six secret teachings hermeticism

six secret teachings hermeticism form the cornerstone of an ancient philosophical and spiritual tradition that has fascinated scholars, mystics, and seekers for centuries. Rooted in the Hermetic Corpus, these teachings reveal profound insights into the nature of reality, the cosmos, and the human soul. Hermeticism blends elements of mysticism, alchemy, astrology, and philosophy, offering a unique perspective on how the universe operates and how individuals can achieve spiritual enlightenment. This article delves into the six secret teachings hermeticism is best known for, exploring their meanings, implications, and practical applications. Understanding these principles uncovers the esoteric wisdom that has influenced Western occult traditions and modern metaphysical thought. Below is an outline of the key sections covered in this comprehensive discussion.

- The Principle of Mentalism
- The Principle of Correspondence
- The Principle of Vibration
- The Principle of Polarity
- The Principle of Rhythm
- The Principle of Cause and Effect

The Principle of Mentalism

The Principle of Mentalism is the first and foundational teaching among the six secret teachings hermeticism offers. It states that "The All is Mind; the Universe is Mental," emphasizing that the ultimate reality is a mental construct. According to Hermetic philosophy, everything that exists originates from a universal consciousness or mind. This principle suggests that reality itself is shaped by thought, and the material world is a manifestation of mental forces.

Understanding the Universal Mind

This teaching posits that all existence is interconnected through a single, infinite mind often referred to as "The All." This universal mind transcends physical limitations and is the source from which all creation flows. Human consciousness is considered a fragment or reflection of this greater mind.

Implications for Spiritual Practice

Recognizing the universe as mental encourages practitioners to harness the power of thought and intention. By aligning personal thoughts with universal consciousness, individuals can influence their realities and accelerate spiritual growth.

The Principle of Correspondence

The Principle of Correspondence is famously encapsulated by the phrase, "As above, so below; as below, so above." This teaching reveals the interconnectedness between different planes of existence — the physical, mental, and spiritual. It asserts that patterns and laws observable in one realm mirror those in another.

Microcosm and Macrocosm

This principle highlights the relationship between the microcosm (individual human experience) and the macrocosm (the cosmos). By studying one, insights can be gained about the other. For example, the structure of the atom may reflect the structure of the solar system, symbolizing universal harmony.

Practical Applications

Hermetic practitioners use this teaching to interpret symbolic meanings and align their actions with cosmic laws. It encourages exploring analogies and correspondences to deepen understanding of complex spiritual concepts.

The Principle of Vibration

The Principle of Vibration states that "Nothing rests; everything moves; everything vibrates." This teaching reveals that all matter and energy in the universe are in constant motion, vibrating at different frequencies. This includes physical objects, thoughts, emotions, and spiritual entities.

Vibration and Energy

According to this principle, differences between forms of matter and energy arise from varying vibrational frequencies. Higher vibrations correspond to more refined, subtle energies, while lower vibrations represent denser, coarser matter.

Influence on Hermetic Practices

Understanding vibration allows practitioners to manipulate their vibrational state to achieve desired outcomes, such as healing, meditation, or manifestation. Techniques like sound healing, chanting, and meditation focus on raising personal vibration to connect with higher states of consciousness.

The Principle of Polarity

The Principle of Polarity teaches that "Everything is dual; everything has poles; everything has its pair of opposites." This dualistic nature pervades all existence, from light and darkness to hot and cold, good and evil. These opposites are not contradictory but rather complementary aspects of the same reality.

Unity of Opposites

Hermeticism emphasizes that opposites are extremes on a continuum and can be reconciled through balance and understanding. Recognizing the unity underlying polarity enables transcending dualistic thinking and achieving harmony.

Application in Personal Transformation

By mastering the principle of polarity, individuals learn to transform negative states into positive ones, reconcile internal conflicts, and maintain equilibrium in the face of life's challenges.

The Principle of Rhythm

The Principle of Rhythm asserts that "Everything flows, out and in; everything has its tides; all things rise and fall." This teaching reflects the cyclical nature of existence, where patterns of movement and change are constant and predictable.

Cycles in Nature and Life

Rhythm governs natural phenomena such as seasons, lunar phases, and biological rhythms, as well as human experiences like emotions and fortunes. Understanding these cycles helps anticipate changes and adapt accordingly.

