

The Tibetan Book of the Dead

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The book of the dead is actually a term that refers to two books. One of them is a Tibetan Book of the Dead, the other is an Egyptian one. Of the two, for some reason, the Egyptian one is far more popular among fans of world religions. I think it probably have to do that the Tibetan religion is still around, while the Egyptian religion has not been practiced for centuries. This makes it ancient and mysterious, and indeed there are many mysteries about the ancient Egyptians. There are things that we still do not know about the construction of their pyramids, or the way that they embalmed their dead. We do not know what lies beneath the earth under the Sphinx, as Egypt will not let scientists go under there no matter how many times that they ask. Given all of this mystery, it is no wonder that the Egyptian Book of the Dead is an object of so much fascination.

There actually is a lot that is known about the Egyptian Book of the Dead, in spite of all of the mysteries about ancient Nile delta civilization. The fact is that historians basically know what it is about, and anyone with an internet connection can easily get a copy any time that they want to. It is basically a record of what happens after the body dies, and a collection of prayers for the recently deceased. It is believed that the Book of the Dead would be chanted over the body of anyone who had enough money to hire the requisite priests for several days to help the deceased to reach a good afterlife. It must have been impressive to hear that chanting, for days on end, in a room filled with flickering candles and a pickled corpse. It is a rather unappetizing, yet oddly captivating image.

It is images like the chanting of the Book of the Dead that help to explain why it is that ancient Egyptian civilization is so popular. Really, you can see it almost everywhere. People will get tattoos of ancient Egyptian gods, shirts with pictures of the masks of pharaohs, and all other types of Egyptian paraphernalia. I am sure there are many people who own copies of the Book of the Dead just to make their coffee tables look cool. But if you are a mythology buff, the Book of the Dead has more to offer than just ambiance.