

aleister crowley white stains

aleister crowley white stains is a phrase that often sparks curiosity and confusion due to its unusual combination of words and the enigmatic figure it references. Aleister Crowley, a highly controversial occultist and writer, has been associated with various esoteric and mystical subjects. The term "white stains" relates to one of his lesser-known works, which delves into themes of sexuality, spirituality, and taboo topics. This article explores the background of Aleister Crowley, the context and content of "White Stains," and its significance in occult literature. Additionally, it examines the symbolism and interpretations linked to this work and its influence on modern esoteric thought. Through a detailed breakdown, readers will gain a comprehensive understanding of the connection between Aleister Crowley and white stains, clarifying misconceptions and uncovering deeper meanings.

- Background of Aleister Crowley
- Understanding "White Stains"
- Thematic Analysis of White Stains
- Symbolism and Interpretations
- Impact and Legacy in Occult Literature
- Common Misconceptions and Clarifications

Background of Aleister Crowley

Aleister Crowley was an English occultist, ceremonial magician, poet, and novelist born in 1875. He is widely known for founding the religious philosophy of Thelema, which emphasizes individual will and spiritual freedom. Crowley's works and life were often shrouded in controversy due to his unconventional beliefs and practices, including drug use, sexual experimentation, and ritual magic. His influence extends beyond occult circles into popular culture, inspiring artists, musicians, and writers. Understanding Crowley's background provides essential context for interpreting his writings, including the enigmatic "White Stains."

Early Life and Influences

Crowley grew up in a strict Christian family but rebelled against conventional religion early on. His interest in mysticism and esotericism was sparked during his time at Cambridge University, where he joined secret

societies focused on occult knowledge. Key influences on Crowley included Eastern philosophies, Hermeticism, and the works of Eliphas Levi. These elements shaped his spiritual outlook and his eventual development of Thelema.

Contributions to Occultism

Crowley authored numerous texts on magic, mysticism, and spiritual practice. His contributions include the Book of the Law, which serves as the cornerstone of Thelemic belief. He also developed complex rituals and magical systems that are still studied and practiced today. Crowley's reputation as a controversial figure stems from his provocative approach to spirituality and his challenge to mainstream religious norms.

Understanding "White Stains"

"White Stains" is a collection of erotic poetry first published in 1898 under the pseudonym "George Archibald Bishop." The work contains explicit and provocative verses exploring themes of sexuality, desire, and taboo. Unlike Crowley's other more philosophical or magical texts, "White Stains" focuses on the physical and emotional aspects of human experience. The title itself metaphorically references bodily fluids, which ties into the raw and candid nature of the poems.

Publication and Reception

At the time of its release, "White Stains" was considered scandalous and was circulated privately due to its explicit content. The poetry challenges Victorian-era moral standards and reflects Crowley's interest in breaking social taboos. Despite its controversial nature, the work has been studied for its literary merit and its insight into Crowley's views on sexuality as a spiritual force.

Content Overview

The poems in "White Stains" range from sensual and intimate to aggressive and confrontational. They address various aspects of sexual identity, including homoeroticism, which was taboo during Crowley's time. The collection blends poetic form with candid expression, creating a unique fusion of art and provocation.

Thematic Analysis of White Stains

The themes in "White Stains" reflect Crowley's broader spiritual philosophy,

particularly the embrace of individual will and the rejection of conventional morality. Sexuality is portrayed not only as a physical act but as a means of achieving personal and spiritual liberation. The poems emphasize freedom, transgression, and the power of desire as transformative forces.

Sexuality as Spiritual Expression

For Crowley, sexual energy is a potent source of magical power. "White Stains" explores the idea that sexual acts can transcend their physicality and become rites of spiritual significance. This perspective aligns with Crowley's Thelemic principle of following one's true will, including the pursuit of pleasure and self-discovery.

