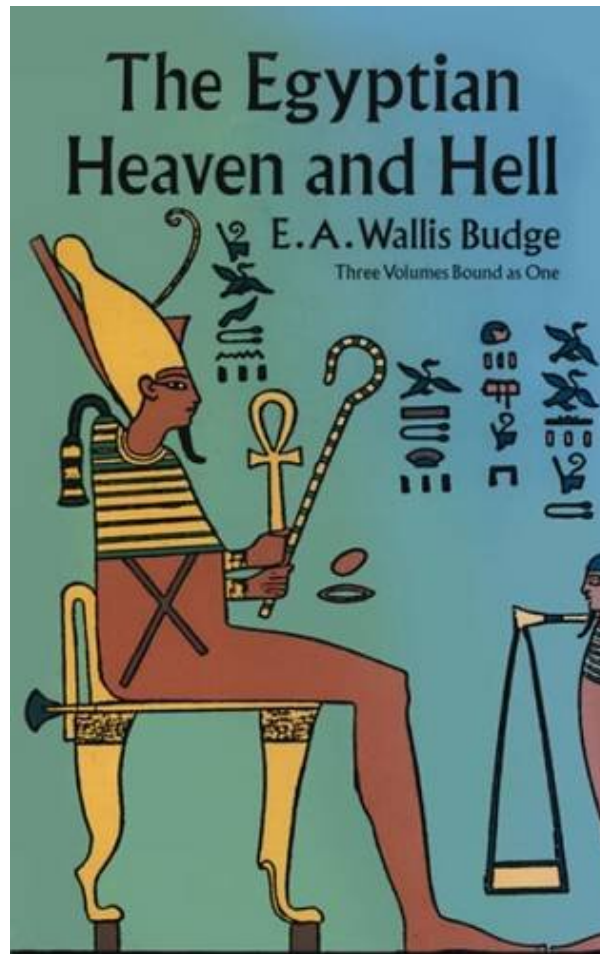


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About the Author

E. A. Wallis Budge, the author of numerous books, was once the Keeper of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiques in the British Museum.

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Complete hieroglyphic renderings of two ancient "books of the underworld" which provided the dead with a guide their souls would need to make the journey from the world of the living to the "abode of the blessed." Ancient texts shed considerable light on the development of material and spiritual elements in Egyptian religion and on numerous primitive gods.

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EGYPTAIN CONCEPT OF HEAVEN AND HELL

By R.K. Sprau

for those who are interested in one of the roots of Christianity, this is a must have volume. As it is mostly a translation, at times it can be hard to follow. One should have a grasp of ancient Egyptian beliefs and the ability to draw parallels. It doesn't follow the vein of Bauval or others who have a thesis to prove.

The interesting notion is the spells and charms (early Christianity and ancient Judaism also had them), the theses is on the journey into the underworld to either heaven or there version of hell. If you area student of Egyptology, this is a must have ready reference.

I must warn you, its not an easy read nor there concepts of the afterlife easily spelled out.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

An outdated translation of cryptic primary sources

By DAJ

This is one of the constantly reprinted books by Budge from the first decade of the 20th century. I am by no means an expert on the translation of Egyptian, but I know Budge's translations are very poorly regarded; they weren't even up to the highest standard of their time, let alone now. In fact, the entry on Egyptology in The Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt says that Egyptologists commit a "grave injustice" when they think that all 19th-century translators of the language were as bad as Budge.

This book translates the Amduat and the Book of Gates, the two major "netherworld books." They're New Kingdom funerary texts that describe the journey of the sun god through the underworld and thus, indirectly, the way the human soul is reborn like the rising sun in the afterlife. Budge precedes the two texts with an overview of Egyptian funerary texts (one that regards both the Pyramid Texts and Coffin Texts as merely early versions of the Book of the Dead) and afterlife beliefs. He then translates the texts, presumably badly. The original texts are actually something like complex comic strips, with sections of text arranged within wall-filling images, so the translations are accompanied by illustrations excerpted from those larger images. Funerary texts are always cryptic and difficult to make sense of, and netherworld books are especially surreal. Budge isn't of much help in making sense of it all.

There are many alternatives to this book. Good basic overviews of funerary texts, including the two contained here, are Hieroglyphs and the Afterlife and, particularly useful for the netherworld books, The Ancient Egyptian Books of the Afterlife. Translations of both the Amduat and Book of Gates are found in The Tomb of Ramesses VI from the 1950s, and Erik Hornung has translated the two separately in recent years: The Egyptian Amduat (with a less extensive, cheaper analysis of the text, Knowledge for the Afterlife) and The Egyptian Book of Gates. There's another recent analysis of the Amduat, The Sungod's Journey Through the Netherworld. George Hart's Egyptian Myths also describes the Book of Gates in somewhat more detail than I would expect from an overview of Egyptian mythology.

7 of 12 people found the following review helpful.

The Egyptain Heaven and Hell: Three volumes Bound as One

By haley wales

In my opinion, this was a very good book. The author knew what they were talking about. They made it clear to me about the beliefs of heaven and hell in ancient egypt. It was a good translation of the hieroglyphs and I would recomend it to anyone.

See all 7 customer reviews...

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