

Pocket Thelema

1. Buy and read the Book of the Law (Liber AL) by Aleister Crowley
2. Make a study of the Egyptian Gods and Goddesses in the Book and reread it
3. If minded, buy Crowley's Magick in Theory and Practice
4. Make a study of the same languages as Crowley; Kabbalah, Golden Dawn, etc.
5. Follow the exercises designed to uncover your Will
6. Act upon "Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law"
7. Act upon "Love is the Law, love under will"
8. Act upon the other instructions in Liber AL ("a feast for every day..." etc.)
9. Practice the Magical System of Thelema as in 'Magick in Theory and Practice'
10. If minded, align yourself with others of a Thelemic lifestyle

Notes

Crowley did not invent Thelema, but he certainly promulgated its philosophy and wrapped the existing magical systems around its heart. The Book of the Law is worthy of study by all those enquiring about the Universe, as it synthesises all of Crowley's teachings, despite the inherent problems caused by it being a "transmitted" document. It is important not to miss the other Holy Books written by Crowley, which are often sublime mystical tracts of the greatest value and beauty. Don't believe the publicity about Crowley – discover him for yourself. Magick without Tears is extremely useful and clearly written, but more useful once you've already started the practice of a Thelemic Attitude. Crowley would have wound Psychosynthesis into his work if it had been developed earlier, so that's worth a look as a psychological take into the uncovering of Will. The main problem with studying Crowley is that it is hard work – you will need to ensure you have a background in many other schools of thought to get a full comprehension of his body of work.

In Real Life ...

There are a number of OTO's, the organisation that promotes Crowley's philosophy. You don't have to join any of them to be a Thelemite, but they can function as useful contact agencies to make links with other Thelemites. Don't expect to see eye-to-eye with anyone else, though! By its very nature, Thelema encourages the individual to approach their life on their own grounds, so many Thelemites are positively individualistic – with all that that implies! The weirdest Thelemic-related event I have had involved my wife and I being hounded around a domestic supermarket by a wild-eyed Thelemite we knew warning us of the dire consequences of revealing to others the secret conspiracy he was broadcasting to all and sundry across the supermarket! Needless to say, the politics of Thelema often detract from those working with it.

Links

- <http://www.crl.com/~thelema/home.html>

Books

- The Book of the Law (Crowley)
- Gargantua and Pantagruel (Rabelais)
- Magick in Theory and Practice (Crowley)

<http://www.templum.com>

Cognitacione sui secumque colloquio firmitatem petere.
A Site for Enquiring Minds.