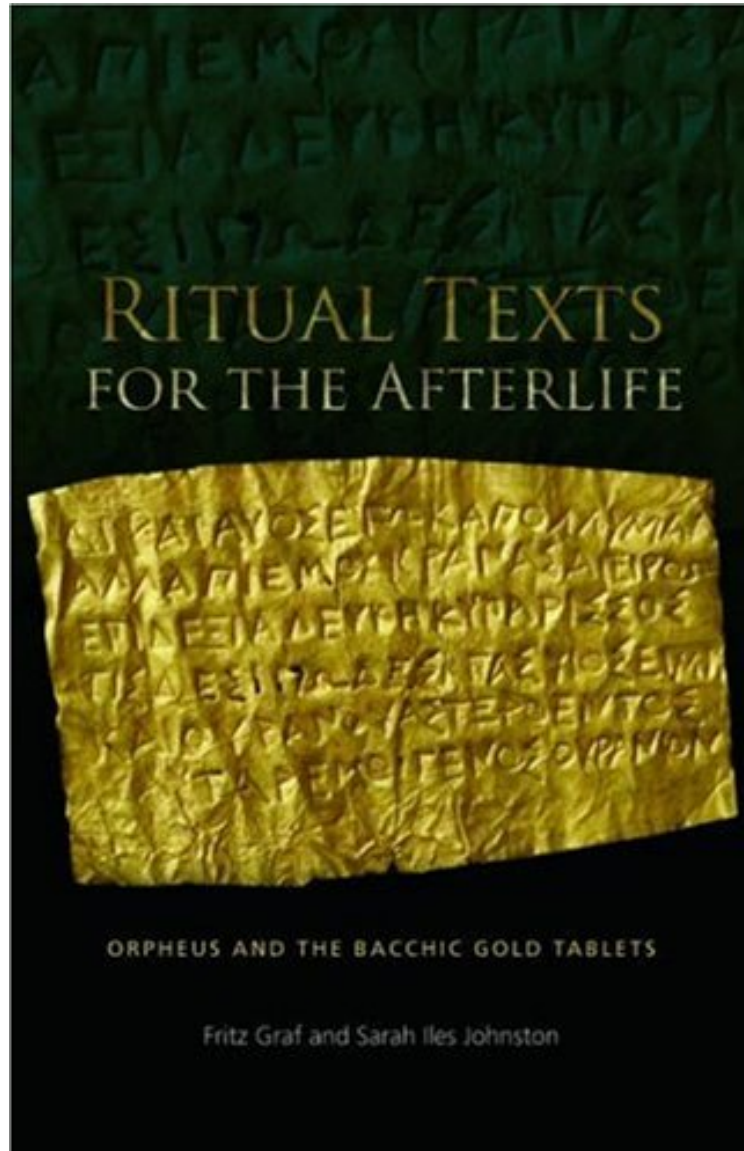


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Ritual Texts for the Afterlife: Orpheus and the Bacchic Gold Tablets

Fritz Graf

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Fritz Graf : Ritual Texts for the Afterlife: Orpheus and the Bacchic Gold Tablets before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ritual Texts for the Afterlife: Orpheus and the Bacchic Gold Tablets:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Translation and Analysis of the Golden TabletsBy Stefano