Rebellion Against Social Norms

The poems deliberately confront societal taboos related to sexuality, gender roles, and morality. By presenting explicit content without apology, Crowley challenges readers to reconsider their preconceived notions about acceptable behavior. This rebellion is a key theme throughout the collection and reflects Crowley's broader challenge to Victorian and religious orthodoxies.

Symbolism and Interpretations

The symbolism in "White Stains" is rich and multi-layered, often combining sexual imagery with occult and mystical references. The "white stains" themselves symbolize more than physical residues; they represent the mark of human desire, spiritual awakening, and the breaking of boundaries.

Occult Symbolism

Many poems incorporate symbols common in Crowley's magical practice, such as references to alchemy, transformation, and divine union. These images suggest that sexuality is intertwined with spiritual evolution and the quest for enlightenment. The use of symbolism adds depth to the erotic content, inviting interpretations beyond the literal.

Psychological Interpretations

From a psychological perspective, "White Stains" can be seen as an exploration of the subconscious and the liberation of repressed desires. The poems reveal the complexity of human sexuality and the tensions between societal repression and individual expression. This interpretation aligns with later psychoanalytic theories that emphasize the role of sexuality in human development.

Impact and Legacy in Occult Literature

"White Stains" has had a lasting influence on both occult literature and the broader cultural understanding of sexuality and spirituality. Though not as widely known as Crowley's major works, it remains significant for its bold treatment of taboo subjects and its integration of eroticism with esoteric thought.

Influence on Later Writers and Occultists

The work inspired subsequent generations of occultists and writers who saw sexuality as an essential component of spiritual practice. Its frankness paved the way for more open discussions of erotic themes within mystical contexts. Crowley's blending of poetry, magic, and sexuality continues to resonate in various subcultures.

Modern Relevance

Today, "White Stains" is studied for its historical and literary value, as well as for its insight into the complex relationship between sexuality and spirituality. It challenges modern readers to reconsider the boundaries between physical pleasure and mystical experience, highlighting Crowley's enduring legacy as a provocative thinker.

Common Misconceptions and Clarifications

The phrase aleister crowley white stains often leads to misunderstandings, conflating Crowley's occult work with sensationalism or misinterpreting the title literally. Clarifying these misconceptions is important for an accurate appreciation of the work.

Misinterpretation of the Title

The title "White Stains" is sometimes taken at face value as crude or obscene. However, it is primarily a metaphor for the imprint of human passion and the spiritual significance of sexual energy. Understanding the symbolic intent behind the title aids in a more nuanced reading of the text.

Separating Fact from Myth

Crowley's life and work have been the subject of numerous myths and exaggerations. While "White Stains" is explicit, it is also a deliberate artistic and philosophical statement rather than mere provocation. Recognizing this helps dispel sensationalized views and fosters a more

informed perspective on Crowley's contributions.

- Explicit erotic poetry with spiritual themes
- Reflection of Crowley's Thelemic philosophy
- Challenge to Victorian social norms
- Use of occult and alchemical symbolism
- Influence on modern occult and literary circles

Frequently Asked Questions

What does 'white stains' refer to in Aleister Crowley's context?

'White Stains' is a collection of erotic poetry written by Aleister Crowley, exploring themes of sexuality, mysticism, and taboo subjects.

When was Aleister Crowley's 'White Stains' published?

'White Stains' was first published in 1898 under the pseudonym George Archibald Bishop.

Why did Aleister Crowley use a pseudonym for 'White Stains'?

Crowley used the pseudonym George Archibald Bishop to avoid the social and legal repercussions of publishing explicit and controversial erotic poetry at the time.

What themes are explored in Aleister Crowley's 'White Stains'?

The book explores themes such as sexuality, taboo, mysticism, occultism, and the breaking of conventional moral boundaries.

Is 'White Stains' considered an important work in

Crowley's literary career?

Yes, 'White Stains' is considered a significant early work that showcases Crowley's interest in sexuality and the occult, setting the stage for his later writings and philosophies.

