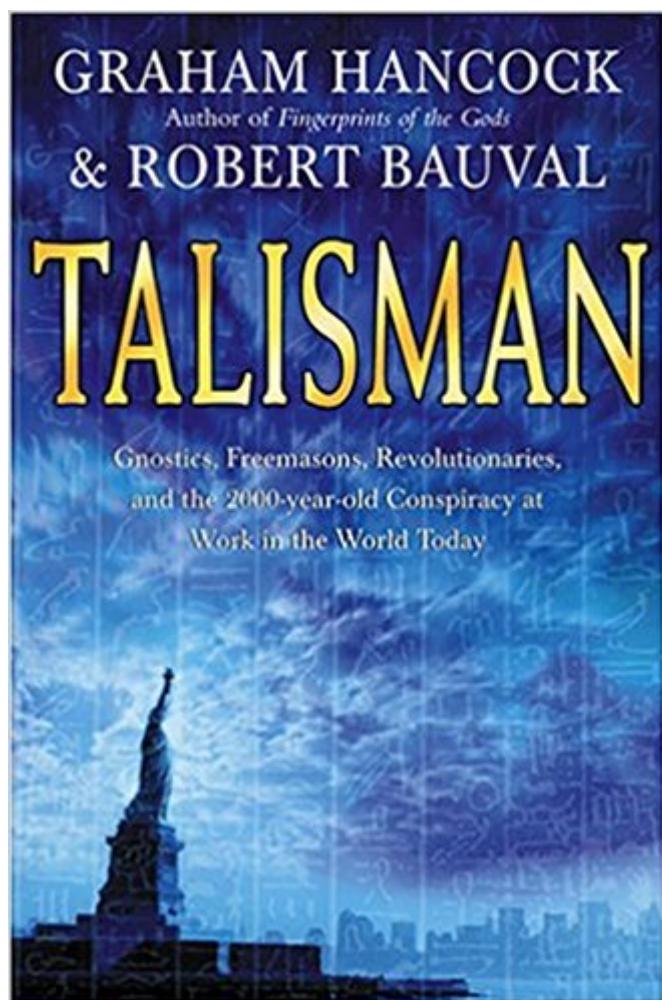


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Talisman: Gnostics, Freemasons, Revolutionaries, And The 2000-Year-Old Conspiracy At Work In The World Today



Synopsis

'Talisman' is a roller-coaster intellectual journey through the back streets and rat runs of history to uncover the traces in architecture and monuments of a secret religion that has shaped the world.
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Customer Reviews

This sprawling conspiracy theory traces the influence of ancient Egyptian and gnostic ideologies concerning a dualistic, Manichean cosmos prefiguring the earthly order, knowable only through secret, magical lore from medieval Catharism to the French vogue for pharaonic monuments and deities, the astrologically suggestive layouts of Paris and Washington, and the Statue of Liberty (the "Isis of New York"). The conventional explanation for the historical recurrence of gnostic themes and Egyptian iconographyâ "that people peruse old texts and art works and adapt their ideas and symbols to new purposesâ "strikes Hancock and Bauval (coauthors of *Keeper of Genesis*) as inadequate. They discern the millennia-long plot of a shadowy gnostic "Organization" working through usual suspects like the Freemasons, whose hidden hand they see influencing everything from the French Revolution to the founding of Israel. The authors draw eye-glazing webs of connections between historical coincidencesâ "some intriguing, others tenuous and forcedâ "to insinuate a "not altogether impossible" master plan. But their proposed conspiracy never gels. Its guiding philosophies, Christian gnosticism and pagan occultism, don't really mesh, and its agenda seems no more coherent than a perennial opposition to the alleged intolerance and obscurantism of

the Catholic Church. The book's crude anticlericalism and conviction that culture propagates by conspiratorial, not intellectual, processes make it a distortion of the gnostic mindset. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Praise for Graham Hancock:
"A reading experience of pure gold.... History buffs, Bible scholars, anyone who likes a great intellectual detective yarn will plunge into *The Sign and the Seal* and not come up for air until the end." *Seattle Times*
"Provocative." *The Globe and Mail*
"Even if you are a confirmed skeptic, Hancock should give you pause for thought." *Rocky Mountain News* (Denver)
"An entertaining writer and an interesting cultural journalist." *Publishers Weekly*
--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Great book but new edition with updated material has been published as "The Master Game" The Master Game: Unmasking The Secret Rulers Of The World

Excellent reference work for those studying religious history.

