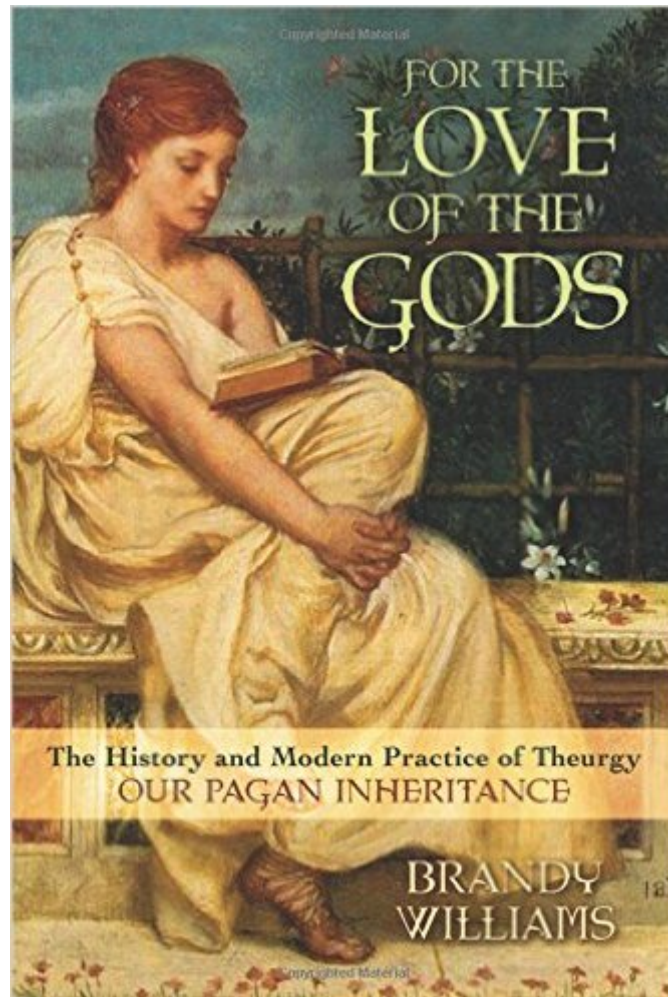


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For The Love Of The Gods: The History And Modern Practice Of Theurgy



Synopsis

Follow the Footsteps of History and Discover the Path to the Gods For the Love of the Gods tells the epic story of theurgy, from its roots in ancient Egypt to its modern day practice. The lives and passions of the early Pagan philosophers come alive in these pages, immersing you in the bustling cities and diverse cultures that spawned theurgy as we know it today. Theurgy is best understood when it is deeply experienced. The stories presented here re-create the experience of these ancient practices and show how they were passed down through generations of teachers and students of differing ethnicities, genders, and ages. It's commonly believed that ancient Pagan theurgy traditions were erased from the earth and replaced by monotheistic religions—but this is a myth. The way to the gods was never lost. For the Love of the Gods shares step-by-step instructions for theurgic rituals, so that you can create relationships with the gods and love them as the ancients did. Discover how to offer devotionals, create living statues, invoke into yourself and others, and achieve personal communion so that you, too, may dwell in the happy presence of the divine.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I was one of the fortunate readers who had the chance to review an advance copy, and then purchased a physical copy through the pre-order offer on . Part historical treatise, and part grimoire, For Love of the Gods successfully employs the art of storytelling and magical instruction into a seamless, and unforgettable journey that brings to light the vibrant history of theurgy, which begins in the mystic land of Kemet (Egypt), then moves into the ancient Greco-Roman world, through the

dark ages and the birth of the Islamic Renaissance (the saving grace of mathematics and science), then quietly surviving in the presence of the Christian Church, and then into present day flourishing pagan/thelemic/spiritualist movements. For Love of the Gods bring to life the men and women who pioneered theurgic practice: Socrates, Plato (and the Platonist and Neoplatonist movements), Pythagoras, Sosipatra, Hypatia of Alexandria, Boethius, Jabir ibn Hayyan, Thomas Taylor, Florence Farr, Aleister Crowley, and Israel Regardie, to name a few. The vignettes that William's shares are as genuine as if we, the readers, are living them in real time. The ebb and flow of story versus instruction works well with William's conversational style without sacrificing the sheer enjoyment of reading or the scholarship behind the subject matter. Williams competently and convincingly presents theurgy as a magical practice that does not discriminate against sex, race, color, or creed. Included in For Love of the Gods are clear, open ended instructions on how to begin a theurgic practice with a variety of choices that allow anyone - beginning, or experienced - to tailor a magical practice to help further their spiritual/magical development.

For the Love of the Gods: The History and Modern Practice of Theurgy by Brandy Williams is a vast, sweeping overview of theurgical practice from ancient Egypt, Greece, Rome, the Middle East and its evolution through the ages to the modern day. The chapters give the reader an overview of the historical, political and cultural aspects of each age and include small sections of historical fiction to give us a look at the possible personal interactions of the notable teacher philosophers and many of the theurgists whose works and achievements have been neglected by history. Williams calls out many of the female theurgists that are often overlooked in other texts as well as other ethnicities, cultures and ages. In part two of the book, Williams outlines some of the modern practices of theurgy and how it picks up on the threads of the tradition and philosophy of teachers past. The author includes ritual structures and hymns that a modern practitioner could use to create their own devotionals to the Gods. The ritual ideas include the mechanics of spiritual communion with deity and the more physical aspects of the altar, statues, and offerings such as incense, food, flowers and oils. The appendices are brimming with additional resources for further study, pronunciations and a vast bibliography. I found the book accessible and imaginative. For the Love of the Gods, is an innovative work that brings the history of theurgy to life with intimate portraits of teachers and students, their beliefs, their practices, their life and times. I found Williams's arguments for an unbroken line of theurgical practice and philosophy compelling and it has added to own understanding of the topic.

So many contemporary Pagans refer back to ancient or tribal custom, or to a tradition of lore or practice passed through generations, as the basis for their Pagan beliefs and devotion. Sadly, there is a great deal of misinformation about our Paleo-Pagan origins, and many writers are more prone to flights of fantasy than rigorous scholarship. Those who seek for accurate information from credible, rigorous sources also have to contend with texts that are dry, inaccessible, or otherwise have very little practical information to offer the modern NeoPagan readership. Noted occultist and writer Brandy Williams manages to balance both of these things beautifully. In her latest book, *For the Love of the Gods*, Williams brings her years of occult experience and scholarship to bear on an often overlooked, but once vitally important aspect of magickal practice: theurgy. To do so, she takes us back, to the roots of ancient cultures and mystery schools, to be instructed in NeoPlatonism and other classical wisdom, through to the Enlightenment and beyond. I was fortunate enough to receive a galley copy and was immediately struck by how effortlessly Williams is able to blend and balance her own impeccable scholarship with lively fictionalized accounts depicting the every day and magickal lives of such notables as Plato, Plotinus, as well as priests and priestesses, philosophers and common people. She handles problematic aspects of the ancients' beliefs (slavery, homophobia, misogyny and racism) with grace and tact, presenting the different times and cultures authentically yet critically. Most important, *For the Love of the Gods* provides an excellent starting point for anyone curious about the practice of theurgy and its role in Pagan magickal practice.

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