How does 'White Stains' reflect Aleister Crowley's occult beliefs?

'White Stains' intertwines eroticism with occult symbolism, reflecting Crowley's belief in the spiritual and transformative power of sexuality.

Is 'White Stains' controversial today?

Yes, due to its explicit content and exploration of taboo subjects, 'White Stains' remains controversial but is also studied for its literary and historical significance.

Where can I find a copy of Aleister Crowley's 'White Stains'?

'White Stains' is available through various online bookstores, occult bookshops, and some digital archives specializing in rare or esoteric literature.

Did Aleister Crowley write any other works similar to 'White Stains'?

Yes, Crowley wrote several other works dealing with sexuality, mysticism, and occultism, such as 'The Book of Lies' and 'The Equinox' series.

How has 'White Stains' influenced modern occult or literary communities?

'White Stains' has influenced modern occultists and literary figures by challenging societal norms about sexuality and spirituality, inspiring discussions about the integration of eroticism and mysticism.

Additional Resources

1. *White Stains: The Complete Text*

This is the original work by Aleister Crowley, a collection of erotic poems and prose exploring themes of sexuality, mysticism, and taboo. Written under the pseudonym George Archibald, the book challenges conventional morality and delves into Crowley's unique blend of spiritual and carnal experiences. Its provocative nature made it controversial, yet it remains a significant piece

in Crowley's literary and occult oeuvre.

2. *Aleister Crowley: The Man, The Myth, The Magick*

This biography provides a comprehensive look at Crowley's life, including the creation of works like *White Stains*. It explores how his personal philosophies and occult practices influenced his writing, shedding light on the context behind his provocative poetry. The book also examines Crowley's impact on modern esoteric and literary traditions.

3. *Sex and the Occult: Aleister Crowley's Controversial Writings*

Focusing on the intersection of sexuality and spirituality in Crowley's work, this book analyzes *White Stains* alongside other controversial texts. It discusses how Crowley used explicit content as a form of ritual magic and self-exploration. The author delves into the historical reactions to Crowley's bold themes and their lasting influence.

4. *The Erotic Mysticism of Aleister Crowley*

This study explores the mystical and erotic dimensions of Crowley's poetry, with a special focus on *White Stains*. It interprets the poems as symbolic rituals that aim to transcend ordinary consciousness through sexual experience. The book offers a scholarly perspective on how Crowley blends eroticism with his Thelemic philosophy.

5. *Forbidden Texts: Aleister Crowley and Censorship*

Examining the legal and social challenges faced by Crowley's writings, including *White Stains*, this book highlights issues of censorship and taboo in early 20th-century literature. It contextualizes Crowley's work within broader struggles for freedom of expression. The author also discusses how Crowley's provocative style pushed boundaries in both literary and occult circles.

6. *Magick and Poetry: The Writings of Aleister Crowley*

This collection analyzes Crowley's poetic works as expressions of his magical theories, with *White Stains* serving as a prime example. The book explores how Crowley's poetry functions as a form of ritual and communication with higher powers. It offers insights into the symbolic language and hidden meanings embedded in his verse.

7. *Dark Passions: The Sexual Mysticism of Aleister Crowley*

Delving into Crowley's exploration of sexuality as a spiritual path, this book uses *White Stains* to illustrate his revolutionary ideas. It discusses how Crowley's open treatment of taboo subjects aimed to liberate the individual from societal constraints. The text connects Crowley's sexual mysticism to contemporary understandings of sexuality and spirituality.

8. *Thelemic Literature: Key Texts and Interpretations*

This anthology includes selections from *White Stains* alongside other foundational Thelemic writings. It provides critical commentary on the texts' roles within Crowley's religious philosophy of Thelema. Readers gain a deeper understanding of how *White Stains* fits into the broader tapestry of Crowley's spiritual teachings.

