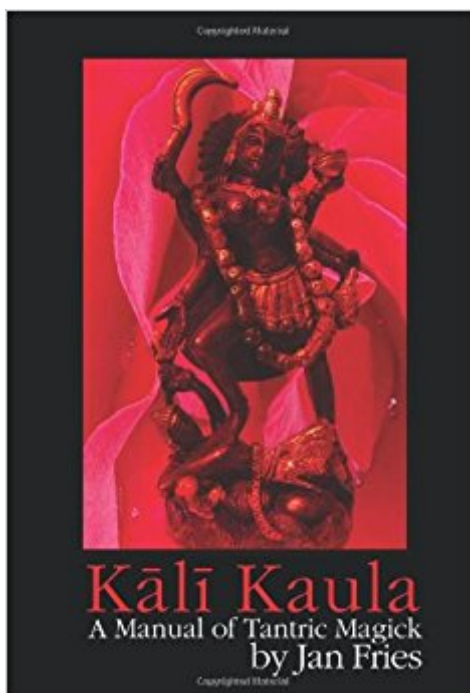


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Kali Kaula - A Manual Of Tantric Magick



Synopsis

Kali Kaula is a practical and experiential journey through the land of living magical art that is Tantra, guided by the incisive, inspired and multi-talented hands of Jan Fries. By stripping away the fantasies and exploring the roots, flowers and fruits of Tantra, the author provides an outstandingly effective and coherent manual of practices. Acknowledging the huge diversity of Tantric material produced over the centuries, Jan Fries draws on several decades of research and experience and focuses on the early traditions of Kula, Kaula and Krama, and the result is this inimitable work which shines with the light of possibility. Unique in style and content, this book is more than a manual of tantric magick, it is a guide to the exploration of the inner soul. It contains the most lucid discussions of how to achieve liberation in the company of numerous Indian goddesses and gods, each of whom brings their own lessons and gifts to the dedicated seeker. It is also an eloquent introduction to the mysteries of the great goddess Kali, providing numerous views of her manifold nature, and showing the immense but hidden role played throughout history by women in the development and dissemination of tantric practices and beliefs. Jan Fries explores the spectrum of techniques from mudra to mantra, pranayama to puja, from kundalini arousal to purification to sexual rites, and makes them both accessible and relevant, translating them out of the Twilight Language of old texts and setting them in the context of both personal transformation and the historical evolution of traditions. The web of connections between Tantra and Chinese Alchemy and Taoism are explored as the author weaves together many of the previously disparate strands of philosophies and practices. This book challenges the reader to dream, delight, and develop, and provides an illustrated guidebook on how to do so. Bliss awaits those who dare.

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Customer Reviews

As a long-time practitioner of Kaula Tantra I THOUGHT I knew a great deal about Tantra, especially of the Kaula Variety. This work is a stunning tour de force in which the author has CLEARLY studied and researched the subject very thoroughly. His work is clear and convincing, and he is the first to say when he doesn't know something completely, or is not an authority on this or that aspect. At the same time, I cannot imagine the depth of effort that was put into this book, and it humbled me as to my actual lack of knowledge on the depth and breadth of the subject. A tedious read in some ways, not because it's complicated or poorly written, but because of the massive amount of material that you just want to slow down and digest it. Overall a truly magnificent work that I highly recommend if you are a SERIOUS student of real Tantra and not New Age sex passing itself off as genuine Tantra.

I really enjoy the writings of Jan Fries for two major reasons, 1. The length and breadth of his knowledge is impressive and it shows through like a torch in the night in all of his books. And 2. His candor, he does not shy away from stating his own personal feelings as well as being willing, able and honest in diving deep into the "darker" more "chthonic" side of topics. Now Kali Kaula is a wonderful book, especially now a-days for a western and predominately new age audience who has an interest in the subject covered and I share his animosity in that you have to wade through tons of crap before you get to a book that is not some new age fixation on sex and/or westernized interpretations of what actually is taught. I don't have a large knowledge base in tantric traditions, but its subject has always been a big interest of mine as I have been a great lover of Maha Kali, almost all of my adult life. So I initially purchased this book with the hopes that it would deepen my understanding of not only tantra but also Kali Ma, which it did. One of the biggest things that I learned is the term Tantra is really just a place holder, for a vast school of Hindu teachings, Tantra we learn means "texts" (basically), and that there are several schools most notably Kriya and Kaula which are what most think of when they think of Tantric Teachings. Fries, goes into great depth of the history of Tantra without becoming too drawn out and the original artwork done by the author are great. I particularly enjoyed the Night Side interpretation of Ganesha, as he sat on the cremation grounds. Particularly as one of his notable characteristics is as a remover of obstacles. Now I can't sing high praises for this book in totality for two reasons, 1. Jan Fries, albeit a

