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Taking Up The Runes: A Complete Guide To Using Runes In Spells, Rituals, Divination, And Magic



Synopsis

Although many of us first encountered runes in J.R.R. Tolkien's Lord of the Rings, this sacred alphabet is by no means a fabrication for books or movies. Similar to Hebrew letters in the sense that each symbol contains a meaning that transcends its original function as a letter, the runes are practical, flexible, and effective symbols with a variety of uses. Today, the best known application of rune lore is divination: chips or stones marked with runes are drawn, cast, or laid out in patterns like tarot cards. In *Taking Up the Runes*, Paxson delves into the ancient historical meaning of each rune and explains their contemporary uses and meanings. We discover that the real power of runes comes from inside ourselves when we find the wisdom and power within each symbol and internalize them.

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Customer Reviews

Diana Paxson is author of more than a dozen historical novels with strong spiritual themes including *The White Raven* and *The Serpent's Tooth*. She is also the coauthor, with Marion Zimmer Bradley, of *Priestess of Avalon* and has continued the immensely popular *Mists of Avalon* series on her own.

This book was suggested to me from a Seidr group, and I am glad I bought it. Diana's historical knowledge directly supports the magical nature of each rune, and the practical applications. She blends all of her approaches seamlessly into a comprehensive guide for either the experienced practitioners or the beginners. One feature I particularly like is how she moves through the Futhark

as a sequence, and how each rune relates to and flows into another as a sort of stream of creation. It certainly widened my perspective. Well worth the buy for anybody wanting to get more in serious about the runes and Norse shamanism.

I had this book in the past but my wife donated it. I had to buy it again because, to me, was the best book on interpreting runes I've read

Paxton is an acknowledged leader in the field of practical runework, and this book is a lovely example of why. Diana's writing style is warm and approachable, and she deals extensively with each rune, citing original source material (such as the eddas, Norse and Anglo-Saxon rune poems), and citing other experts. This well rounded and in depth approach is invaluable to the serious seeker of runic understanding. What's more, Diana offers guided meditation and runic rituals of a practical and beneficial nature, as well as information on the cultural background of the folkway and a modern application and understanding. Taken altogether, an absolutely invaluable work for the novice, and an excellent resource for the experienced rune seeker.

I have been working with runes roughly a year when I got this book. I would suggest this book if you are considering on getting into more detail with runes. I have 2 books on runes one is a simpler one that basically goes straight to the facts not that this one doesn't. For the beginner I would suggest this but maybe another book as well just for different reference. Although I think it is a great book I think it can be overwhelming at times. However I am not sure I can go on without it as well or would have the knowledge that I have now of them.

Whether you are new to runes or have read many books on the subject, Taking Up The Runes is your next stop. It is an essential study of the runes, written well, organized well, and full of interesting information--both historic and occult. What Paxson does here is present a well-rounded overview of each rune, delving into the historical and literary meanings of each as well as the interpretations made by esteemed runic scholars and occult practitioners. Highlighting both the similar and conflicting interpretations is really helpful. Afterward, she gleans all of the most useful information of about each rune and tries to guide one into understanding what drawing that rune might mean in a reading. She presents what is known about using these runes magically, offers meditative and contemplative afterthoughts on each rune, and links the mythology and beliefs of the Norse with ease and clarity. Very easy to read. Heaps of useful information. This book will give a

greater understanding of the runes. Guaranteed. No fluff. No wasted reading time. Paxson gets down to business and leads the reader along like a talented scholar.

I have long enjoyed Diana Paxson as an author of historical fantasy novels (she coauthored, with Marion Zimmer Bradley, the Priestess of Avalon, and continued Bradley's Mists of Avalon series since Bradley's death on her own). Given her novels, it did not completely surprise me to discover her to be so well-grounded in spiritual and pagan ideas. This isn't a text for the beginner. There is a lot to this text, and it might be easy for a novice to get intimidated at the depth into which she delves with the stones. I'm not sure I would recommend this as your first book on reading the runes, but it is a definitive work. She brings divinatory meanings together to make the power of each rune clear. The work is well organized and extensive.

I am really enjoying reading this book. The exercises and descriptions for the runes is very thorough and helps me to understand the meaning of each rune on a deeper level. The only thing I don't like is the fact that many of the exercises are for group work and I don't know anyone around here into that sort of thing, haha. I still recommend it if you are also solitary.

Great book and lots of details and descriptions that helps bring runes to life!

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