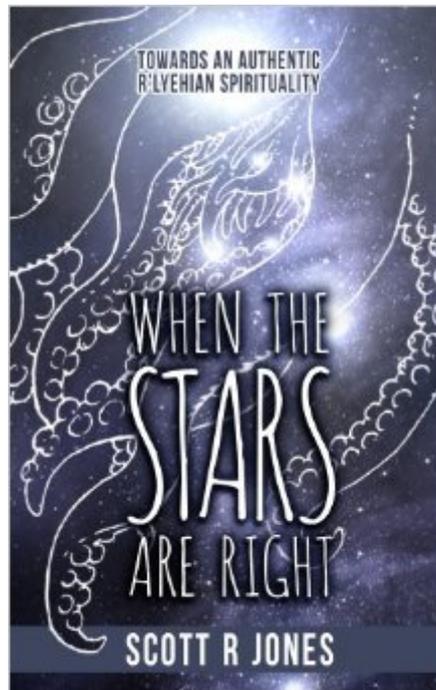


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When The Stars Are Right: Towards An Authentic R'Lyehian Spirituality



Synopsis

Yog-Sothoth ... Nyarlathotep ... Shub-Niggurath ... CTHULHU. The Great Old Ones: hideous monster-gods from beyond Time and Space. Ancient, eldritch horrors that populate the pantheon of weird-fiction writer Howard Phillips Lovecraft's increasingly popular milieu, his so-called Cthulhu Mythos. Some claim that they are merely fiction, while others have convinced themselves that Lovecraft somehow intuited their objective existence. When faced with the weird, chimerical potency of the Great Old Ones, whether they are approached through fiction, magical practice, or, say, a table-top role-playing game, neither viewpoint really seems to satisfy. The Great Old Ones are protean, nebulous, unimaginable... and impressively persistent in their psychological and spiritual presence. In *When The Stars Are Right: Towards An Authentic R'lyehian Spirituality*, author Scott R Jones deftly breaks down the barriers between the rational and the irrational, between the bright logic of our daytime intellect and the fearful non-Euclidean symmetries of our darkest dreams. In the process, the truth of the Great Old Ones is revealed in all its cosmic resonance. Beyond reason... beyond madness... beyond the unspeakable... lies the Black Gnosis: a new mode of being, a spirituality that anticipates a new appreciation of humanity's place in an increasingly dire and indifferent cosmos. *When The Stars Are Right* asks the reader a simple question: "Are you keeping it R'lyeh?" The answers may surprise you. *When The Stars Are Right: Towards An Authentic R'lyehian Spirituality* by Scott R Jones, with an introduction by Jordan Stratford (*Living Gnosticism: An Ancient Way of Knowing and A Dictionary of Western Alchemy*) and interior illustrations by Michael Lee Macdonald. *What They're Saying About When The Stars Are Right...* "Sly, intelligent, and darkly entertaining. Jones gives Ligotti a run for his money in the cosmic horror philosophy arms race." -- Laird Barron, author of *The Croning* and *The Beautiful Thing That Awaits Us All* "Canadian author, editor, and poet Scott R. Jones [approaches] Old Grandpa Theobald's life's work and literary legacy as a true spiritual seeker, and, as a result, uncovers real spiritual truths. This is no Simon 'Necronomicon', no coy cash-in; instead, the book you hold in your hands is a sort of Cosmic Horror How to Win Friends and Influence Cultists, filled with potentially life-changing wisdom, provocative observation, and beautiful madness. *When the Stars Are Right* is the first real self-help book for the weird fiction crowd." -- Ross E. Lockhart, editor *The Book of Cthulhu* "With this book Scott R. Jones manages to transcend the mire of pseudo-Necronomicons and the pop Cthulhu cottage industry ... a stirring examination of the genuine Darkness that churns not only in the Mythos of H.P. Lovecraft but in the universe at large." -- Richard Gavin, author of *At Fear's Altar* "... boldly contemplates the life-changing notions that chortled and skittered along the edges of Lovecraft's best work. Highly recommended, but don't expect any gates to close easily afterwards." -- Bryan

Thao Worra, NEA Fellow in Literature, author of *Demonstra* "This isn't a book; it's a crime scene!" --
Leeman Kessler, AskLovecraft.com

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Customer Reviews

Many people have written about Lovecraftian occultism, a few people have written about the philosophy of Lovecraft and his Cthulhu Mythos, but until now no-one has ever attempted to define a system of spirituality built around the Mythos. This postmodern exploration borrows somewhat from the Lovecraftian occultism, particularly I think Phil Hine's *The Pseudonomicon*, but at its base more strongly evokes the underlying and unspoken themes of *THE STARRY WISDOM: A Tribute to H P Lovecraft* and *Songs of the Black Wurm* *Gism: The Starry Wisdom Part 2 (Creation Oneiros)*, all delivered by the author of *R'lyeh Sutra*. Although mostly given in plain and simple language, R'lyehian spirituality is not for beginners. Lapsed Catholic teenagers looking to annoy or horrify their parents are going to have trouble coming to grips with seeing fictional gods as real and false at the same time, and the philosophy behind the sexuality goes deeper than doubling your chances for a date on Friday night.

I plunged into *When the Stars Are Right: Towards An Authentic R'lyehian Spirituality* with what I'd assumed would be baggage. I'm an atheist, hopefully not a smug one, and while there are far too many influenced by Dawkins and his ilk, there are also Buddhists and non-theist dualists who aren't content with the like. Per the author, R'lyehian spirituality is an experience

that is largely divorced from the trappings of standard magical and religious systems. R'lyehian thought and spirituality is, for the most part, an internally experienced phenomenon. • (p. 113) How was I to approach this? Would my bias be an impediment to understanding? Is this a joke, some Crowley circus or LaVey carnival? Is even asking this relevant when approaching this book? I'm not satisfied with ambiguous interpretations of esoteric insight all too often offered up by mystics and magicians, views usually proposed in such an amorphous manner, or held so privately, the claimant can avoid any common ground with which to discuss. The invisible and the non-existent look much alike. My materialism is not dogma, but the default placeholder until something with more explanatory power is introduced. How to proceed? Rambling pretense aside, and all hesitation ameliorated, Scott R. Jones more than succeeds in his R'lyehian approach to gnosis. When the Stars Are Right could have taken the easy way out and mimic the superficial pop gleam of Joseph Campbell's approach to meaning and myth. Monomythicism doesn't satisfy, and though I admire his writings, the structuralism of, say, Jacques Lacan is equally unconvincing. A book on R'lyehian thought could have easily devolved into campy self-parody, or a pretentious hodgepodge of occult terminology creating the illusion of profundity.

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