wonderful author, can get pretty dry when he steps away from historical information and into explaining the teachings specifically, as they read much like stereo instructions. Cut and Dry. This can get pretty boring fast as you go from one to the next explanation explaining posture and breath, but I can't knock him too hard for this because if you read them and apply them, which I have done with many of his works, they do what he says they will. Even though dry, it doesn't leave room for error if you are given instructions without a bunch of filler you have to wade through. The second reason, and quite honestly the only reason why I gave this book four stars rather than the five it deserves, and I do feel a bit petty about this but I will state it anyways, is the book is ungodly expensive, which Avalonia Publishing is well known for doing. Granted I understand that we are looking at a niche market of a niche market when it comes to Fries writings, and the author should get there well and do in profit for writing such texts. At least give a book that is top quality for the price. Now the book is bound average, the paper is average and the cover is average. But I'm sorry if you expect me to pay over 35 dollars for a soft cover book, and then I expect to get a top quality book. Granted, I have paged through Avalonia's hard covered versions of Fries books, and they are really good quality, but 65 + dollars, (*&%(^&&^!!! You have to be kidding, you might as well tack on "University of...." when you put the publisher because you are right up there with college presses. Ok, off my soap box. Overall this is a good book, if Tantra interests you this is a wonderful book to start with, or for that matter base much of your backbone practices on. But keep in mind you are just going to have to tell yourself your paying all that money for the content and not book quality. Granted I will agree, High quality book with s*** for content is certainly worse....Worth a read!

I don't know that this book deserves the moniker "a manual of Tantric Magick" as it really doesn't detail extensive sadhana or go into much detail on yantras and how to use them or other magical practices. The information on Mantra is a little stilted because the author insists on using antiquated spelling for Sanskrit words instead of a phonetic spelling. Other reviewers really liked the artwork. I did not particularly care for the style but suppose the book is better for having these illustrations. This is very informative giving a lot of detail about Tantra and several introductory practices. The author obviously cares a great deal about the subject and does a good job at gathering together such a large amount of information. The author also obviously has an extent of actual practice in the techniques expounded. This is a very good book and I enjoyed it very much but was hoping for something a little different based on the title. Perhaps I was expecting less of an overview and more of a detailed practice. There are quite a few exercises and the author's love of results not authority is

refreshing and welcome. Still a very good book and highly recommended. One thing which does deserve special mention is the authors treatment of the subject of spirit lovers, this is becoming increasingly evident as a method used by mystics and magicians of the higher grades of adepthood and it is a valid practice, it is also covered by Jason Newcomb in his book sexual sorcery to some extent and by Donald Tyson in greater detail in his books Familiar Spirits and Sexual Alchemy. Spirit lovers can directly manipulate the nervous system and depending on their grade also manipulate the nadis and energy body. A word of warning is perhaps necessary, after having sex with a spirit you may no longer want to have sex with a human being, all of the implications of this should be considered before beginning this kind of relationship. However a great deal of actual initiation, and liberation does arise from this type of relationship... It is very freeing on many levels not to be reliant on human beings for sex, it does drastically alter ones consciousness to have these types of experiences which are probably safest in a Hindu context. It is a good book but not much of a manual of practical Magick so much as an overview with some introductory techniques and exercises.

The knowledge and experience in this book would take a lifetime looking to find elsewhere. JF's easy writing style plus his own illustrations gives the reader the best info since Arthur Avalon.

Very interesting. The most thorough scholarly work I have come across in terms of offering translations of tracts from ancient texts in the tantra tradition. Nevertheless, written in a very straightforward style and eminently practical.

I have been looking for information on Kali for over a year and this is perfect! Very well researched and written.

The author is obviously very well studied. He greatly explains every topic in detail, and really gives the reader a visualization of what he is talking about.

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