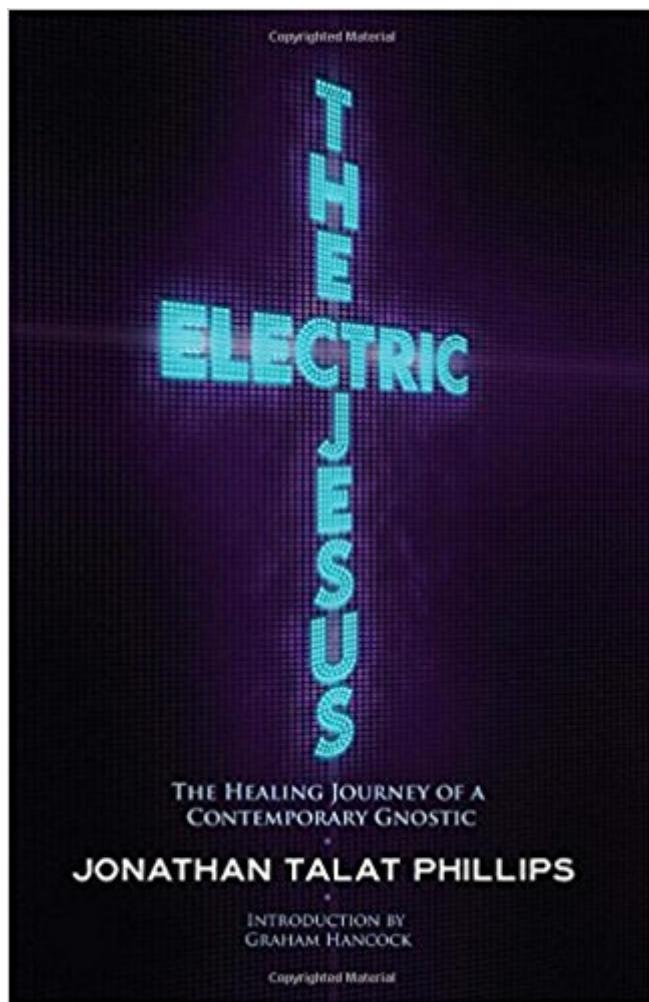


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# The Electric Jesus: The Healing Journey Of A Contemporary Gnostic



## Synopsis

When Jonathan Talat Phillips experiences a devastating loss as a countercultural media activist, he unwittingly starts on a mystical journey marked by underground ayahuasca ceremonies, kundalini awakenings, prankster spirit guides, extraterrestrial encounters at the Burning Man festival, and miraculous energy healings that reshape his skeptical worldview. Along the way, he chronicles the rise of an international movement that is trailblazing visionary ways to address our current planetary crisis through raised consciousness. To better understand his spiritual journey, Jonathan delves into his own Christian background, discovering the lost rites of the mystery schools. Uncovering secret electric meanings behind biblical symbols like the serpent, dove, and tree of life, he reveals how early Christians utilized a radical initiation process for harnessing divine energy in order to achieve gnosis, direct knowledge or experience of the divine. Jonathan suggests that these mystical symbols, which appear in spiritual traditions across the globe, offer a profound energetic roadmap and alchemical message for personal transformation, as well as a potential evolutionary shift for our world.

**About the Imprint:** EVOLVER EDITIONS promotes a new counterculture that recognizes humanity's visionary potential and takes tangible, pragmatic steps to realize it. EVOLVER EDITIONS explores the dynamics of personal, collective, and global change from a wide range of perspectives. EVOLVER EDITIONS is an imprint of North Atlantic Books and is produced in collaboration with Evolver, LLC.