Harnessing Rhythmic Patterns

Hermetic practitioners use this principle to align with natural rhythms, enhancing timing in spiritual work, decision-making, and personal development. Awareness of rhythm also aids in overcoming obstacles by recognizing the temporary nature of difficulties.

The Principle of Cause and Effect

The Principle of Cause and Effect states that "Every cause has its effect; every effect has its cause." Nothing happens by chance; all events are the result of specific causes, forming an unbreakable chain of causation throughout the universe.

Law of Karma

This principle aligns closely with the concept of karma, emphasizing personal responsibility and the consequences of actions. Understanding cause and effect empowers individuals to create positive outcomes through conscious choices.

Implications for Hermetic Practice

Practitioners seek to identify root causes of issues to effect meaningful change. This principle also underscores the importance of deliberate intent in shaping reality and achieving spiritual mastery.

Summary of the Six Secret Teachings Hermeticism

To encapsulate the essence of the six secret teachings hermeticism reveals, the following list highlights their fundamental concepts:

- Mentalism: Reality is a mental creation of the universal mind.
- Correspondence: Patterns repeat across different planes of existence.
- Vibration: Everything is in motion and vibrates at varying frequencies.
- Polarity: Dualities are complementary and part of a unified whole.
- Rhythm: Life and nature operate in cyclical patterns.
- Cause and Effect: Every action has a corresponding reaction within a chain of events.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the Six Secret Teachings in Hermeticism?

The Six Secret Teachings in Hermeticism refer to a set of esoteric principles or instructions believed to convey hidden wisdom related to spiritual development, alchemy, and the nature of the universe, often attributed to Hermes Trismegistus.

Who was Hermes Trismegistus in relation to the Six Secret Teachings?

Hermes Trismegistus is a legendary Hellenistic figure considered the founder of Hermeticism. He is traditionally credited with authoring the Six Secret Teachings, which encapsulate his mystical and philosophical insights.

How do the Six Secret Teachings influence modern Hermetic practices?

The Six Secret Teachings provide foundational knowledge and guidance on meditation, alchemical transformation, and metaphysical principles, influencing modern Hermetic practitioners in their spiritual quests and ritual practices.

Are the Six Secret Teachings connected to the Hermetic Corpus?

Yes, the Six Secret Teachings are often considered part of or closely related to the Hermetic Corpus, a collection of ancient texts that form the basis of Hermetic philosophy and spirituality.

What is the significance of secrecy in the Six Secret Teachings?

Secrecy in the Six Secret Teachings underscores the idea that true Hermetic wisdom is esoteric, meant only for initiates who are prepared to understand and responsibly apply the profound spiritual and alchemical knowledge.

Can the Six Secret Teachings be applied in daily life?

Yes, the teachings emphasize self-knowledge, balance, and transformation, which can be applied in daily life to foster personal growth, mindfulness, and a deeper understanding of the cosmos.

Do the Six Secret Teachings include practical alchemical instructions?

Many interpretations of the Six Secret Teachings include symbolic and practical alchemical instructions aimed at spiritual purification and transformation rather than literal chemical processes.

Where can one study the Six Secret Teachings authentically?

Authentic study of the Six Secret Teachings can be pursued through reputable Hermetic texts, scholarly translations of Hermetic writings, and guided instruction from experienced Hermetic practitioners or esoteric schools.

Additional Resources

- 1. The Kybalion: Hermetic Philosophy Ancient Wisdom Explained
 This classic text delves into the core principles of Hermeticism, presenting
 the seven Hermetic laws that govern the universe. Emphasizing mentalism,
 correspondence, vibration, polarity, rhythm, cause and effect, and gender,
 the book offers practical insights for spiritual growth. It serves as a
 foundational guide for anyone interested in the esoteric teachings of Hermes
 Trismegistus.
- 2. Hermeticism: The Ancient Teachings of the Hermetic Order
 This book explores the origins and evolution of Hermetic teachings, focusing
 on the secret knowledge passed down through the ages. It examines the
 symbolic language, rituals, and meditative practices that define Hermetic
 philosophy. Readers gain an understanding of how these teachings influence
 modern spirituality and occult traditions.
- 3. Six Secret Teachings of Hermetic Wisdom
 Focusing specifically on six core Hermetic doctrines, this book breaks down
 their meanings and applications in daily life. It provides historical context
 alongside practical exercises to internalize the wisdom. The text aims to
 make ancient esoteric knowledge accessible and relevant to contemporary
 seekers.
- 4. The Emerald Tablet: The Secret Sayings of Hermes
 Centered around the enigmatic Emerald Tablet, this volume deciphers its
 cryptic messages and their significance within Hermeticism. It discusses
 alchemy, transformation, and the unity of the macrocosm and microcosm. The
 book is essential for understanding one of the most important Hermetic texts.
- 5. Hermetic Alchemy: The Spiritual Science of Transformation
 This work investigates the relationship between Hermetic teachings and
 alchemical practices, highlighting the symbolic process of spiritual
 purification and enlightenment. It explains how alchemy serves as a metaphor

for inner transformation according to Hermetic principles. The book offers both theoretical background and practical guidance.