9. *Controversy and Creativity: Aleister Crowley's Literary Legacy*

This book examines the lasting impact of Crowley's provocative works, including *White Stains*, on modern literature and occult thought. It discusses how Crowley's blending of eroticism, mysticism, and rebellion inspired subsequent generations of writers and magicians. The author reflects on the tensions between Crowley's artistic innovation and societal norms.

[Aleister Crowley White Stains](#)

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aleister crowley white stains: White Stains Aleister Crowley, 2017-08-29 Inspired by Psychopathia Sexualis, Richard Krafft-Ebing's controversial study of sexual perversity, *White Stains* purports to be the literary remains of George Archibald Bishop, a neuropath of the Second Empire. Aleister Crowley's book of provocative verse was clandestinely published in 1898 and of the hundred copies that were originally printed, only a handful were spared destruction by Her Majesty's Customs.

aleister crowley white stains: White Stains Aleister Crowley, 2014-03-21 From the mouth of Mr. Crowley: My essential spirituality is made manifest by yet another publication, which stands as a testimony of my praeterhuman innocence. The book is called *White Stains* and is commonly quoted by my admirers as evidence of my addiction to every kind of unmentionable vice. Asses! It is, indeed, technically, an obscene book and yet the fact that I wrote it proves the purity of my heart and the mind in the most extraordinary fashion. The facts are as follows: In the course of my reading I had come across von Krafft-Ebing's *Psychopathia Sexualis*. The professor tries to prove that sexual aberrations are the result of disease. I did not agree. I thought that I was able to understand the psychology involved; I thought that the acts were merely magical affirmations of perfectly intelligible points of view. I said to myself that I must confute the professor. I could only do this by employing the one form at my disposal: the artistic form. I therefore invented a poet who went wrong, who began with normal and innocent enthusiasms, and gradually developed various vices. He ends by being stricken with disease and madness, culminating in murder. In his poems he describes his downfall, always explaining the psychology of each act. The conclusions of the book might therefore be approved in any Sunday School and its metaphysics is orthodox from the point of view of the theologian. I wrote the book in absolute seriousness and in all innocence. It never occurred to me that a demonstration of the terrible results of misguided passion might be mistaken for pornography. Indeed, now that I do understand that vile minds think it a vile book, I recognize with grim satisfaction that *Psychopathia Sexualis* itself has attained its enormous popularity because people love to gloat over such things. Its scientific form has not protected it from abuse, any more than the artistic form of my own reply to it. But von Krafft-Ebing has not been blackguarded as I have. The average man cannot believe that an artist may be as serious and highminded an observer of life as the professed man of science. ~ Aleister Crowley (*The Confessions of Aleister Crowley*.)

aleister crowley white stains: White Stains (Annotated) Aleister Crowley, 2019-10-04 *White Stains*, Aleister Crowley's notorious book of risqué verse, was clandestinely published in Amsterdam in 1898, and of the hundred copies that were imported into England, only a handful were spared destruction by the British Government. Inspired by *Psychopathia Sexualis*, Richard Krafft-Ebing's controversial study of sexual perversity, *White Stains* purports to be the literary remains of George

Archibald Bishop, a neuropath of the Second Empire.

aleister crowley white stains: White Stains the Literary Remains of George Archibald Bishop a Neuropath of the Second Empire Aleister Crowley, 2011-07-01 Written by magician and occultist Aleister Crowley and published clandestinely in 1898, *White Stains* is a collection of verse tracing the demise of a fictitious poet, George Archibald Bishop. His biography is given in the Preface. Crowley wrote *White Stains* as a refutation of the psychiatrist and pioneering sexologist Richard von Krafft-Ebing's contention in *Psychopathia Sexualis* that sexual perversions are a consequence of disease. Crowley's verse, which is modelled on Decadent and Symbolist poetry, explores a range of ostensible sexual aberrations. Excerpts from several poems appear in another clandestine classic, *Raped on the Railway* (c. 1899). *White Stains* was published by the London-based publisher Leonard Smithers. It was printed, in Amsterdam, on hand-made paper, in a limited edition of 100 copies. Many of these are supposed to have been destroyed by British customs officials in 1924. Crowley revised and extended *White Stains'* pseudo-biographical project in his wildly inventive black parody of literary erotica, *Snowdrops from a Curate's Garden* (c. 1904). *Snowdrops from a Curate's Garden* and *Raped on the Railway* are available from Birchgrove Press.

