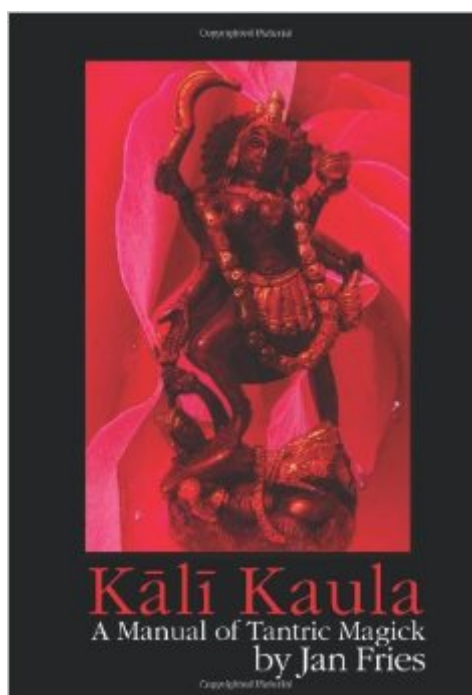


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Kali Kaula - A Manual Of Tantric Magick



Synopsis

Kali Kaula is a practical and experiential journey through the land of living magical art that is Tantra, guided by the incisive, inspired and multi-talented hands of Jan Fries. By stripping away the fantasies and exploring the roots, flowers and fruits of Tantra, the author provides an outstandingly effective and coherent manual of practices. Acknowledging the huge diversity of Tantric material produced over the centuries, Jan Fries draws on several decades of research and experience and focuses on the early traditions of Kula, Kaula and Krama, and the result is this inimitable work which shines with the light of possibility. Unique in style and content, this book is more than a manual of tantric magick, it is a guide to the exploration of the inner soul. It contains the most lucid discussions of how to achieve liberation in the company of numerous Indian goddesses and gods, each of whom brings their own lessons and gifts to the dedicated seeker. It is also an eloquent introduction to the mysteries of the great goddess Kali, providing numerous views of her manifold nature, and showing the immense but hidden role played throughout history by women in the development and dissemination of tantric practices and beliefs. Jan Fries explores the spectrum of techniques from mudra to mantra, pranayama to puja, from kundalini arousal to purification to sexual rites, and makes them both accessible and relevant, translating them out of the Twilight Language of old texts and setting them in the context of both personal transformation and the historical evolution of traditions. The web of connections between Tantra and Chinese Alchemy and Taoism are explored as the author weaves together many of the previously disparate strands of philosophies and practices. This book challenges the reader to dream, delight, and develop, and provides an illustrated guidebook on how to do so. Bliss awaits those who dare.

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Customer Reviews

As a long-time practitioner of Kaula Tantra I THOUGHT I knew a great deal about Tantra, especially of the Kaula Variety. This work is a stunning tour de force in which the author has CLEARLY studied and researched the subject very thoroughly. His work is clear and convincing, and he is the first to say when he doesn't know something completely, or is not an authority on this or that aspect. At the same time, I cannot imagine the depth of effort that was put into this book, and it humbled me as to my actual lack of knowledge on the depth and breadth of the subject. A tedious read in some ways, not because it's complicated or poorly written, but because of the massive amount of material that you just want to slow down and digest it. Overall a truly magnificent work that I highly recommend if you are a SERIOUS student of real Tantra and not New Age sex passing itself off as genuine Tantra.

I don't know that this book deserves the moniker "a manual of Tantric Magick" as it really doesn't detail extensive sadhana or go into much detail on yantras and how to use them or other magical practices. The information on Mantra is a little stilted because the author insists on using antiquated spelling for Sanskrit words instead of a phonetic spelling. Other reviewers really liked the artwork. I did not particularly care for the style but suppose the book is better for having these illustrations. This is very informative giving a lot of detail about Tantra and several introductory practices. The author obviously cares a great deal about the subject and does a good job at gathering together such a large amount of information. The author also obviously has an extent of actual practice in the techniques expounded. This is a very good book and I enjoyed it very much but was hoping for something a little different based on the title. Perhaps I was expecting less of an overview and more of a detailed practice. There are quite a few exercises and the author's love of results not authority is refreshing and welcome. Still a very good book and highly recommended. One thing which does deserve special mention is the author's treatment of the subject of spirit lovers, this is becoming increasingly evident as a method used by mystics and magicians of the higher grades of adepthood and it is a valid practice, it is also covered by Jason Newcomb in his book sexual sorcery to some extent and by Donald Tyson in greater detail in his books Familiar Spirits and Sexual Alchemy. Spirit lovers can directly manipulate the nervous system and depending on their grade also manipulate the nadis and energy body. A word of warning is perhaps necessary, after having sex with a spirit

you may no longer want to have sex with a human being, all of the implications of this should be considered before beginning this kind of relationship. However a great deal of actual initiation, and liberation does arise from this type of relationship... It is very freeing on many levels not to be reliant on human beings for sex, it does drastically alter ones consciousness to have these types of experiences which are probably safest in a Hindu context. It is a good book but not much of a manual of practical Magick so much as an overview with some introductory techniques and exercises.

So you think you know about tantra? Jan Fries has published another of his uncanny books. This time the ancient lore of Tantra is its subject. The author has turned to the Tantric tradition because the Celtic stuff was going on his nerves "There is far too little practical material in surviving Celtic lore. I'm fed up with the question marks, medieval myths and idle speculations." And while the author is well aware that "Tantra is huge, vast and overwhelming. You could write a hundred books on the subject." the author has managed to come up with a book that covers certain Tantric traditions. "I decided to focus on the early traditions, basically Kula, Kaula, Krama and a bit of Trika ..." He consciously ignored "the vast majority of Tantric movement that belong to Buddhism or Right-Hand-Path-Stay-in-Line-and-do-as-you-are-told Hindu Tantra." On 570 pages the reader is taken on a long and fascinating journey, containing a lot of challenging ideas regarding well-known occult phenomena like the chakras and the kundalini. Jan's drawings are another highlight and they tell us about the author's very own experiences in the field. Furthermore, you get information about the Sanskrit language and especially how to pronounce Indian terms. Important information for anyone who wants to practice some of the given mantras taken from the Mantramahodhadhih. Readers that are familiar with the works of Kenneth Grant will meet many old friends like the Bhairava. For people interested in genuine Tantra and authentic magical work I would strongly recommend this book. For people who practice Neo-Tantra this book will give interesting insights into the ancient origins of this lore. And despite its serious contents it is fun to read.

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