Nikolaou Firstly, there is no link between Orphism and Christianity. A quick look at pages 58-61 on 'Orphism and Christianity' quickly puts an end to this. Most of it concerns projecting Christian beliefs on to the Orphic tablets. Sorry, conspiracy theorists, you can look elsewhere for your crackpot ideas about Christianity. Secondly, this volume provides full translations of all the Orphic Tablets discovered so far as well as a comprehensive discussion. There have been 39 tablets discovered so far. The geographical distribution is Southern Italy, Rome, Crete, Athens, the Peloponnese and Macedonia. Many of the tablets are short. The dates of the golden tablets ranges from the 4th century BC to the 2nd Century AD. A number just have names (for example tablets 23-24, 32-36), others have a name and the word 'initiate' (tablets 21-22) but most have a longer text, some of them fairly lengthy (for example tablet 1 has a text 16 lines long, tablet 5 has 10 lines). The longer texts are 'totenpasses' of instructions to escape the traps of the Underworld (specifically forgetting your previous life on Earth). One thing that struck me was the limited number of tablets. 39 is not a lot compared to the supposed widespread distribution of Orphism. The book never quite explains why this is the case. Chapter 3 goes over the central myth of the Mysteries of Dionysius. Orpheus was credited with authoring the poems that recounted this story. The outline of the myths was that Dionysius was a son of Zeus and Persephone. Zeus made him king and in a fit of jealousy the Titans dismembered, cooked and ate him. In a rage Zeus blasted the Titans to pieces with thunderbolts. From the ashes humans grew. Eventually Dionysius was reborn with Semele as his new mother. As a result Humans have the guilt of the Titans' crime but also a divine spark from the flesh of Dionysius that they ate. There are allusions to this myth in Pindar and Plato but the full myth is only described in a late text (the Commentary of the 6th century Neoplatonist Olympiodorus on Plato's *Phaedo*). There is a nice appendix of related texts found on bone from Olbia on the Black Sea and other documents that supplement the rest of the book.

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Greek Religion? What Christianity Won't Believe By Jonathan Hansen [edited to fix broken product link] Please note that Kindle edition I've reviewed has been replaced with a newer edition: *Ritual Texts for the Afterlife: Orpheus and the Bacchic Gold Tablets* Because the topic of this study is comparative religion, its reasonings are based on the premise that some myth has always been accorded popular acceptance, not as a preposterous fabrication, but as a logical, sequential narrative of people and events beyond the scope of our immediate sphere of influence. Our own distance from the story tellers and their diverse localities takes into account that local communities often preserved variant versions of a narrative which may have involved similar characters in much different settings, and pursuant towards sometimes contrary objectives not known to have been contrary by the outsiders of said communities. The Dionysus derivation herein traced across its archaeological discovery in several locales is a by-line not commonly associated with the Orpheus legend. But the resources in this book make it clear that Orpheus left some version of poetry, which might have lingered principally as an oral tradition, long before the inscriptions and beliefs associated with these tablets. Without taking pot-shots at Christianity, I should note here that according to New Testament writings from the epistle of Peter, the Christian beliefs in godly inspiration of our scripture do also maintain a claim of the establishment of an oral tradition. That holy men of old "spoke" as they were moved by the holy spirit. And here's a Christian conundrum, that the Jewish scriptures haven't any mention of the apocalyptic judgements of an afterlife in Christian Hell. For that matter, the Greek writings of the New Testament didn't either. The Greek New Testament comments on the Greek Hades, territory of the brother of Zeus. If you've ever noticed that the New Testament doesn't necessarily transition smoothly from the Old Testament, particularly from the Old Testament God of commands and retributions, that's probably because the first authoritative canon of New Testament letters was composed by a Roman bishop called Marcion. He was later branded a heretic, but he actually did see the anti-Judaistic polemic of New Testament authors as a rejection of and replacement of the Old Testament God. And so the judgements and punishments of an afterlife, a quite Egyptian model really, were somehow grafted into Christian mythology. And I don't use the term mythology as of a fabrication of a pack of lies. But I do believe syncretic adoptions have been appropriated in the Christian tradition. Maybe it's because of a Jesus who calls the devil the "Father of Lies", a title which literate men might have known that was what Critics said about Herodotus, called by others the "Father of History." Or maybe it's because Josephus also writes about Hades, as observations of a Jewish historian who perceives very gentile ideas about afterlife exerting corrosive influences into Jewish social custom. Or maybe it's the New Testament stories about healing those who are demon possessed, a common literary tactic from the Egyptian Book of the Dead. Dionysus, then presents as one more of a genre of tales around the ancient world of dying and living again gods. I've observed Septuagint clues that Alexandrian literature was also acquainted with others in this circle, such as Osiris and Odin. The legend of Bacchus/Dionysus then entails features familiar to the Christian sacraments, and also an idea that believing the right thing, that preserving this memory beyond the grave was important to breaking a cycle of do-overs, of re-incarnations along a path to a godly spirit, a valorous spirit, an Eluesian exalted hero, worthy of paradise. I've been provoked into reviewing these materials. Listening, as I was recently, to a radio preacher, with yet another sermon about Christian 'submission'. It's kind of nauseous really, how many Christian V.I.P.'s I've encountered in person as well as on media, who are actually looking for obsequiousness and adulation. They don't just want a job done, their EGO demands to 'be' done, to be worshipped. This goes so far beyond atmosphere. Where religious devotion exists, there's always someone who sees their grand personage as crucial to the culture, and who'll stop at nothing to insure their status isn't threatened. In our text we see evidence of some rather