aleister crowley white stains: Aleister Crowley Collection 2 Aleister Crowley, 2014-03-22 Teach us Your real secret, Master! how to become invisible, how to acquire love, and oh! beyond all, how to make gold. Fans of Aleister Crowley are in for a treat. Included in this second volume of Crowley's *Collected Works: White Stains The Soldier and the Hunchback! And ? Cocaine White Stains* My essential spirituality is made manifest by yet another publication, which stands as a testimony of my praeterhuman (sic) innocence. The book is called *White Stains* and is commonly quoted by my admirers as evidence of my addiction to every kind of unmentionable vice. - Aleister Crowley. 'The Confessions of Aleister Crowley.' The Soldier and the Hunchback ! And ? Students of Thelema would do well to familiarize themselves with the ideas set forth in this short document. Crowley describes the path of initiation in this essay as a succession of question marks and exclamation points. When one sets out on the path, one is typically operating in what we might call mundane consciousness, reacting blindly to sensory stimuli and hardly reflecting at all on one's life. But the unexamined life is not worth living. So when one first begins to question one's own basic assumptions and seek a deeper truth - when one puts a question mark next to one's life - one eventually finds an ecstatic exclamation point, an AHA or EUREKA! moment when one believes that one has found The Answer. Cocaine The happiness of cocaine is not passive or placid as that of beasts; it is self-conscious. It tells man what he is, and what he might be; it offers him the semblance of divinity, only that he may know himself a worm. It awakes discontent so acutely that never shall it sleep again. It creates hunger. Give cocaine to a man already wise, schooled to the world, morally forceful, a man of intelligence and self-control. If he be really master of himself, it will do him no harm. He will know it for a snare: he will beware of repeating such experiments as he may make; and the glimpse of his goal may possibly even spur him to its attainment by those means which God has appointed for His saints. First published in the October 1917 edition of *The International*, Crowley's examination of cocaine and its role in society is an important document in any serious discussion of the history of recreational drugs. It is a useful companion piece to Crowley's later tour de force 'Diary of a Drug Fiend.'

aleister crowley white stains: The Writings of Aleister Crowley 2 (Annotated) Aleister Crowley, 2019-02-11 *The Writings of Aleister Crowley 2* presents three essential texts by the black magick master: *White Stains*, *The Psychology of Hashish* and *The Blue Equinox*. Each work has been updated for the digital age with new formatting and punctuation, along with original footnotes and illustrations. *White Stains* by Aleister Crowley This notorious book of risqué verse was clandestinely published in Amsterdam in 1898 and of the hundred copies that were imported into England, only a handful were spared destruction by the British Government. *The Psychology of Hashish* by Aleister Crowley Crowley's account of his experimentation with *Cannabis sativa* places his observations within the context of reports on the hallucinogen from a spectrum of authors, artists, sages and mages throughout history. *The Blue Equinox* by Aleister Crowley This comprehensive resource for

students of Thelema includes pages of instructions for initiates, including Crowley's own extensive reading lists divided into courses. The Blue Equinox also details the history, principles and aims of the secret society O.T.O. and its ally the A∴A∴, both of which were under Crowley's control at the time. *Original footnotes. *Images.

