



The Satanic Rituals

Anton Szandor LaVey

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The Satanic Bible was written by Anton LaVey in 1969. It is a collection of essays, observations and basic Satanic rituals, and outlines LaVey's Satanic ideology. It contains the core principles of LaVeyan Satanism and is considered the foundation of the philosophy and dogma that constitute Satanism.

The Satanic Rituals Details

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From Reader Review The Satanic Rituals for online ebook

Samantha Wong says

These rituals are boring. It's just reading from the book, and this book is so small, can't even see the words clearly. Some actions are also ridiculous such as the nun is forced to urinate. Also, a lot of compulsion, mandatory to prepare, dress and recite words. I can't see what is the reason of doing these rituals, it's not beneficial at all.

Diane B. says

This was the other one I bought that just vanished into thin air. [Parents probably got to it]. I was kind of surprised this was even published, as what does an atheistic philosophy need ritual for? I'm sure it was mostly written for the shock factor, not for actual use. Sadly, this probably contributed to the theories that LaVey was actually a Traditional Satanist.

Wes Young says

kind of lacks that "umph!" of the first book. Oh wait, neither book has "umph!". This is more of the same. Honestly, not nearly as interesting as LaVey's life itself. Damn! If his parents only had a conceptional calendar they could have planned to birthed him on Halloween instead of LaVey having to forge his birth certificate. Inconsiderate!

Michael says

If the *_Satanic Bible_* was an effort to explain the theory of Satanism, this book was intended as a means of disseminating and elaborating its practice. LaVey offers nine ritual scripts, together with introductory passages explaining their mythic and historical significance, to a public that evidently had no idea what to do with them. This book never achieved the popularity of the *_Satanic Bible_*, and even most Satanists today seem unaware or dismissive of it. This makes sense, given the latter-era Church of Satan policy that ritual magic was simply "psychodrama," and had that always been the CoS position, this book would make little sense indeed. Certainly, most of the historical background for the rituals is simply fashioned from whole cloth, and therefore hardly a guide to the tradition of the Left Hand Path.

But the book itself stems from a rich period of creativity and experiment in the Church's history, and it can be seen in that light. Certain of the rituals have been adopted by serious magical groups since (eg: "Die Elektrischen Vorspiele"), while other, ghost-written by CoS members other than LaVey, have simply been reclaimed by their creators (eg: "The Ceremony of the Nine Angles"). Often ignored, but of especial importance, is the brief theoretical treatise at the end, "The Unknown Known," which suggests a new Satanic Calendar based on the Norse concept of fire and ice and the number nine, central to the Left Hand Path. As the culmination of the CoS's most creative minds and times, this book may well fire flames of inspiration for those who have eyes to read for generations to come.

Dina Prinzo says

This book was well written and quite interesting but I don't have a strong belief in these particular satanic rituals . I appreciate the context but I feel like in this case it should be taken as more of just personal inspiration. I wouldn't take these rituals seriously at all. I strongly believe that actually rituals require deeper more intense research and shouldn't be taken lightly .

Collin Ouellette says

Incredibly interesting as "spiritual theater". I personally loved the "Call to Cthulhu", where he literally writes a prayer to a nonexistent deity. This is a tongue and cheek jab at the superstitious nature of religion and as a whole contains some interesting pieces of writing. This book takes no spell, incantation, tarot card, astrology sign or the repeated "Ave Satanas" seriously. Its make believe, like every single other "holy book" except satanism doesn't demand a tithe.

Nate says

To be fair it isn't really necessary to read this to understand Satanism. That is made clear if you check out the churches website. However it offers some interest invite to the ritual aspect more in depth than the Satanic Bible does. Not my cup of tea personally but as a means of expanding my understanding and knowledge base it was worth a quick read.

C says

The phony Latin was a little off putting. Unfortunately it broke the suspension of disbelief for me in LaVey's personal credibility as an authority of Occult history. He was a known charlatan after all. Nonetheless, the book puts forward a good foundation for modern Satanic ritual.