- 6. The Secret Doctrine of Hermes: Esoteric Teachings Revealed Unveiling the hidden layers of Hermetic philosophy, this book presents the doctrines that have remained concealed from mainstream knowledge. It covers metaphysics, the nature of the divine mind, and cosmic laws. Readers are invited to explore the mysteries that underpin Hermeticism's timeless appeal.
- 7. Hermetic Meditations: Unlocking the Six Keys to Spiritual Mastery
 This guide provides meditative techniques aligned with six fundamental
 Hermetic teachings aimed at achieving spiritual mastery. It combines
 philosophical explanations with step-by-step practices to deepen selfawareness and cosmic understanding. The book is suited for both beginners and
 advanced students of Hermeticism.
- 8. The Six Pillars of Hermetic Philosophy
 Detailing six essential pillars that support Hermetic thought, this book
 offers comprehensive insights into their philosophical and practical
 dimensions. It explores themes such as mental transmutation, duality, and the
 balance of opposites. The text is valuable for those seeking a structured
 approach to Hermetic study.
- 9. Hermes Trismegistus and the Six Secret Teachings
 This title focuses on the legendary figure of Hermes Trismegistus and the six secret teachings attributed to him. It examines historical sources, mythological contexts, and the enduring impact of these teachings on Western esotericism. The book provides a deep dive into the mystical legacy of Hermetic wisdom.

Six Secret Teachings Hermeticism

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scholars who knew or had firsthand knowledge of the Baron Following the path set by renowned alchemist Giuliano Kremmerz, Marco Daffi was one of the most interesting and controversial protagonists of magical Hermeticism in the 20th century, a master initiate who illuminated the more esoteric aspects of Hermetic practice in terms of initiation, gnosis, eros, divination, and consciousness. In this comprehensive look at the man born Baron Ricciardo Ricciardelli, yet better known by his spiritual name of Marco Daffi, historian and researcher David Pantano presents Daffi's writings on some of the most unique and unusual topics within alchemical Hermeticism, available for the first time in English. Through his visionary writings, Daffi elucidates firsthand accounts of initiatory experience and the inner visions of Hermetic practices, supported by relevant experiential praxis. Readers are able to enter Daffi's Inner Laboratory and experience his pioneering investigations into the numinal or interdimensional aspects of consciousness. Daffi details the descensus ad inferno he took into the dark cavernous recesses of past-life regression for purposes of Hermetic healing. His writings also reveal his practical applications of oracular-modes of consciousness, especially by exercising his considerable mediumistic capabilities. Exploring the more human side of Daffi that influenced his work, Pantano shares biographical information and writings from initiates, artists, and scholars who knew of the Baron. These never-before-translated writings provide context and additional depth for the insights that permeate Daffi's alchemical and magical work and philosophy. Pantano also includes Daffi's own account of the infamous Trial of the Magus, which pitted him against the grandson of his teacher, Giuliano Kremmerz, at the height of Italy's fascist era. Providing an inside view of the magus at work, a glimpse into the far-reaching spiritual horizon of a man who explored the depths of the astral realm and the most occult aspects of alchemy and Hermeticism, this book allows the reader to see with an initiate's eyes the kaleidoscopic prism of Daffi's expansive vision of reality.

