



Conversations in the House of Life: A New Translation of the Ancient Egyptian Book of Thoth

Richard Jasnow, Karl-Theodor Zauzich

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This is a new translation of a text first published as *The Ancient Egyptian Book of Thoth* (2005). The composition is a dialogue between a Master, perhaps the god Thoth himself, and a Disciple, named The-one-who-loves-knowledge. Originally written in Demotic, the text dates to the Graeco-Roman Period (ca. 300 B.C. to 400 A.D.). The dialogue covers everything from how to hold the writing brush and the symbolic significance of scribal utensils to a long exposition on sacred geography. The work may be an initiation text dealing with sacred knowledge. It is closely associated with the House of Life, the temple scriptorium where the priests wrote their books. *Conversations in the House of Life* is intended for the general public. The explanatory essays, commentary, and glossary help the reader explore the fascinating universe of the Book of Thoth. As a document of Late Period Egyptian thought it is of importance to all those interested in Graeco-Roman Period intellectual history; students of the Classical Hermetica will find the Book of Thoth especially intriguing.

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