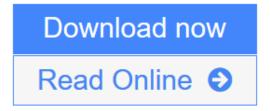


Alchemy—The Great Work: A History and Evaluation of the Western Hermetic Tradition

Cherry Gilchrist , Mark Booth (Foreword)



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Alchemy is the art of transformation. At its simplest, the alchemist turns base metals into gold. However, this is only one dimension of alchemy--at a more sophisticated level the alchemist's "base metal" is symbolic of himself that needs to be worked upon and the "gold" produced is the alchemist himself in his or her quest to perfect his own nature. In short, true alchemy is a discipline involving physical, psychological and spiritual work aimed at producing wholeness and enlightenment.

From the origins of alchemy, both reputed and documented, Cherry Gilchrist's lively and sympathetic narrative takes the reader from the alchemical interests of the ancient Egyptians to the flowering of alchemy in the 17th century. She also elucidates the complexities of alchemical symbolism and examines the ways in which alchemy has developed in the 20th century.

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Nice	pla	ce	to	star	t.

Amanda says

This was an interesting book (to me at least) that I stumbled across quite by chance on Amazon. The second part of the book which covered the practice of "alchemy" as a process of personal transformation was extremely enjoyable to read as was the section on C.J. Jung. Overall, I thought the author did a great job of tying together information from many different sources and crafting a well-structured narrative that covered both the history and philosophy of alchemy in a thought-provoking way.