six secret teachings hermeticism: The Secret Trachings of All Ages Manly Palmer Hall, 2020-09-28 NUMEROUS volumes have been written as commentaries upon the secret systems of philosophy existing in the ancient world, but the ageless truths of life, like many of the earth's greatest thinkers, have usually been clothed in shabby garments. The present work is an attempt to supply a tome worthy of those seers and sages whose thoughts are the substance of its pages. To bring about this coalescence of Beauty and Truth has proved most costly, but I believe that the result will produce an effect upon the mind of the reader which will more than justify the expenditure. Work upon the text of this volume was begun the first day of January, 1926, and has continued almost uninterruptedly for over two years. The greater part of the research work, however, was carried on prior to the writing of the manuscript. The collection of reference material was begun in 1921, and three years later the plans for the book took definite form. For the sake of clarity, all footnotes were eliminated, the various quotations and references to other authors being embodied in the text in their logical order. The bibliography is appended primarily to assist those interested in selecting for future study the most authoritative and important items dealing with philosophy and symbolism. To make readily accessible the abstruse information contained in the book, an elaborate topical cross index is included. I make no claim for either the infallibility or the originality of any statement herein contained. I have studied the fragmentary writings of the ancients sufficiently to realize that dogmatic utterances concerning their tenets are worse than foolhardy. Traditionalism is the curse of modern philosophy, particularly that of the European schools. While many of the statements contained in this treatise may appear at first wildly fantastic, I have sincerely endeavored to refrain from haphazard metaphysical speculation, presenting the material as far as possible in the spirit rather than the letter of the original authors. By assuming responsibility only for the mistakes which may appear herein, I hope to escape the accusation of plagiarism which has been directed against nearly every writer on the subject of mystical philosophy. Having no particular ism of my own to promulgate, I have not attempted to twist the original writings to substantiate preconceived notions, nor have I distorted doctrines in any effort to reconcile the irreconcilable differences present in the various systems of religio-philosophic thought. The entire theory of the book is diametrically opposed to the modern method of thinking, for it is

concerned with subjects openly ridiculed by the sophists of the twentieth century. Its true purpose is to introduce the mind of the reader to a hypothesis of living wholly beyond the pale of materialistic theology, philosophy, or science. The mass of abstruse material between its covers is not susceptible to perfect organization, but so far as possible related topics have been grouped together.

six secret teachings hermeticism: The book of hermetic secrets: Illustrated and annotated edition Hermes Trismegisto, 2023-11-27 Dive into the fascinating world of Hermetic mysteries. This special edition invites you to explore the depths of spiritual and alchemical wisdom that has captivated truth seekers for centuries. In this unique volume, you'll find an exceptional combination of ancient knowledge and practical tools to apply these teachings in your daily life. Each page is carefully illustrated to transport you to a world of symbolism and hidden wisdom. Accompanying the essential teachings of The Emerald Tablet and The Kybalion, you will find annotations that provide a deeper understanding of the original texts. These annotations guide you through the key concepts, helping you to uncover hidden layers of meaning in every word. But this work goes beyond mere theory. Within its pages, you'll discover meditations and practical applications designed to integrate these teachings into your everyday life. You'll learn how to use Hermetic principles to elevate your consciousness, transform your thoughts, and manifest the reality you desire. Explore the principles of correspondence, vibration, polarity, and cause and effect. Discover how to apply the law of mentalism and the law of attraction in your own experience. As you delve deeper into these teachings, you will journey into the mysteries of the universe and the very essence of your own being. 'The Book of Hermetic Secrets' is an invitation to explore the hidden treasures of ancient wisdom. Immerse yourself in this illustrated and annotated edition, and let these teachings transform your life in a profound and meaningful way. Prepare for a fascinating journey into inner knowledge and spiritual expansion. Hermetic wisdom awaits, and now it is within your reach.

six secret teachings hermeticism: The Secret Teachings of the Masonic Lodge John Ankerberg, John Weldon, 1990-04-08 Is Masonry nothing more than a harmless brotherhood, a club for men? Or is there more behind the camaraderie? This in-depth book probes the secret teachings and oaths, revealing how Masonry conflicts with the very foundations of Christianity.

