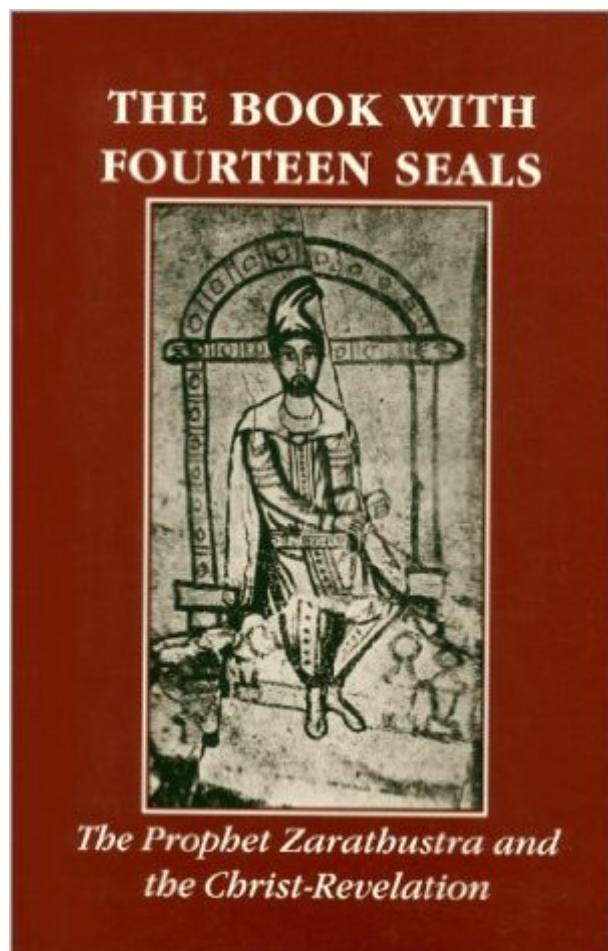


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The Book With Fourteen Seals: The Prophet Zarathustra And The Christ-Revelation



Synopsis

In 1945 peasants working at Nag Hammadi in Upper Egypt discovered the famous Coptic Gnostic Library of sacred books, which had lain concealed in earthenware jars for fifteen centuries. Among them was the Apocalypse of Adam -- the Book with Fourteen Seals. Welburn presents here the results of his investigation into this remarkable document and shows how its message can be read once more. Looking back to the beginnings of human history, it points to fulfillment of the ancient Mysteries in the appearance of the Light on earth, the Christ-Revelation.

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Customer Reviews

This book was of especial interest to me, as "hard" evidence to put alongside the "spiritual scientific" research of the great modern seer and scientist Rudolf Steiner. It draws on the best of modern scholarship to reach its own astounding conclusions - one has the feeling that many of the experts he quotes were hot on the trail but Andrew Welburn has reached the winning post first. The discoveries clearly astounded Welburn himself, and he communicates his sense of excitement and awe very well, while showing the thoroughness, restraint, and discipline of an excellent scholar. The Apocalypse of Adam, the "book with fourteen seals" found at Nag Hammadi, is "a very short book. Anyone could read it through in ten minutes" but it contains a great riddle, like the Rosetta Stone. It "shows us, when we have learned to understand its message, that already in the first century BC in esoteric circles there was a knowledge of an important mystery relating to the universal work"... concerning the mission of the prophet Zarathustra, in preparing the way for the incarnation of

Christ. Fourteen short paragraphs lie at the heart of the book's mystery. Here are the first two: Now the First Kingdom says of him that he came from... a Spirit... heaven. He was nurtured in the heavens. He received the Glory of that one and the Power. And he came to the bosom of his mother. And thus he came on the water. And the Second Kingdom says of him that he came from a great prophet. And a bird came, took the child who was born and carried him to a high mountain. And he was nurtured by the bird of heaven. An angel came there and said to him, "Arise! God has given you glory." "He received glory and strength. And thus he came on the water. This shows the pattern of the first twelve "kingdoms". The thirteenth is a little different, the fourteenth considerably different. Scholars have recognized that these "kingdoms" refer to successive incarnations of Zarathustra. Wellburn's genius was to be able to name every single incarnation, based on what looks like slender evidence in each case; yet he shows that the clues are, to the awakened perception, unmistakeable and unambiguous. It appears that Zarathustra's extraordinary stature and heroism shone out in every incarnation, to the extent that all were recorded in history or legend. The further mystery is, if Zarathustra is so important, why have we not heard more of him? Well, actually we have. His final incarnation was as the Jesus-child whom the Magi visited - an incarnation which this tiny codex prophesies. Perhaps, just as the stars fade when the sun rises, so the knowledge of earlier incarnations faded out to people's perception when the time came for Christ to walk the earth. But now that thinking people are doubting the Christian traditions of belief, and are looking for more facts and direct experiences again, some of the ancient knowledge miraculously reappears... hidden within the short, mysterious words of the codex. Welburn goes on to place all thirteen incarnations in a geographical pattern which would have made sense to the ancient Iranians - Zarathustra's people. He represents the twelve signs of the zodiac as a circle of geographical locations of Zarathustra's incarnations, with a thirteenth location at the "centre". Being familiar with the zodiac myself, I looked carefully to see if I could make sense of the correspondences. Certainly the "ascendant-descendant" axis made sense, but I wanted to turn the whole picture through 180 degrees, at first. I still think my picture has merits. But opposite signs share certain qualities too, and I have come to finally agree with Welburn's placements. I can even go further, in recognizing correspondences with the galactic points of reference. Thank you Dr Welburn for a very valuable piece of codebreaking and an excellent read.

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