



TEAR SHEET

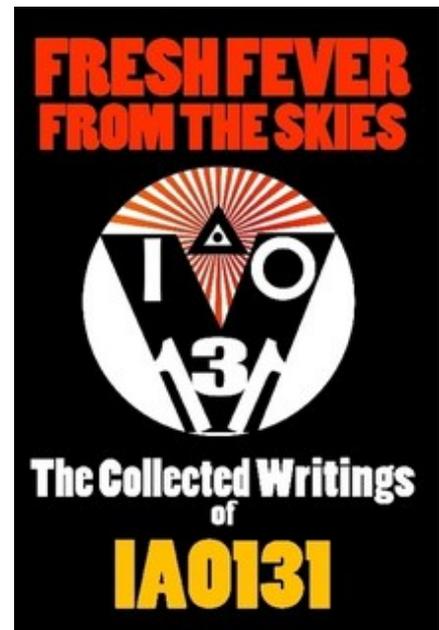
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## FRESH FEVER FROM THE SKIES THE COLLECTED WRITINGS OF IAO131

**Fresh Fever from the Skies**  
**The Collected Writing of**  
**IAO131**  
**Self Published**  
**Web:** <http://www.iao131.com>

IAO131 is a controversial figure, he is blunt, straight-forward and combines an obvious knowledge of the practise of Thelema with a very sharp intellect. This is a selection of his essays from between 2007 and 2014 which have not previously been published in his major works. While there are many Thelemic “literalists” he is not one of them, he bases his work on the Holy Books of Thelema but to use them as a jumping off point for research. While his knowledge is encyclopedic he writes in a way that avoids confusion and is clear and precise. Fresh Fever from the Skies is nicely presented with illustrations throughout.

Fresh Fever from the Skies is divided into five parts - introductions to Thelema, essays on major themes within Thelema, discussions of magick from a Thelemic perspective, a selection of rituals and a series of short personal essays, musings and inspired writings. I cannot hope to discuss the



sheer number of essays in this large book but I will mention some key essays which grabbed my attention, though to be fair the whole book is a joy to read and even more illuminating to study. The first thing that becomes obvious as you read these essays is the authors knowledge of mysticism and esotericism beyond Thelema and his ability to situate Thelemic concepts in a larger context such as the concept of the Will in terms of the Bhagavad Gita and psychology and philosophy.

The first essay is Why Thelema Kicks Ass, it is a clear and precise outline of what is so unique about Thelema, ranging from accepting

science and materialism but not limited by either, tolerance, an open view to sexuality and an encouragement to individualism. I enjoy his reflection on moral tendencies in Thelema (Chapter Three Yama and Niyama) which makes it clear that Thelema is about doing your Will and so a universalised morality cannot apply. I especially like his suggestion that the Niyama of Thelema is “mind your own business.” His reflections on initiation are poignant and informative, honing in on the differences between initiation in the old aeon and the new.

The second section which explores the philosophy of Thelema opens with a grand exploration of Thelema in terms of western philosophy. This is not something which is done often and offers a solid context to Thelema as a philosophical system not just as a religion or form of magick. This is followed by considering the central concept of Thelema - Will with comparisons to other systems of thought and offers careful analysis and provocative discussions. IAO131 offers a nuanced view of the ethics of Thelema with reference to psychology and the philosophy of Fredrich Nietzsche and insightful consideration of politics.

Rudolf Otto's Idea of the Holy is considered a classic in understanding the nature of spiritual experience and IAO131 considers this work in relation to Thelema. One of the more interested debates in modern magic is the nature of the Holy Guardian Angel and IAO131 examines this in great detail. Comparative studies are always enlight-

ening and the comparison between Buddhism, which Crowley had studied, and Thelema is informative, this is a marvelously comprehensive study with lots of background on Buddhism and a very perceptive commentary. This is followed by a truly exhaustive look at the nature of mysticism in Thelema, what it is and isn't and it's relation to magick.

The next section explores the unique nature of magick within Thelema, from the nature of magick in the pursuit of the True Will to the use of symbolism. This section also includes a study of the nature of the four weapons in extensive detail covering the physical body, emotions and intellect and Will and the three powers of alchemical Salt, Sulphur and Mercury. The chapter on Excuses for Thelemites is remarkably perceptive and reminds us how often we make up all sorts of meaningless reasons to avoid working towards our Will.

There are some great rituals such as those for the equinoxes and solstices and other feasts and festivals. These are beautifully written and will be a joy to use. This is followed by a selection of miscellaneous items from a play, an informed criticism of Christianity, philosophy and some clear and precise aphorisms. There are also more enigmatic works that need time to consider and digest.

This is truly an astounding work, taking Thelema into new territory, offering a philosophical context for its practice and offering suggestions as to how we can find our True Will in the 21st century.

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