aleister crowley white stains: White Stains Aleister Crowley, 2012-06-30 White Stains remains Aleister Crowley's most infamous work, his attempt at taking the Satanic/erotic decadence of Baudelaire and ramping it up to new extremes of degradation, sexual depravity and demonic frenzy. Revelling in filth, Crowley includes odes to sodomy, fellatio, cunnilingus, anilingus, rape, lesbianism, impotence, venereal disease, bestiality, sado-masochism, coprophilia, necrophilia, blasphemy and devil-worship in this staggering, over-the-top compendium of eros and evil. This first US edition of White Stains also includes Crowley's rare later volume, The Nameless Novel (1904), a rampant pornographic novella written to stimulate and amuse his wife. With a new introduction by Crowley scholar D M Mitchell, the book is a classic document of fin-de-siecle erotica, as well as a unique compendium of Crowley's most outrageous and notorious literary output. New edition with new cover. First in a new series, Forbidden Erotic Classics, dedicated to literary works which were censored, suppressed or even prosecuted upon their original publication.

aleister crowley white stains: White Stains and the Nameless Novel Aleister Crowley, D. M. Mitchell, 2008-11-01 A unique compendium of Crowleys most outrageous and notorious literary output. White Stains remains Aleister Crowleys most infamous work, his attempt at taking the Satanic/erotic decadence of Baudelaire and ramping it up to new extremes of degradation, sexual depravity and demonic frenzy. Reveling in filth, Crowley includes odes to sodomy, fellatio, cunnilingus, lesbianism, impotence, venereal disease, sado-masochism, necrophilia, blasphemy, devil-worship and more in this staggering, over-the-top compendium of eros and evil. Includes Crowleys rare later volume, The Nameless Novel (1904) With a new introduction by Crowley scholar D. M. Mitchell Illustrated with rare examples of Victorian erotic photography

aleister crowley white stains: Aleister Crowley: A Visual Study William Ramsey, 2013-12-01 The infamous occult practitioner, Edward Alexander Aleister Crowley has cast a long shadow over the history and culture of the 20th century. The information included in Aleister Crowley: A Visual Study illustrates this fact. As the foremost accumulator of occult knowledge in the late 19th and early 20th Century, Crowley based his writings upon prior magicians, writers, and philosophers, incorporating their ideas, and his own, into a new religion for a New Age. This book details Crowley's progression from a self-described childhood in hell, to notorious magician, to drug-addled middle age as the Great Beast, and on to his final years living in an upscale boarding house in southern England. As this visual study confirms, a copious amount of photographic and newspaper evidence still remains concerning the Beast 666-Aleister Crowley.

aleister crowley white stains: Aleister Crowley in England Tobias Churton, 2021-11-23 • Reveals Crowley's sex magick relations in London and his contacts with important figures, including Dion Fortune, Gerald Gardner, Jack Parsons, Dylan Thomas, and black equality activist Nancy Cunard • Explores Crowley's nick-of-time escape from the Nazi takeover in Germany and offers extensive confirmation of Crowley's work for British intelligence • Examines the development of Crowley's later publications and his articles in reaction to the Nazi Gestapo actively persecuting his followers in Germany After an extraordinary life of magical workings, occult fame, and artistic pursuits around the globe, Aleister Crowley was forced to spend the last fifteen years of his life in his native England, nearly penniless. Much less examined than his early years, this final period of the Beast's life was just as filled with sex magick, espionage, romance, transatlantic conflict, and extreme behavior. Drawing on previously unpublished diaries and letters, Tobias Churton provides the first detailed treatment of the final years of Crowley's life, from 1932 to 1947. He opens with Crowley's nick-of-time escape from the Nazi takeover in Germany and his return home to England, flat broke. Churton offers extensive confirmation of Crowley's work as a secret operative for MI5 and explores how Crowley saw World War II as the turning point for the "New Aeon." He examines Crowley's notorious 1934 London trial, which resulted in his bankruptcy, and shares inside stories of

