

**THE SECRET SOURCE: THE LAW OF
ATTRACTION AND ITS HERMETIC
INFLUENCE THROUGHOUT THE AGES BY
MAJA D'AOUST, ADAM PARFREY**

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THE SECRET SOURCE

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Enlarged Edition

Maja D'Aoust
Adam Parfrey

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Review

Picking up where Rhonda Byrne's *The Secret* left off, coauthors D'Aoust (lecturer, Philosophical Research Soc.) and Parfrey (*Cult Rapture: Revelations of the Apocalyptic Mind*) explain how believers and visionaries from a variety of teachings have improved their well-being using mental powers. They guide readers through several Hermetic teachings, shed light on the New Thought spiritual movement, explain how the Christ mythos and Jewish kabbalistic texts borrowed from the Hermetic tradition, and reveal how many of today's get-rich-quick schemes have roots in Hermetic laws. While not for everyone, this book provides an unbiased view of the teachings of secret societies and will interest many patrons. Recommended for all libraries. -- By Deborah Bigelow, Director, Leonia P.L., NJ -- *Library Journal*, 1/15/2008

The success of Rhonda Byrne's self-help manual *The Secret*, while undoubtedly noteworthy, is somewhat baffling considering that the subject matter is nothing more than the age old "Law of Attraction". Byrne has taken an idea as old as any alchemical school of thought and turned it into a mantra to make a quick buck and lose weight fast. In *Secret Source: The Law of Attraction Is One of Seven Ancient Hermetic Laws: Here Are the Other Six* authors Maja D'aoust and Adam Parfrey break down the ancient Hermetic teachings that have led to the recent outbreak of self-help ideas and schools of New Thought that are taking over the gullible masses.

The Law of Attraction seems to be the most popular of the Hermetic laws but it isn't the only one. The belief system behind these laws goes back thousands of years and has been studied, and expanded upon, by some of the greatest philosophical minds of the ages. The authors break down each law in turn, explaining its significance and how it interrelates to the other laws. They also go into great detail about the volumes that inspired so much of the ideas, such as *The Emerald Tablet* and *The Kybalion*. The reader is introduced to not only the minds that gave birth to these ideas but those that carried it into the various New Thought

movements.

Though the subject matter is at times a little deep and the philosophies can be somewhat esoteric, the authors have done a good job of laying everything out in terms that are understandable without being dumbed-down. They strip the "secret" out of *The Secret* and show that the Law of Attraction isn't something that should be trifled with for greedy personal gain. For anyone who thinks that they may have found the answer in *The Secret*, I highly suggest that you make this book your next selection. -- By: Elizabeth Headrick | 01.25.08 | filed under: Stranger Than Fiction: Book Fetish By: Elizabeth Headrick | 01.25.08 | Stranger Than Fiction: Book Fetish

About the Author

Maja D'Aoust lectures at the Philosophical Research Society; Adam Parfrey editor of *Apocalypse Culture* and is this Fall publishing "Ritual America," his visual history of secret societies in America.

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The Secret Source reveals the actual occult doctrines that gave birth to “The Law of Attraction” and later inspired the media phenomenon known as The Secret. Follow the trail into ancient Egypt to uncover where the law of attraction was first recorded, and how it was brought back to America to foment the New Thought movement and the prosperity cults of modern times.

The new, enlarged edition will have a new section on Sex Magic and its relationship with the law of attraction.

Maja D’Aoust conducts popular lectures on esoterica.

Adam Parfrey is releasing this fall a visual history of fraternal orders, Ritual America.

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Though the subject matter is at times a little deep and the philosophies can be somewhat esoteric, the authors have done a good job of laying everything out in terms that are understandable without being dumbed-down. They strip the "secret" out of The Secret and show that the Law of Attraction isn't something that should be trifled with for greedy personal gain. For anyone who thinks that they may have found the answer in The Secret, I highly suggest that you make this book your next selection. -- By: Elizabeth Headrick | 01.25.08 | filed under: Stranger Than Fiction: Book Fetish By: Elizabeth Headrick | 01.25.08 | Stranger Than Fiction: Book Fetish

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Most helpful customer reviews

52 of 55 people found the following review helpful.

Unveiling the Secret

By Kiyoshi Nakazawa

The book The Secret Source might at first appear to be a outright criticism of the book The Secret or perhaps a book hoping to sell it's own brand of self help to confused consumers who mistake one title for the other but as good fortune would have it, it's neither. What The Secret Source offers is a highly detailed history of Prosperity Consciousness, the New Thought movement, Alchemy, Rosicrucianism, even Mesmerism and others and how they all can be traced back to Hermetic origins. It gets better though, the true story and recurring trend of Prosperity Consciousness doesn't exist in a historical bubble, the Secret Source shows the interlinked timeline of how it's Hermetic roots are bound within Christian, Judaic and Islamic history as well. The research in this book is highly detailed with all the major players, important texts, and movements laid out. The level of detail presented in this book is commendable and I'm sure in another life D'Aoust and Parfrey were detectives. One of the books strength is it's academic approach rather than being a self help book. Over 100 footnotes are present to site for anyone who would like to follow up with their own investigation. One criticism I would offer, though a very minor one at that, is that the order of some of the information in the early chapters seems to be not as well organized as it could have been for maximum comprehension. There is a lot of dense material to cover in the beginning of the book and for someone not completely acquainted with the subject there are a lot of names and connections to keep straight. Most chapters read like one major epiphany after the other. The authors make amazing connections and trace almost unbelievable timelines of major religious intrigue. I won't spoil it for the potential reader but I think one of my favorite things about this book is when it finally comes to the question of where do Hermetic Laws come from? Every great detective wants to peel away the layers of the onion but what happens when you get to the very last layer? What is the secret source of the secret source? It doesn't matter if you have never read The Secret to enjoy this book. You don't even have to know anything about hermeticism or the occult . Readers that like real life mysteries, history, religious study or anyone remotely curious about the self help trends they see in the media today can fully appreciate this book.

21 of 22 people found the following review helpful.

Honest explanation of widely misunderstood information.

By Don Dickerson

I appreciate honesty and clarity in books about wisdom, both esoteric and "common knowledge." Both D'Aoust and Parfrey provide that honesty here. I felt comfortable that what I was reading was like good journalism, presenting the facts with no bias, leaving me to digest what this information means to me in my particular search. I consider this one of my tools in my search for growth.

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful.

a rare find

By Nicholas Berry

This book was like candy for me. I spent years chasing down Hermetic sources to piece together a mental model of the Hermetic teachings, whereas if I'd found this comprehensive outline when I was a teenager, my research would have been cut out for me.

There are several caveats involved with this book. First of all, it's in need of revision for purely typographical reasons. Also the presentation is a bit scattershot; first it's historical, then thematic, then some admixture of the two with some loss of the thread along the way. And finally there is not a clear relationship drawn between the "Law of Attraction" and its corresponding Hermetic law, nor is there any original interpretation of what the actual meaning of the given Hermetic laws (per the Kybalion) actually mean.

However, please regard the fact that this book is perhaps the only simplified account of the relationships among Hermeticism, New Thought, and Jewish and Christian mysticism. As such it is a work that fills a niche of understanding that is crucial to both practitioners as well as dilettantes of these philosophies.

And the authors write with a sense of humor and candidness that is lacking in books of this subject. I laughed out loud when reading the depiction of Adam Kadmon as a "freakish superhero" of which the angels were jealous.

To be sure, "The Secret" and its concomitant materialism receives the solid thrashing it deserves. These principles are meant for spiritual evolution, not material comfort. Thanks, Maja and Adam!

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