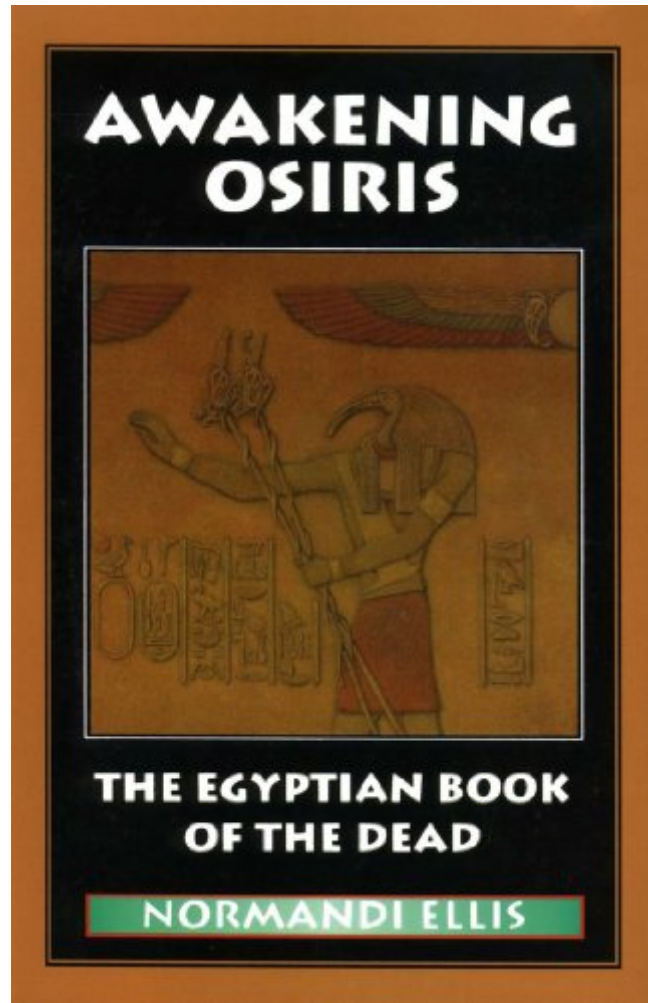


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Awakening Osiris: A New Translation Of The Egyptian Book Of The Dead



Synopsis

The Egyptian Book of the Dead is one of the oldest and greatest classics of Western spirituality. Until now, the available translations have treated these writings as historical curiosities with little relevance to our contemporary situation. This new version, made from the hieroglyphs, approaches the Book of the Dead as a profound spiritual text capable of speaking to us today. These writings suggest that the divine realm and the human realm are not altogether separate/ they remind us that the natural world, and the substance of our lives, is fashioned from the stuff of the gods. Devoted like an Egyptian scribe to the principle of "effective utterance", Normandi Ellis has produced a prose translation that reads like pure, diaphanous verse.

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Customer Reviews

Translators who simply translate from language to language often produce rather jarring versions that do no honor to the original author; one senses the off-key notes, the apparently missed nuances of meaning, the grating word choices that do not feel right. Better translators are highly in touch with the original's language and are capable of immersing themselves accurately in the culture, the milieu, the feelings and thoughts of the author. But the best translators are also gifted

writers in their own right with the capacity to breathe life into a translation, to convey its heart, its original power, and its literary beauty. Normandi Ellis is one of those rare, gifted translators, and it seems she has given this Egyptian masterwork the translation it has so long deserved. She has channeled through her own heart the original texts' emotion, its sensitivity, its ability to take us deep into the heart of being alive and shake from us for a time our habituated thought processes. Her translation conveys so well the original writers' insight and concision - their ability to express their lives with the delicate accuracy of the scalpel and the power of the sledgehammer. I find myself deeply affected by the focused beauty of their poetry... its tactile sense of the physical, its phrasing, its fire, its awareness... the thoughts, images, and metaphors are at times so profound I cannot shake them from my mind. Nor would I want to. Finally readers of English can feel the beating heart of Egypt, embrace and cherish the Egyptians' uniquely beautiful rendering of what we also know our lives to be. The Egyptian soul is the soul of us all - and Awakening Osiris is a gift because this writer has been able to convey those sensory images chosen from lives lived fully...

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