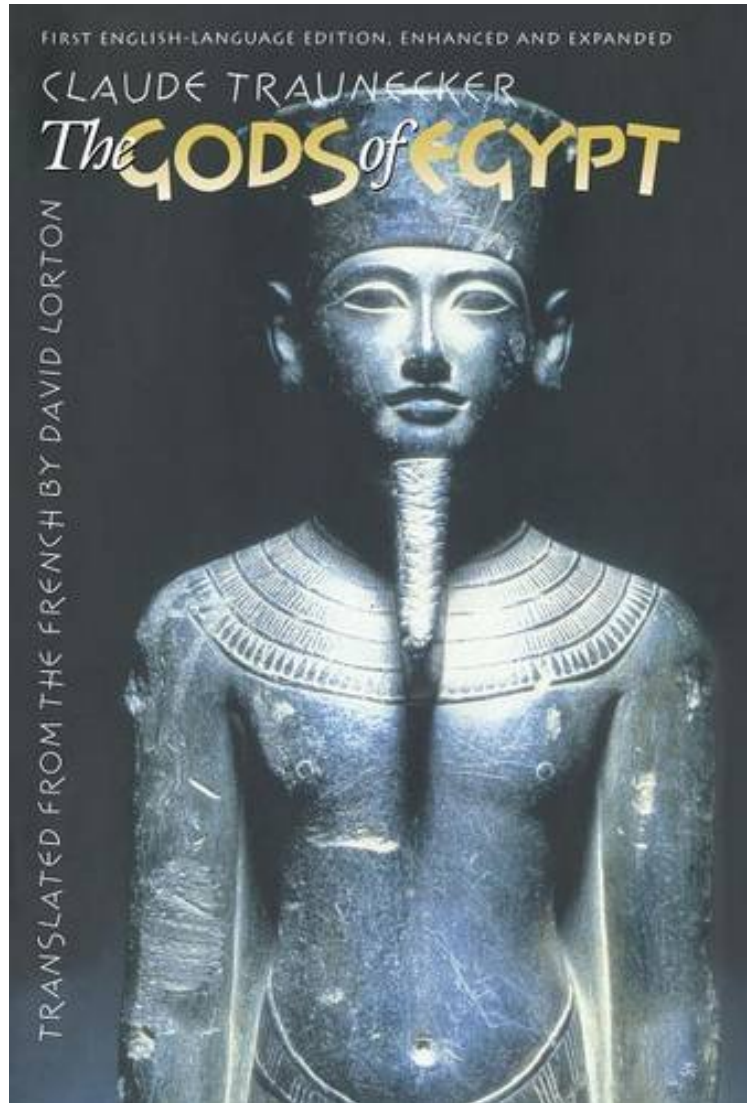


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The Gods of Egypt

Claude Traunecker

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Claude Traunecker : The Gods of Egypt before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Gods of Egypt:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Jeremy F. Conner Very interesting fitting and in good condition 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A good overview By DAJ In this book, which is apparently a revision or replacement of a 1960s book by Francois Daumas, Traunecker provides sort of a middle ground in French treatments of Egyptian deities: breezier than Gods and Men in Egypt, less flamboyant than Daily Life of the Egyptian Gods. The first chapter discusses the sources that we use to understand Egyptian beliefs and gives a short description

of how that understanding has evolved over the centuries. Traunecker makes clear a couple of points that I frequently harp on myself: that 19th and early 20th-century scholars aren't good sources on Egyptian religion, and that modern understanding of the subject began with Henri Frankfort. The next several chapters discuss the Egyptian conception of the world, the nature of the gods and the forms they were believed to take, the "society" formed by the gods' relationships to each other, and how they functioned within the cosmos. The next chapter briefly describes how the gods were thought to interact with humans, and the last chapter discusses deities' geographical spheres of influence, including the relationship between certain gods and lands outside Egypt. In a few places, Traunecker relates anecdotes about the deities that don't often show up in other sources. This book isn't as complete in its coverage as several others on the subject, but it's both thoughtful and readable. 9 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Exceptional short book by one of the best. By A Customer I have always considered Traunecker's work to be of the highest quality. He has an insight into the mechanics of ancient Egyptian cosmologies, theologies, and mythologies that is both direct and free of unnecessary random (and rambling) thought. His assessments are clinical but always interesting, and his work on the El Qa'la temple site is NOT to be missed by anyone who can get their hands on IFAO's pub. Be that as it may, this short book packs a scholarly punch. All of Traunecker's hard-earned, on-site assessments of the gods of ancient Egypt -- their cults, qualities, relevance, and destinies -- can be found in rather tidy, enlightening fashion. A must-have quick reference for many of its tidbits...though Dr. Traunecker does contradict at least one or two minor points he previously asserted in some of his published work. Bottom line -- Immortals (and Immortalettes) of Ancient Egypt from one of the best pros in the business! Get it.

The Gods of Egypt, first published in France in 1992 and now in its third French edition, is a short, elegant, and highly accessible survey of ancient Egyptian religion. The clarity and brevity of Claude Traunecker's book make it especially valuable to readers seeking an authoritative introduction to this complex topic. The Cornell edition, the first English translation, is enhanced by 23 illustrations. Traunecker begins with an overview of the source materials and a discussion of the historiography of Egyptian religion, a subject relatively neglected by scholars. He then describes the actual and metaphysical worlds inhabited by the Egyptian deities and the role that humans played in the Egyptian universe. Focusing especially on the diversity and number of approaches used by Egyptians to explain their world, The Gods of Egypt offers a succinct and highly readable presentation of recent interpretations of Egyptian religion.

"The Gods of Egypt is a comprehensive but compact, even and lucid general introduction." *Antiquity* 75 (2001) "Although aiming to elucidate the confusing profusion of Egyptian gods and goddesses for a general reader, the book offers much that will be useful to more advanced students and scholars. The author is an expert on the subject and presents both historical scholarship and new interpretations." Denise Doxy, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. *Religious Studies*, Vol.28, No.3, July 2002 About the Author David Lorton, an Egyptologist, is the translator of many books, including Erik Hornung's books *The Secret Lore of Egypt and Akhenaten and the Religion of Light*, both from Cornell.