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James Allen, Neville Goddard, Wallace D. Wattles, and many others. Each work has been carefully selected for its ability to inspire, guide, and transform the lives of those who aspire to achieve prosperity. In our quest for abundance, we often explore various paths to find answers. This unique compilation offers a wealth of perspectives, ranging from practical, down-to-earth principles to deeper metaphysical teachings. By bringing these texts together in one volume, we provide a valuable tool for understanding the many facets of success. Books like The Kybalion play a crucial role in this exploration. While their content may initially seem abstract or esoteric, these texts provide keys to understanding the universal laws that govern our reality. By studying these metaphysical principles, we develop a deeper understanding of our own power and our ability to influence our lives and environment. This collection includes a variety of books, from lighter, more accessible works to more advanced spiritual and philosophical texts. Each reading offers a new perspective and can reveal different insights each time you revisit it. The essential thing is not to take these writings as absolute truths, but to find what resonates with you at a given moment and to be attentive to those resonances. As you journey through The Secrets of Prosperity, you will discover that each author brings their own vision and methods for achieving prosperity. Whether through positive thinking, affirmations, visualization, or understanding universal laws, you will find valuable and practical elements for your own journey. The important thing is to remain open, curious, and willing to experiment with what works for you. This book is more than just a collection of texts; it is a guide to personal transformation. We hope this compilation will inspire you, stimulate you, and accompany you on your journey toward a richer and more fulfilling life. May each page be a source of light and wisdom in your quest for prosperity. This compilation includes: The Game of Life and How to Play It, Florence Scovel Shinn (1925) As A Man Thinketh, James Allen (1902) Feeling is the Secret, Neville Goddard (1944) The Kybalion, Three Initiates (1908) The Science of Getting Rich, Wallace D. Wattles (1910) The Art of Money Getting: Golden Rules for Making Money, P.T. Barnum (1880) The Secret of Success, William Walker Artkinson (1908) The Mental Equivalent, Emmet Fox (1943) Franklin's Way to Wealth - or, 'Poor Richard Improved', Benjamin Franklin (1758) Happy reading!

six secret teachings hermeticism: The Kybalion, A Study of The Hermetic Philosophy of Ancient Egypt and Greece William Walker Atkinson, The Three Initiates, Three Initiates Three Initiates, 2024-07-21 Unlock the secrets of the universe with The Kybalion, the definitive guide to the ancient wisdom of Hermeticism. This occult classic, shrouded in mystery, claims to be the essence of the teachings of the legendary sage Hermes Trismegistus. Penned by the enigmatic Three Initiates, the book unveils seven universal principles that are the key to understanding the very fabric of reality. Delve into the Principle of Mentalism, which asserts that All is Mind and that the universe is a mental creation. Explore the Principle of Correspondence, encapsulated in the famous maxim As above, so below, revealing the intricate web connecting the physical, mental, and spiritual planes. Discover the Principle of Vibration, which states that everything is in constant motion, and the Principle of Polarity, which teaches that opposites are merely two extremes of the same thing. Unravel the mysteries of the Principle of Rhythm, the ebb and flow that governs all life, and the Principle of Cause and Effect, the inescapable law of causality. Finally, grasp the Principle of Gender, which permeates all creation, from the physical to the mental and spiritual realms. But The Kybalion is more than just a theoretical treatise. It is a practical guide to mastering your mind and shaping your reality through the art of Mental Transmutation. Learn to harness the power of thought, align yourself with the universal laws, and unlock your limitless potential. Whether you are a seeker of New Age Spirituality, a student of Esoteric Philosophy, or simply a curious explorer of Metaphysical Phenomena, The Kybalion is an indispensable addition to your Wisdom Traditions library. Dive into this transformative work and embark on a journey of self-discovery and spiritual awakening. The true identity of the Three Initiates, the mysterious authors of The Kybalion, remains a closely guarded secret. Speculation abounds, with many scholars attributing the work to William Walker Atkinson, a prolific writer and pioneer of the New Thought movement. Atkinson, born in 1862 in Baltimore, Maryland, was a man of many talents. He began his career as a lawyer but soon

felt drawn to the realm of spirituality and occultism. Under numerous pseudonyms, including Yogi Ramacharaka and Theron Q. Dumont, Atkinson penned over 100 books on topics ranging from yoga and meditation to psychic development and the power of the mind. A key figure in the New Thought movement, Atkinson believed in the transformative power of the mind and the unity of all creation. His teachings emphasized the mastery of thought and the attainment of self-realization through the understanding of universal principles.