base metal workers hawking these instruction tablets for the deceased. Downscaling of Expectations. This has fortified my belief that some true believers are too invested in overweening self aggrandizement. Their religious devotion being focused on the facility to manipulate others. As harsh as this must sound, my contemplation is shaped around an assessment made by the authors which weighs the rewards versus the ritual compliance of those adherents to the Orpheus mystique. -- "Myth, as usual, sketches a far brighter reward than ritual ever promises; no initiate into Dionysiac mysteries would have expected Dionysius to literally lead him out of Hades as he had led Semele, any more than an initiate of Eleusis would have expected to return from Hades as Persephone had." 3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. The Best Book Ever Written By mariospro Thank you for your thorough research and clear writing. You won't find this info on Google or anywhere on the Net for that matter. It is a must not only for the believer that Orpheus was more than a myth but also for those with an open mind. Just the first chapter alone is worth the weight of the reader in gold as the golden tablets are presented and translated word for word in English. I am impressed with the quality of the translation being a native Greek speaker. I strongly believe that the story of Jesus Christ was a copy of the story of Dionysus. My opinion is not endorsed in this book mind you and just presents the story of Dionysus from various points of view. This allows the reader to decide whether myth or reality. INRI=Iustum Necar Reges Impios (Jesuit flag; Latin: It is just to exterminate or annihilate impious or heretical kings, governments, or rulers. This is written on the cross of Jesus Christ. Jesus was a Jewish invention to eliminate the true Greek ruler- Dionysus. Again my opinion is not endorsed in this book! Read the book and learn the Greek Beliefs about the afterlife and about our duty as humans before the Jews interfered with the minds of the whole world. This info will also give you the promised afterlife if you become a follower of Dionysus whom I believe is no different than the Egyptian Osiris. Our duty as humans is to remember Dionysus and compensate for his death at the hands of the Titans of whom we are direct descendants from.

Fascinating texts written on small gold tablets that were deposited in graves provide a unique source of information about what some Greeks and Romans believed regarding the fate that awaited them after death, and how they could influence it. These texts, dating from the late fifth century BCE to the second century CE, have been part of the scholarly debate on ancient afterlife beliefs since the end of the nineteenth century. Recent finds and analysis of the texts have reshaped our understanding of their purpose and of the perceived afterlife. The tablets belonged to those who had been initiated into the mysteries of Dionysus Bacchius and relied heavily upon myths narrated in poems ascribed to the mythical singer Orpheus. After providing the Greek text and a translation of all the available tablets, the authors analyze their role in the mysteries of Dionysus, and present an outline of the myths concerning the origins of humanity and of the sacred texts that the Greeks ascribed to Orpheus. Related ancient texts are also appended in English translations. Providing the first book-length edition and discussion of these enigmatic texts in English, and their first English translation, this book is essential to the study of ancient Greek religion.

'A generous range of subject material is covered, the argument is detailed and thorough, the authors' scholarship enables them to tackle a variety of issues... exemplary clarity and precision... a work teeming with good ideas, clear, and well structured.' - Bryn Mawr Classical 'Graf and Johnston have put together an exciting study, one that will illuminate the shadowy darkness, not just for the initiate, but also for the uninitiated venturing for the first time into the world of the Bacchic gold tablets.' - Bryn Mawr Classical About the Author Ohio State University, USA