Crowley's relations with Californian O.T.O. followers, including rocket-fuel specialist Jack Parsons, and his attempt to take over H. Spencer Lewis's Rosicrucian Order. The author reveals Crowley's sex magick relations in London and his contacts with spiritual leaders of the time, including Dion Fortune and Wicca founder Gerald Gardner. He examines Crowley's dealings with artists such as Dylan Thomas, Alfred Hitchcock, Augustus John, Peter Warlock, and Peter Brooks and dispels the accusations that Crowley was racist, exploring his work with lifelong friend, black equality activist Nancy Cunard. Churton also examines the development of Crowley's later publications such as *Magick without Tears* as well as his articles in reaction to the Nazi Gestapo who was actively persecuting his remaining followers in Germany. Presenting an intimate and compelling study of Crowley in middle and old age, Churton shows how the Beast still wields a wand-like power to delight and astonish.

aleister crowley white stains: Sexual Heretics Brian Reade, 2017-10-06 The years between 1850 and 1900 were the vintage years of a discreet homosexual culture in England. In this period, educational, personal and foreign influences all contributed to the establishment of a trend expressed in the works of authors such as John Addington Symonds, Walter Pater, and A.E. Housman, and in those of lesser writers, now largely forgotten. This book, first published in 1970, is an anthology of English prose and verse, either homosexual in tone or providing a vehicle for homosexual emotions, and in several examples even overtly and experimentally frank. The book includes an introduction by Brian Reade explaining the network of friendships and associations which underlay this development and tracing some of its origins.

aleister crowley white stains: Prophet of Evil: Aleister Crowley, 9/11 and the New World Order William Ramsey, 2010-07-24 Do the numbers suffusing the day of September 11th have occult significance? Why are the numbers 11, 77, 93, and 175 extremely significant in understanding the event? How did Aleister Crowley influence the events of 9/11, considering the fact that he died in 1947? How did Aleister Crowley inspire the doctrines of the New World Order? The answers to these questions is contained in the riveting book *Prophet of Evil: Aleister Crowley, 9/11 and the New World Order*.

aleister crowley white stains: The Eloquent Blood Manon Hedenborg White, 2020 The *Eloquent Blood* focuses on the changing construction of femininity and feminine sexuality in interpretations of the goddess Babalon. A central deity in Thelema, the religion founded by the notorious British occultist Aleister Crowley (1875-1947), Babalon is based on Crowley's favorable reinterpretation of the biblical Whore of Babylon, and is associated with liberated female sexuality and the spiritual ideal of passionate union with existence. Combining research on historical and contemporary Western esotericism with feminist and queer theory, the book sheds light on the ways in which esoteric movements and systems of thought have developed over time in relation to political movements.

aleister crowley white stains: Aleister Crowley Gary Lachman, 2014-05-15 This definitive work on the occult's "great beast" traces the arc of his controversial life and influence on rock-and-roll giants, from the Rolling Stones to Led Zeppelin to Black Sabbath. When Aleister Crowley died in 1947, he was not an obvious contender for the most enduring pop-culture figure of the next century. But twenty years later, Crowley's name and image were everywhere. The Beatles put him on the cover of Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band. The Rolling Stones were briefly serious devotees. Today, his visage hangs in goth clubs, occult temples, and college dorm rooms, and his methods of ceremonial magick animate the passions of myriad occultists and spiritual seekers. Aleister Crowley is more than just a biography of this compelling, controversial, and divisive figure—it's also a portrait of his unparalleled influence on modern pop culture.

aleister crowley white stains: Decadences - Morality and Aesthetics in British Literature Paul Fox, 2012-02-10 This collection seeks to examine the intersections of aesthetics and morality, of what Decadence means to art and society at various moments in British literature. The inclination toward either the artistic or social perspective in each essay has been rendered more straightforwardly by employing capitalization for aesthetic Decadence, and the lower-case to

illustrate moral decadence. Both artistic and social values are inflected by their histories, and, as time passes, so the definition of what it means to be D/decadent alters. The very ideas of the decline from a higher standard, of social malaise, of aesthetic ennui, all presume certain facts about the past, the present, and the linear nature of time itself. To reject the past as a given, and to relish the subtleties of present nuance, is the beginning of Decadence. Purportedly decadent artists focused upon the fleeting present, ascribed value to experiencing the aesthetic moment in its purest form, and it was precisely due to this focus upon living in, and for, the moment that society often responded by expressing moral contempt for the perceived hedonism of art. The aesthetic rejection of contemporary value added to the conflict between the literary and social inflections of Decadent interpretation. The truly decadent was condemned by artists as the stranglehold society maintained on individual interpretation and the interpretation of oneself. This conflict underlies the range of essays in the collection.

