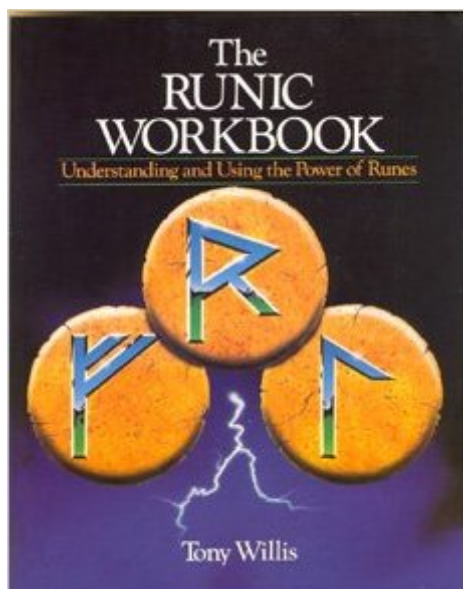


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The Runic Workbook: Understanding And Using The Power Of Runes



Synopsis

Book by Willis, Tony

Book Information

Paperback

Publisher: Sterling Pub Co Inc (March 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0806981709

ISBN-13: 978-0806981703

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 8.2 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (12 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,636,138 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #138 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > New Age & Spirituality > Divination > Runes](#)

Customer Reviews

The Runic Workbook focuses on the magical and divinational sides of the Runes with an interesting Celtic coloring: each Rune is connected with a person in the Arthurian Cycle. The author's primary influences lean towards the New Age and Western Occult perspectives with a sprinkling of Kabbalistic symbolism thrown in. He does use Blum's Blank Rune (29) as well as reversed Runes (31) in his readings. The way Willis sets up his book is interesting in that he places a specific emphasis on one topic and discussed it over a range of Runes. For instance, he mentions five different topics and talks about them with three or more Runes each: general introduction, proportions, gemstones, flowers, and numerology. After his introduction and correspondence sections Willis talks about the magical uses of the Runes, specifically Bindrunes and Runic Scripts. It's not in-depth by any means, and as for working with the Runescripts you'll have to wait until after reading his Bindrune chapter to understand. There are a few questionable things to note in Willis's correspondence sections. One example is Isa being connected to Jupiter. His argument states, "Isa, too, had the qualities of protection and preservation" (74). While Jupiter does have a few preserving qualities this is not something he is known for, as Jupiter is a planet of expansion, increase, growth, pushing boundaries, and so on. While I tend to avoid associating planets with the Runes, I think Saturn would be a better fit for Isa, which, strangely enough, Willis assigns to Naudiz, a fiery/friction like energy. Out of all the authors I've read Willis gives the most astrological flavor to his Runic writings. He even goes so far as to claim two energetic aspects to the planets: passive

and active.

I'm giving this book a middle to slightly negative rating. It contains some useful information. But it is trying to incorporate too much of today's melting pot messages which eventually becomes an overlay in this book to the Runes clarity and concepts themselves. The concepts are difficult to understand today since we are taught to filter our understandings through different lenses. Since sometimes various religious or political modis operandi has unfortunately for many been to stamp out another's belief systems via wars or outright genocides, a culture's ancient teachings have tended to be misunderstood. This makes such a topic particularly difficult to cover. To the author's credit, this topic is an important and a challenging one especially since the earth and all in it need true diversity and tolerance of difference (in contrast to today's melted pots which ultimately destroy all unique cultures). Understanding and studying the ancient ways may help the ancestors of many different ones to retain their old ways, practice them, and not reinvent them into a superficial New World theme park melting pot. The author misses the point entirely that for those of the Runes, the ancients partner with the gods and goddesses. Unlike many modern religions, the rune people did not consider themselves and were not powerless at the whims of the seasons or correct god picks. Since ancient times, both the gods themselves and the people are evolving in an active working partnership. Humans just as the different gods have free will; therefore, the outcomes are worked together. Not all ancient runemasters were the Vikings or sacrifice tribes as implied in the book.

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