



# **The Law Is For All: The Authorized Popular Commentary of Liber Al Vel Legis Sub Figura CCXX, the Book of the Law**

*Aleister Crowley, Louis Wilkinson (Editor), Hymenaeus Beta (Editor)*

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Crowley's life and thought are inexorably linked with 'The Book of the Law.' He received this visionary work by direct-voice dictation in Cairo in 1904. As an intelligent sceptic, he first found this improbable means of communication difficult to accept. Yet he could not ignore it or its message. He worked for decades to interpret its meaning for initiates and the general public. Eventually he entrusted the task to his best friend, Louis Wilkinson who possessed impressive literary qualifications. The result of his work, completed and augmented by Frater Superior Hymenaeus Beta of the O.T.O., is this long-awaited authorized popular edition of Crowley's "new commentary" on 'The Book of the Law' and its first appearance as Crowley wished it.

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# **From Reader Review The Law Is For All: The Authorized Popular Commentary of Liber Al Vel Legis Sub Figura CCXX, the Book of the Law for online ebook**

## **Jure says**

This book one can never really finish, so I'll just tag it as finished since otherwise it will always stay open-tagged. One should really read it regularly. At least someone like me :)

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## **Walter Five says**

This is a review of the 1975 1st Paperback Edition of Dr. Regardie's edit "The Law Is For All." (I have heard rumors that there was a hardback run of the 1st edition, but I've never seen one). This was one of three books in the mid-70's that published various edits of the 3 or 4 commentaries that Crowley wrote about Liber L/Liber al vel Legis/Liber AL, usually referred to as The Book of the Law. For beginning collectors, I'll explain the differences

The first book, "Magical and Philosophical Commentaries on The Book of the Law," was a beautiful and amazing hardback edition from 93 Publishing in Montreal. Although very expensive today (\$500+ a copy) and somewhat more complete in the Old and New Comments due to less editing, it's been noted many times over the last 30 odd years that this edition contains more typographical errors and inaccuracies than Regardie's edition.

The Regardie 1st edition from Llewellyn has a 3-page double-sided fold out of illustrations of the front and back of the Stele of Revealing on one side, and a miniature of the original manuscript of Liber L/Liber al vel Legis/Liber AL with the pages "pasted from left to right" that is not included in later editions. (The detail oriented will note that this "original reproduction" of the manuscript [like every other in the last 100 years] does not contain the cover sheet proclaiming the book's title to be "Liber L vel Legis".) It's a durable paperback: I still proudly own this edition, it's held up marvelously the last 38 years. VG or better copies of this book can be found for \$30-50. Later editions from New Falcon can be even more affordable.

The third of those commentaries books, "The Commentaries of AL: Being the Equinox Vol. V, no. 1" is spurious, confusing and over-editorialized by its editor. Definitely NOT worth the \$250-500 I see it go for these days.

A new, re-edited and expanded edition of the Commentaries of Liber Al has been more recently released by Hymaneaus Beta, "The Law Is for All: The Authorized Popular Commentary of Liber Al Vel Legis Sub Figura Ccxx, the Book of the Law." Again, there's a bit of controversy-- some people claim that this edition is "more edited" than Regardie's, however, those involved in the production of the book say that the Wilkinson edit used in this edition was composed under the direction of Crowley, and that this edition is much closer to Crowley's intended vision of the Commentaries than any other previously published.

(Those genuinely curious on the subject of edited material may find the various unexpurgated versions that are freely available on the Internet quite useful for comparative purposes-- I did so, and in the end, found that many of the inclusions or exclusions told more about the editor's affiliations and prejudices than it told about

the actual mysteries of the Holy Books, and that most of the other edits were usually relatively minor.)

The verdict: Any student of Crowley's should find either Regardie's or Hymenaeus Beta's edition sufficient, however this newest edition has an introduction by the material's original editor, the late Louis Wilkinson, annotations, reading lists and indexes not found in Regardie's edition. These are instructive to any beginning student, and as such contribute a lot to the students understanding of the text.

The less "orthodox" Thelemites are also advised to seek out "The Genesis of the Book of the Law" by David Allan Hulse, and learn the sometimes bizarre coincidences and more bizarre discrepancies surrounding The Book Of The Law. Also indicated is Marlene Cornelius' "Liber AL: An Examination" that compares and contrasts differences between all manuscripts and editions of Liber AL /Liber L from 1904 to 1937. Both of these books beg points of order that make the "fill/kill" debate a tempest in a teapot.

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### **Jacques says**

Pretentious and boring. I was hoping for some substance, but it's vague, written as a poor imitation of prophesy, with some threats thrown in.

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### **Jordan Fitzgerald says**

The book of the Law is a grimoire written in kabbalistic cypher that was dictated to Aleister Crowley through his then wife(the channeler) at the time during their honeymoon in Egypt. It was dictated over the course of 3 days. There are several things that must be learned before one can approach this book. It is an extremely hard book to grasp and definitely not recommended for new comers to occultism as it will be a waste of time and not make any sense. I gave this book a 3 star rating because at the time I read it, I was very new to occultism and did not understand it. I have yet to change it because I thought at the time that Regardie rambled on to much about lifestyle philosophy rather than helping reveal its secrets. I might attempt to reread in about 6 months. Who knows, maybe I will change my opinion because I have studied a lot more.

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### **Matt says**

Great commentary in itself, but sadly this is not the complete commentary. Still a great resource!

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