aleister crowley white stains: The Subtle Body Simon Cox, 2022-05-18 How does the soul relate to the body? Through the ages, innumerable religious and intellectual movements have proposed answers to this question. Many have gravitated to the notion of the subtle body, positing some sort of subtle entity that is neither soul nor body, but some mixture of the two. Simon Cox traces the history of this idea from the late Roman Empire to the present day, touching on how philosophers, wizards, scholars, occultists, psychologists, and mystics have engaged with the idea over the past two thousand years. This study is an intellectual history of the subtle body concept from its origins in late antiquity through the Renaissance into the Euro-American counterculture of the 1960's and 70's. It begins with a prehistory of the idea, rooted as it is in third-century Neoplatonism. It then proceeds to the signifier subtle body in its earliest English uses amongst the Cambridge Platonists. After that, it looks forward to those Orientalist fathers of Indology, who, in their earliest translations of Sanskrit philosophy relied heavily on the Cambridge Platonist lexicon, and thereby brought Indian philosophy into what had hitherto been a distinctly platonic discourse. At this point, the story takes a little reflexive stroll into the source of the author's own interest in this strange concept, looking at Helena Blavatsky and the Theosophical import, expression, and popularization of the concept. Cox then zeroes in on Aleister Crowley, focusing on the subtle body in fin de siècle occultism. Finally, he turns to Carl Jung, his colleague Frederic Spiegelberg, and the popularization of the idea of the subtle body in the Euro-American counterculture. This book is for anyone interested in yogic, somatic, or energetic practices, and will be very useful to scholars and area specialists who rely on this term in dealing with Hindu, Daoist, and Buddhist texts.

aleister crowley white stains: The Book of Absinthe Phil Baker, 2007-12-01 A witty, erudite primer to the world's most notorious drink. La Fée Verte (or "The Green Fairy") has intoxicated artists, poets, and writers ever since the late eighteenth century. Stories abound of absinthe's drug-like sensations of mood lift and inspiration due to the presence of wormwood, its infamous "special" ingredient, which ultimately leads to delirium, homicidal mania, and death. Opening with the sensational 1905 Absinthe Murders, Phil Baker offers a cultural history of absinthe, from its modest origins as an herbal tonic through its luxuriantly morbid heyday in the late nineteenth century. Chronicling a fascinatingly lurid cast of historical characters who often died young, the absinthe scrapbook includes Paul Verlaine, Arthur Rimbaud, Charles Baudelaire, Oscar Wilde, Ernest Dowson, Aleister Crowley, Arthur Machen, August Strindberg, Alfred Jarry, Vincent van Gogh, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, Alphonse Allais, Ernest Hemingway, and Pablo Picasso. Along with discussing the rituals and modus operandi of absinthe drinking, Baker reveals the recently discovered pharmacology of how real absinthe actually works on the nervous system, and he tests the various real and fake absinthe products that are available overseas. "Formidably researched, beautifully written, and abundant with telling detail and pitch-black humor." —The Daily Telegraph

aleister crowley white stains: The Strange Case of Edward Gorey Alexander Theroux, 2011-02-14 Drawing from a multitude of reference and his own personal relationship to Gorey, literary heavyweight Alexander Theroux has accomplished an amazing feat of illuminating the real Edward Gorey with ambiguity, wit, fervor and reverence, combined with honest and clear-eyed

appraisals of his work. No Gorey fan can be without it. Black-and-white illustrations and photographs throughout.

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