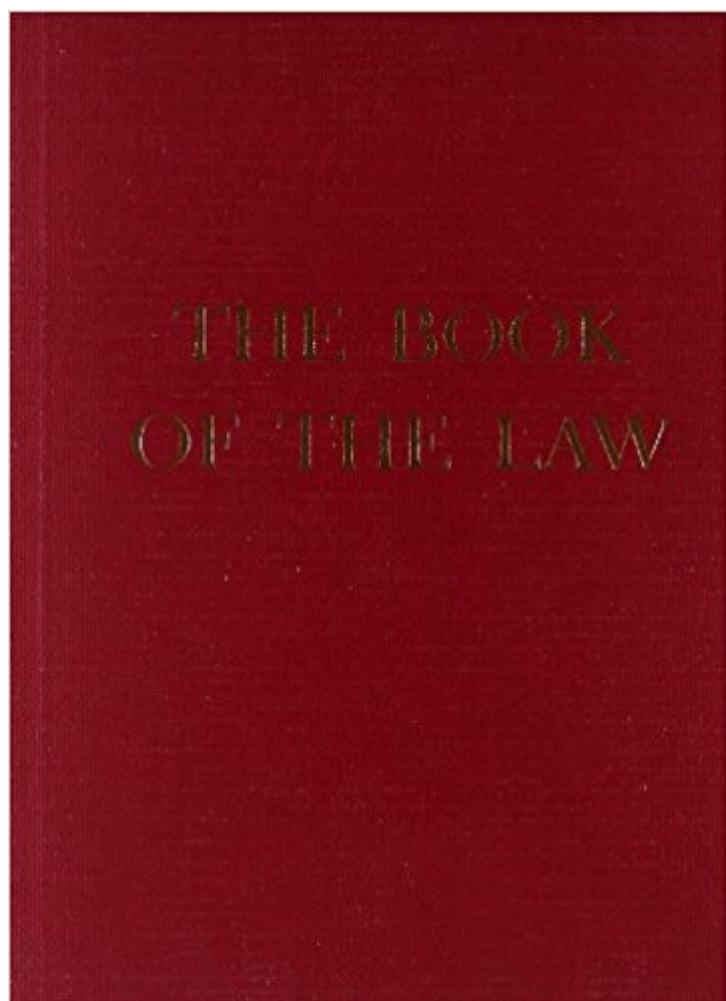


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# Book Of The Law



## Synopsis

"Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law." This oft-misunderstood phrase, which forms the basis for Crowley's practice of Magick, is found in The Book of the Law. Dictated to Crowley in Cairo between noon and 1:00p.m. on three successive days in April 1904, The Book of the Law is the source book and key for Crowley students and for the occult in general. The holy text that forms the basis of Crowley's belief system, Thelema, was transmitted to him by the entity known as Aiwass over the course of three fateful April days in 1904. With his wife Rose as the medium for what would become known as the Cairo Working, Crowley dutifully transcribed the communications on hotel stationery. This work contains the corrected text of the 1938 edition with a facsimile of the handwritten manuscript.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I love this book and read it again and again. Should you buy this book though? Well the entire text is available online all over the place. If you use a decent search engine like Google.com you will have no trouble finding it. So the reason for buying this book is if you wanted a nice bound copy of the text (In which case you have probably already read it a few times and know that's what you want and do not even need to bother reading this review). If you aren't familiar with this book and you are curious I recommend first taking a look at it online and then purchasing "The Law Is for All : The Authorized Popular Commentary of Liber Al Vel Legis, the Book of the Law". The book of the law was kind of hard for me to read the first few times. "The Law is for All" is the Book of the Law with a Commentary by Aleister Crowley. Parts of the commentary can really help out in studying the book

of the law. Also I recommend visiting some of the thelemic websites out there (search "thelema"). Terms like Thelema, Nuit, Hadit, Khabs, Khu, Ankh-af-na-Khonsu, and Hoor Paar Kraat don't make much sense and are a little intimidating without a little outside commentary. There is also a very short paper called "Duty" by Aleister Crowley available on the internet which I think explains the major concepts of Thelema quite well. Highly recommended.

All the other reviews here express how I feel about this book. I would only like to add one more detail: The Book of the Law requires serious, scholarly study. You will not understand it on the first read. Not unless you have Crowley's comments at hand, which is indeed a necessary companion to this text if you wish to understand it. Many people have put their lives into studying this book and still have not uncovered all of its hidden meanings. This is not a book that you can simply pick up and read one time through. Consider it as being similar to a full college course, because it will likely take that long to get a substantial understanding of it. Crowley's comments on this text are published in "The Law Is For All," although I believe it's out of print. However, here is a link to a site with free electronic versions of various comments to this text, one of which is Crowley's own --> [...] I'll end this review with one of my favorite passages from Liber AL (the technical name of The Book of the Law): "Remember all ye that existence is pure joy; that all the sorrows are but as shadows; they pass & are done; but there is that which remains." ~2:9

Regardless of how some people may feel about Crowley, his works stand on their own. "The Book of the Law", is his most personal, central work, and Thelemite or no, you would have to lack a soul if you did not at the very least find much of the language contained therein as being quite beautiful, insightful, and inspired. This book will hit you in the head like a ton of bricks, and its prose and music is very comparable to many ancient religious writings, and we have the benefit of knowing that it has never lost anything in translation as it was originally written in the English language. For comparable writings....try "The Nag Hammadi Library", Carl Jungs "Seven Sermons to the Dead", and "The Holy Fire of St. Michael" by Richard Michael Willoughby.

So the average reader might read the first chapter, if that..realistically the first page, and think it's just rantings by a mad man, the "devil worshipper". The problem was that Crowley was and still is vilified by the church. When a person sees you reading Crowley you get the "dirty look". Those that do study Crowley's work know it's his works are very in depth and can be quite clever. My favorite quote is "Every man and woman is a star". Sounds insane, but the meaning is so perfectly

explained in Lon Milo DuQuette's "Understanding Aleister Crowley's Thoth Tarot". I find that DuQuette is able to "decode" some of the more crazier parts of Crowley's works. The Book of the Law is the "sacred text" of Thelema. It was supposedly dictated to Crowley on his wedding night from an entity named Aiwass. The book only has 3 chapters, in the 1st person perspectives of Thelemic deities Nuit, Hadit, and Ra-Hoor-Khuit. The Book of the Law may be short in pages, but the amount of knowledge is intense and should be revisited as I find with most Crowley works, you just seem to find or understand more each time. So to completely review this book, it's difficult to explain to those that have not read it. It is not a "read through" book. It's very rich and loaded with interesting logic.

... Well not really :) Liber Al vel Legis can be viewed as an essay on the relationship of Man and "god". This book, "received" by Aleister Crowley on his honeymoon in 1904 is a powerfull work that can break through people's preconceptions (misconceptions?) of reality, religion and Man's place in the cosmos. I have read this book more times than I can count, and always come away with new insights... not so much insights into the text, but insights into my own self. Reading this book is an agent of change, one cannot help being changed by reading this...be it for the better or the worse. (Such is the reason for Crowley's famous Comment appended to the end of the text, and the joke in the title of this review.) A previous reviewer blasts this book and paradigm for "borrowing" from other religions and beliefs, but to me this is the sublime beauty of it. Crowley or Aiwass (whomever you choose to think the author is), did steal and borrow from all religions, finding the common threads, and weaving a wonderfull web out of the best, and disposing of the rest. Overall, even if one is not interested in Thelema, magick, or anything out of the "ordinary", I would recommend this short book just to challenge what you believe and what you hold to be true

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