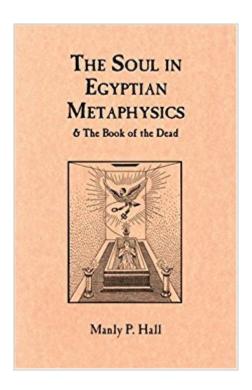


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The Soul In Egyptian Metaphysics And The Book Of The Dead





Synopsis

An illustrated study of 'The Egyptian Book of the Dead' and Egyptian metaphysics during the Osirian period. Although much of their wisdom remains locked in hieroglyph and symbol, the Egyptians were an old and wise people. Dedicated as they were to the deepest religious and philosophical speculations, the priests and scholars of ancient Egypt were not deficient in essential learning. By 'essential' we mean that which is concerned with essence and principle rather than with substance and appearance. It is not easy to answer the simple question: What did the Egyptians know about the human soul? Translators have not concerned themselves too much with the metaphysical speculations of the past, and have been content to restore the more obvious parts of mythology, history, and chronology. There is also indication that in different periods of their development the Egyptians changed their opinions, and a survey of their surviving literature reveals certain inconsistencies. Can we say, however, that modern culture is in large agreement on the meaning of the word 'soul'? Certainly, there are several schools of thought, and even the advancement of scientific procedure has not led to a conclusive or inclusive definition.

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Manly P. Hall (1901-1990) was a seeker and lover of wisdom (the very definition of a philosopher) he had the courage and raw energy to look for wisdom in places most men had long since forgotten or never knew existed. As the Philosophical Research Society's founder and first president, he began his career in an era when most Americans did not look toward other cultures and traditions without looking down. And yet, Manly P. Hall spoke and wrote extensively on the wisdom found in all ancient traditions, and the deep cross-cultural threads and many interconnected roots of modern religious expression. While neither guru nor saint (he made no claim of perfection, far from it), his work is exceedingly rare in its grand scope, detail and synthesis. He embraced the wisdom of every tradition and, with a fluid command of the obscure and complex contents of these traditions, worked to express their unifying truths. In his long career, spanning more than seventy years of dynamic public activity. Mr. Hall delivered over 8000 lectures in the United States and abroad, authored over 200 books, essays, and magazine articles, and left the world one of the finest libraries in the field, as well as a University that continues in his spirit of universal learning. The Philosophical Research Society is a non-profit organization founded in 1934 by Manly P. Hall for the purpose of providing thoughtful persons rare access to the depth and breadth of the world's wisdom literature. PRS is entirely free from doctrinal, political, or ecclesiastical affiliation and provides an environment sheltered from any interest intending to coerce or convert. The institution's goal is to enable the individual to develop a mature philosophy of life, dedicated to understanding and appreciating one's own unique possibilities in the unfolding universal pattern. The works published by PRS, most of which are written by Manly P. Hall himself, probe the life mysteries and spiritual issues with which every inquisitive individual is concerned. Whether interested in creating a personal library of philosophical insights, or just beginning the search for enlightenment, one will find the works featured here valuable steps through the 'gates of wisdom' to the greater world around.

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