Kathryn says

I tried to read this, to be fair to all 'religions' in this quest of mine, but this crap (to steal a phrase) reads like stereo instructions. I already know the author is batsh** crazy, but I maybe should have tried the actual Satanic Bible rather than this. I kinda hoped this would give an overview of the Religion before plunging you into the rituals, but he's just a bad writer too.

Bert Zee says

For the satanist highly skilled in satanic rituals I'm sure this book would be very useful, I however am not very skilled so I shall be sticking to simple black mass... Interesting history of satanism in different cultures though. 3 stars.

Michael says

One of these rituals was lifted word for word from H.G. Well's Island of Doctor Moreau .

Francesca Calarco says

So this book was given to me as a (gag) xmas gift from my sister's (non-practicing) Jewish boyfriend, because he heard I was reading the Christian bible. True story. So I read it as unbiased as humanly possible, and it was a pretty terrible hot mess.

I suppose in its defense, "The Satanic Rituals" does set out to denounce how organized religion can be manipulated to create unhealthy dichotomies of 'us' versus 'them.' In response to these socially-derived rifts, much of the ethos of this volume is dedicated to embracing the 'other.' In the opening thesis, LaVey establishes how entities contrary to established thought tends to get vilified on principle, and as a direct response Satanic beliefs contrarily embrace these dark elements.

LaVey also dedicates this volume to the active process of ritual as a means of using magic to invoke intense feelings of liberation. Rituals function as events instilling socially recognized changes within participating individuals. The participant enters into the ritual, undergoes a state of liminality, and then reemerges into society as a newly changed person. I believe the goal here is to achieve some semblance of existential freedom.

So here is where things go terribly wrong with "The Satanic Rituals" - these rituals are dumb, so so dumb. So profoundly stupid.

The source material used for the spoken word components of these "rituals" are gathered from other (better) traditions and authors, mostly H.P. Lovecraft. To say that LaVey is a totally rabid fanboy would be an understatement. By drawing references from "history" (a term used loosely) and other revered authors, LaVey does his best to legitimize some weird, niche larping.

But wait! The content is not just weird, the prose is also god-awful (har har). It is all delivered with heavy handed pseudo-intellectualism and needlessly represents chants in both English and their (alleged) originating languages including French, German, and (poorly) romanized Russian. This use of multiple languages is obviously a ploy to up the page count to fill out a bound volume resembling a book. However, the use of languages also reveals something abhorrently apparent: it is super hypocritical.

Until the 1960's, Roman Catholic masses were conducted in Latin with the priest facing the alter and his back to the actual people. This created a rift in terms of who had direct access to information, with the religious institutions monopolizing the power to distill knowledge and interpretation of scripture to the people. The (poor) use of other languages in the "The Satanic Rituals" tries to legitimize itself the same way the church did 60 years ago. You cannot criticize an institution and then turn around and use a component of what you are criticizing to legitimize your own schlock. So dumb.

Perhaps the gravest cardinal sin that this volume commits though, is that it was mind-numbingly boring. I thought it would at least be ironically funny, but no, it disappointed at every turn. H.P. Lovecraft could not have wanted this.

Thomas says

never did any rituals, because I am not a dork

Christy Stewart says

A fine book, yadda yadda, my only comment is...I see rituals for the Call of Cthulhu all the time, but why never a Call of Barbie ritual? Cthulhu hasn't been able to help me with my hair nor catch a boyfriend.

Dr. Chad Newton, PhD-HRD says

Lavey's writings clearly contradict their literary meanings between the Satanic Bible and this companion to it. For example, Lavey argued in his first book that Satanism is not about God's adversary as deity. In fact, he argued that Satanism is basically a humanistic system with narcissistic indulgences being praised as ultimate values. However, in the Rituals text, Lavey clearly and abundantly cited all referential names of Lucifer in the ceremonial rituals such as Beelzebub, Satan, "The Devil", and the "Dark Lord". Furthermore, he encourages followers to recite "Man is God", a parallel statement made by Nietzsche in his famous work "Thus Spoke Zarathustra" when Zarathustra announced "God is dead". In essence, Lavey's writings had clever undertones and illusions that camouflaged his true agendas. Therefore, this work is intellectually insulting and undermines value of a genuinely up-building religion.