six secret teachings hermeticism: HERMETIC TEACHINGS OF THOTH THE ATLANTIAN JACOB ABRAMOWITZ, 2023-11-02 In all cities of the ancient world were temples for public worship and offering. In every community also were philosophers and mystics, deeply versed in Nature's lore. These individuals were usually banded together, forming reclusive philosophic and religious schools. The more important of these groups were known as the Mysteries. Many of the great minds of antiquity were initiated into these secret fraternities by strange and mysterious rites, some of which were extremely cruel. After being admitted, the initiates were instructed in the secret wisdom which had been preserved for ages. Plato, an initiate of one of these sacred orders, was severely criticized because in his writings he revealed to the public many of the secret philosophic principles of the Mysteries. Every pagan nation had (and has) not only its state religion, but another into which few have gained entrance. Many of these ancient cults vanished from the earth without revealing their secrets, but a few have survived the test of ages and their mysterious symbols are still preserved. Much of the ritualism of Freemasonry is based on the trials to which candidates were subjected by the ancient hierophants before the keys of wisdom were entrusted to them. Few realize the extent to which the ancient secret schools influenced contemporary intellects and, through those minds, posterity. It appears that all the perfection of civilization, and all the advancement made in philosophy, science, and art among the ancients are due to those institutions which, under the veil of mystery, sought to illustrate the highest truths of religion, morality, and virtue, and impress them on the hearts of their disciples. With the decline of virtue, which has preceded the destruction of every nation of history, the Mysteries became perverted. Sorcery took the place of the divine magic. Indescribable practices (such as the Bacchanalia) were introduced, and perversion ruled supreme; for no institution can be any better than the members of which it is composed. In despair, the few who were true sought to preserve the secret doctrines from oblivion. In some cases, they succeeded, but more often the Arcanum was lost and only the empty shell of the Mysteries remained. The ancient philosophers believed that no man could live intelligently who did not have a fundamental knowledge of Nature and her laws. Before man can obey, he must understand, and the Mysteries were devoted to instructing man concerning the operation of divine law in the terrestrial sphere. Few of the early cults actually worshiped anthropomorphic deities, although their symbolism might lead one to believe they did. They were moralistic rather than religionistic; philosophic rather than theologic. They taught man to use his faculties more intelligently, to be patient in the face of adversity, to be courageous when confronted by danger, to be true in the midst of temptation, and, most of all, to view a worthy life as the most acceptable sacrifice to God, and his body as an altar sacred to the Deity. In the ancient world, nearly all the secret societies were philosophic and religious. During the medieval centuries, they were chiefly religious and political, although a few philosophic schools remained. In modern times, secret societies, in the Occidental countries, are largely political or fraternal, although in a few of them, as in Masonry, the ancient religious and philosophic principles still survive. Space prohibits a detailed discussion of the secret schools. There were literally scores of these ancient cults, with branches in all parts of the Eastern and Western worlds. At the core of it all however stood WISDOM. The key truths only intrusted to the few selected. In this little book I want to share these with you and pray that you will find in them the keys to lift you up to the higher planes of consciousness. What I will share, is at the heart of the ancient mysteries!

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Hartmann, William Q. Judge, Eliphas Levi, William Wynn Westcott, Paul Foster Case, Seth Pancoast, J. D. Buck, 2019-03-18 This is an illustrated collection of 14 essays on a variety of occult-themed topics, covering the full spectrum of classic esoteric and related subjects, which include hermeticism, alchemy, magic, the Kabbalah, ancient wisdom and philosophy, the Tarot, Rosicrucianism, Freemasonry, Theosophy and spiritualism, by some of the most notable and prominent names in the history of those subjects. Compiled specifically with the student in mind. Part of a series. Writers include Manly P. Hall, Paul Foster Case, Helena P. Blavatsky, Eliphas Levi, William Wynn Westcott, William Q. Judge, Franz Hartmann, Seth Pancoast, Sarah F. Gordon, Albert G. Mackey, J. D. Buck, C. Jinarajadasa, Bernard Fielding and Frank C. Higgins.

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six secret teachings hermeticism: Reincarnation in America Lee Irwin, 2017-07-31 Reincarnation in America: An Esoteric History surveys the complex history of reincarnation theories across multiple fields of discourse in a pre-American context, ranging from early Greek traditions to Medieval Christian theories, Renaissance esotericism, and European Kabbalah, all of which had adherents that brought those theories to America. Rebirth theories are shown in all these groups to be highly complex and often disjunctive with mainstream religions even though members of conventional religions frequently affirm the possibility of rebirth. As a history of an idea, reincarnation theory is a current, vital belief pattern that cuts across a wide spectrum of social, cultural, and scientific domains in a long, complex history not reducible to any specific religious or theoretical explanation. This book is cross-disciplinary and multicultural, linking religious studies perspectives with science based research; it draws upon many distinct disciplines and avoids

reduction of reincarnation to any specific theory. The underlying thesis is to demonstrate the complexity of reincarnation theories; what is unique is the historical overview and the gradual shift away from religious theories of rebirth to new theories that are therapeutic and trans-traditional.

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