Plotinus and Porphyry certainly believed in the traditional Hellenic deities, they weren't so keen on "god bothering", per se. Plotinus even refused to go to the trouble of invoking demons or lesser deities, as he felt "it was for them to come to him, not he to them". Iamblichus basically wrote the work as a response to Porphyry in which he laid out the need for theurgical rites. If you are reading this review, you should already have a working understanding of basic Neoplatonist ideals. I can't imagine this obscure volume being of any help to a layman who is completely unfamiliar with this tradition. That being said, if you are interested in actually learning what some of these theurgical rites were, you will be sadly disappointed. There are no descriptions whatsoever of any of these rites. Iamblichus wrote the volume as a defense of theurgy, without feeling the need to include or even reference any of his presumed personal favorite rites. At any rate, if you are looking for a cheap way to introduce yourself to a text which is otherwise seldom reprinted, or available only in hard to find (and expensive) University press editions, this may be an acceptable first purchase. I definitely don't recommend this as a study edition, but it works tolerably well for a casual reader who wants to learn a bit more about some of the later figures in Neoplatonic philosophy. The translation is somewhat antiquated (though generally readable), the OCR fade in the latter pages is a bit annoying, and Iamblichus' great justification of theurgy neglects to tell us anything about how to conduct theurgy. However, in the end, you are certainly bound to learn a good deal about Neoplatonist philosophy in the period after Plotinus, as well as the philosophical arguments made in justification of taking that philosophy in a far more overtly religious direction. In essence, if you'd ever wondered what were the premises for Platonism to compete with Christianity as the unifying faith of the later Roman Empire, you just might find a few clues in this dusty old tome.

I've been looking for this book for years. Thanks to the ian merchants. Seriously though, great book,

quite cheap (gotta watch those taxes though) and the book arrived before it said it would. Many Goodness.

This Printing of the Forgotten books ed. was missing a few pages as they were blurred or words not even seen. Some pages not even able to be viewed. As said for the price compared to other editions of this book it does make it ok.. Yet for one who can not live with things left out or pages basically missing be warned. As far as the book goes mostly all good and has a wealth of old, yet relevant material. I truly wish Forgotten Books would hire an Editor to oversee the final product before they mass produce the book for print. A few dinks in the pages and scans at different sizes is to be expected at the great price but not the "missing pages" or pages that have been scanned yet are torn so it renders it non-readable. I love the idea of Forgotten Books and will continue to buy from them, just please edit the books better.

"On the Mysteries" by Iamblichus is one of the, if not THE most important surviving ancient Pagan text from the late Classical world. Iamblichus was considered to be one of the great Neoplatonist philosophers and Theurgists. His works continued to inspire debate for centuries after his death, and was lauded by philosophers and condemned by the Church in the Middle Ages. In this work Iamblichus gives not only a complete Canon of pagan religious thought and belief... he explains the "whys" behind it all. He works to provide the sense and logic behind ancient spiritual beliefs and practices. The Emperor Julian, the last Pagan Emperor of Rome (360 AD) considered Iamblichus to be divinely inspired. The Emperor Julian studied this work for years and used it as the basis for his own writings, which are also available from .com. Anyone researching the subjects of ancient paganism, philosophy or theurgy will find this book to be an invaluable addition to their library. The translator of this ancient work, Thomas Taylor, does an excellent job of providing footnotes and commentary which makes the text even more accessible. Highly recommended!

classic text. Iamblichus is not an easy read and was probably a boring speaker, but this is the definitive source for ancient ritual and practice so a necessity for those interested in religion in antiquity.

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