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## Customer Reviews

A modern Odyssey of awakening, Jonathan Talat Phillips's journey into Gnosticism deeply

resonates with the eccentric moment. The Electric Jesus, a spiritual autobiography, reveals a life lived in the light of transformation, searching for the mystic core of a planetary civilization. "Alex Grey, co-founder of the Chapel of Sacred Mirrors, author of *The Mission of Art* "A fresh, vigorous, and often startling account of a man's introduction to higher planes of reality. If you've ever wondered what the new consciousness movement is about, read this book and find out." Richard Smoley, author of *Inner Christianity* and *The Dice Game of Shiva: How Consciousness Creates the Universe* "Entertaining, celebratory, burning, reflective, and electric" "but definitely not for the faint of heart or hard of head. With tales of sex, drugs, elves and Jesus, this memoir romps through the hinterlands of body and soul." Sharon Gannon, co-founder of Jivamukti Yoga and co-author of *The Art of Yoga*. "Every cultural scene needs good personal narratives. Jonathan Talat Phillips' *Electric Jesus* raises a proud flag for the post-modern Burning Man and techno psychonautic era. However, Phillips also seeks for more than just a flashy escape hatch from the burdens of a materialistic or pop-cultural corporate worldview. The Electric Jesus is about the quest for true Gnosis as much as it is about the crazy costumes we wear along the way. This book is sure to be one of those that defines the psychedelic resurgence that has been recently constellated by Reality Sandwich and the Evolver Social Movement." Adam Elenbaas, author of *Fishers of Men: The Gospel of an Ayahuasca Vision Quest* "Jonathan Talat Phillips discovers Gnosis, transforms himself, goes off the deep end, and somehow stays grounded in the material world. I enjoyed reading *The Electric Jesus*, a lively and well told story." Jeremy Narby, author of *The Cosmic Serpent: DNA and the Origins of Knowledge* "A moving tale of a journey into places most of us don't even know exist." Gary Lachman, author of *Politics and the Occult: The Left, the Right, and the Radically Unseen*; bassist for Blondie "In this vividly written and deeply personal memoir, Jonathan Talat Phillips, cofounder of the Evolver Social Movement, travels through the key stops on the current countercultural railroad" "Burning Man, ayahuasca sessions, kundalini awakenings, MDMA" "and winds up in unexpected places, thoroughly off the tracks, seeking planetary transformation on a new scale" "a classic heroic journey, bringing out of his own darkest places a gift not for himself but for his people. " Stephan Beyer, author of *Singing to the Plants: A Guide to Mestizo Shamanism in the Upper* "Hats off to the author, Jonathan Talat Phillips, who takes some risks in this ballsy, thoughtful, and searingly honest tale of soul awakening. Spurred to activism in the wake of 9-11, and left depressed and angry after the elections of 2004, Phillips begins searching for answers and change. His starting point becomes the ancient Gnostic texts, and the unfiltered and mystical Jesus he finds portrayed therein. The author's research into the mystery schools, the clues he uncovers in the actual language of the Bible and apocryphal texts, and the archetypal

symbols he investigates are fascinating and powerful." â "Cheryl Shainmark, Merlian News"5 out of 5 stars" â "Denver Books Examiner"Three thumbs up!Â I found it irreverent, brutally honest, spiritually enlightening and downright fun!" â "Lance White, A Fireside Chat with Zany Mystic Radio

Jonathan Talat Phillips grew up in Idaho Springs, Colorado. He graduated from the University of Colorado at Boulder and has lived in England, Argentina, the Czech Republic, and Spain. Phillips worked for The September 11th Fund, served as a columnist for Music for America, and spearheaded the activist media group Greene Dragon, where he appeared in international media such as CNN, MSNBC, ABC, Time, and on the cover of New York Magazine. He is one of the co-founders of Evolver.net and Reality Sandwich, and coordinates the Evolver Spores program with 40+ regional chapters hosting monthly events.Â Phillips is an initiate of the International Sufi Order, founder of the NYC Gnostics, and creator of â œThe Ayahuasca Monologues: Tales of the Spirit Vine.â • He is a Reiki Master and certified in Chi Healing and Bioenergetic Therapy from the Connecticut Healing Institute. He has a private healing practice in New York City and does Skype and phone sessions for those outside of the city: [www.TalatHealing.com](http://www.TalatHealing.com).