Not much that's really new, but nonetheless a good tracing of the Illuminati trail.

OK

Fascinating reading!

It is interesting but is dragged out and difficult to follow the logic. It ends without a clear conclusion.
Thanks.

Graham Hancock and Robert Bauval have produced a number of books, separately and together, on various subjects of esoteric interest, primarily dealing with the possibility of a hitherto unknown civilization having existed before the last Ice Age. These books are usually diverting and often thought provoking, as is *Talisman*, even when the reader fails to be convinced of the overall thesis of the authors. *Talisman* supposedly describes the centuries old history of a secret faith which has surfaced time and again in human history. The sections which deal with the early Christian gnostics and the Cathars are very well done and provide some intriguing information about the parallels between those groups of which I had not previously known. I also found the segments dealing with

the Templars and their links to the Freemasons intriguing, as will other readers who have enjoyed such books as *Holy Blood, Holy Grail*, *The Messianic Legacy*, and others of that ilk. Where I found my interest and credulity flagging were the sections dealing with the numerous references to Ancient Egyptian religion to be found among the French Revolutionaries and in the supposed Masonic symbolism to be found in cities like Washington and Paris. Egyptian references during the French Revolution make sense when you remember that the Catholic Church was considered an arm of the French monarchy, and that therefore anti-monarchists would also be anti-Church and seek to replace it with symbols of other faiths. Also it is well known that Freemasons were actively involved in the Enlightenment Period and that many early US leaders were (and continue to be in the present era) Masons. However, I tend to be skeptical of maps detailing straight lines linking different sites. (It has always been my observation that if you draw lines long enough and in enough directions you can link up just about anything you want to.) I was also somewhat puzzled by the references to 9/11 that are tagged on at the end of the book. While Al Qaeda members certainly appear to be gullible enough to swallow the idea of a huge Jewish/Masonic conspiracy against them, I don't believe that Osama bin Laden chose to destroy the World Trade Center because the towers had Masonic significance! All in all I can say that this is an entertaining book which will provide a lot of interesting information about Gnosticism, Catharism, and other assorted heresies and the Catholic Church's responses to them, but unfortunately mixed in with this material is a lot of poorly sorted out and ultimately irrelevant data.

I only skimmed this book, thank God. Hancock's and Bauval's "Talisman" must be one of the most meaningless books ever written. It promises to uncover a vast, 2000-year long conspiracy somehow connected to 9/11. It does not. Or rather, it uncovers the conspiracy in such a manner, that the reader is left with the distinct impression that the authors *support* the conspiracy. Perhaps they do. But if so, why not simply say so? Another conspiracy, perhaps...? All the usual suspects are there: Gnostics, Manicheans, Cathars, Templars, Freemasons and Jacobins. Many U.S. presidents were Masons, both Paris and Washington are practically teeming with occult architecture, and it seems both revolutionaries and counter-revolutionaries in France were deeply involved in Masonic activities. The ultimate roots of the conspiracy goes back to the Hermetica and beyond, into ancient Egypt. And Atlantis? The whole thing is a secret counter-religion to official Christianity, hell-bent (pun intended) on destroying the latter. However, since the authors depict the Cathars in particular as really good guys, one wonders what the fuzz is all about, really? In the appendix, Hancock and Bauval claims that al-Qaeda might have attacked the United States in the belief that America is a

secret Masonic-Zionist state. Israel's declaration of independence in 1948, and Truman's swift recognition of the same, is cast as suspicious. Here, the authors suddenly imply that the millennia-old Gnostic conspiracy really is evil. Note also the anti-Semitic undertone. However, since they spent a large bulk of their book attacking official Christianity and extolling the virtues of Catharism and the Hermetica, one wonders once again what their **real** agenda is...Not that I care much. I don't believe in **this** kind of conspiracy theory, anyway. My guess is that Hancock and Bauval probably couldn't care less either way, and wrote this voluminous, expensive book simply to cash in on the new wave of conspiracy thinking following in the wake of 9/11. That would explain their strangely non-committal angle."Talisman" is...a broken talisman. Or, if you're paranoid, a plot by the Illuminati. :P

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