I guess I didn't expect to but I learned quite a bit reading this book. Written in a true confessions style, it's a revealing and very human account of a personal odyssey into spiritual discovery, replete with unsentimental observations and sharp wit, plus plenty of sex, drugs & rave music to keep things spiced-up. Along the wild and wacky way, the book also reveals that the author did serious homework on Gnostic Christianity, mysticism, Sufism, quantum physics, yoga and various healing modalities. His deep interest in the meaning of the Cosmos and his basic sincerity of heart shine through his journey of struggles with skepticism, the pain of depression, and a petulance which he doesn't deny. As he continues to suspend doubt and open himself to the possibilities of other dimensions of reality (incl. aliens!), a concurrent expansion takes place in his self-comprehension and he ends the book seeming more at peace with himself and the nature of reality. Going along on his journey of maturity is a fun and thought-provoking ride. Phillips is a talented, intelligent writer and could be one of the next important voices of his generation.

Jonathan's use of honest and plain language story telling is delightfully refreshing and made Electric Jesus a quick read simply because I couldn't put it down! If you're looking for a dry boring read on what Gnosticism is and how it works then you'll be disappointed. What will grab and keep your attention is the story. This book is about one man's journey of learning through himself. It is for those

who know deep inside that something is going on that mainstream religions can't cope with and science is only beginning to try to understand. If you are struggling with accepting what your experiences are telling you is true, then read this book and realize you are NOT crazy and NOT alone!! Reading it was an affirmation of many of my own experiences and feelings that I've had since I was young and am only now finding words to express and courage to explore.

Talat Phillips has experienced more living in his relatively short lifetime than probably most people twice his age. He has shared these experiences in an open and thought provoking memoir that was an enjoyable read. Talat also brings to his story a refreshing honesty about several topics that might be viewed by many in our society as "woo woo". However, it is my belief that if we do not open ourselves to learning about new experiences and new ideas, we become nothing more than a person "sleep walking" through our lives. Prisoners to a "materialistic" worldview, that limits our potential. So, that is why even though I am old enough to be Talat's mother, I am always looking for books that tackle subjects that will open my heart and mind to new possibilities. "The Electric Jesus" is just that kind of book. If you are a person, who like me, intuitively feels that something is just not right about the way we are living in our current materialistic society, then I think you would not only enjoy reading Talat's story, but it may possibly prove to be a potential springboard for you to consider making changes in your own life. I know it has for me.

The Electric Jesus confirmed many truths I was holding onto throughout my lifetime through Phillips first-hand experiences. The stories told in Electric Jesus come alive and bring the reader into the experience through the ease, grace, and eclectic writing style of Jonathan Talat Phillips. His book is brutally honest (but necessary for the intended demographic), a bit sexy and romantic, inspiring, and transformative. I could not put the book down! What I enjoyed most about the book was Jonathan's transition from political activist into his new world of spiritual awakening. Jonathan is a bold writer for sharing such a healing story. I recommend The Electric Jesus for those who sense their own spiritual awakenings and/or a universal spiritual awakening.

I finished The Electric Jesus this last weekend - adventure, romance, inner journey, outer journey, discovery and mystery (and now, history) - Totally Awesome! Thank you for sharing your story... what an incredible walk you have on this planet :)

A bold and adventurous book, The Electric Jesus is not for the faint of heart. I feel a deep kinship

and resonance with the author which I think is even more profound than the story itself, which is a beautifully written record of his personal initiatory journey into the sacred, and sometimes totally weird, mysteries of (spiritual) Life. If a number of our brothers and sisters can consistently relate with humanity as a species in this way, which I have discovered many of us evidently Can and Do, then I am convinced that we will and have already begun to render even the greatest obstacles to our immanent evolution laughable and powerless over us. We are each other's Divine Inheritance. Welcome Home.

I don't think I would have stumbled upon The Electric Jesus had it not been for the ringing endorsement of Graham Hancock via his Facebook page one day late last Fall. This compelling narrative ultimately turned out to be one of the most fascinating books I read in all of 2011. Although the subject matter was a bit foreign to me at that time, the author's approach is anything but threatening. This piece served as a fantastic introduction to what I've come to realize is a counter-culture movement. Authentic at its core, bold in its presentation, broad in its scope, and enchanting in its effect upon the reader, one can't help but feel energetically stirred after reading this book, and I have recommended it to countless others.

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