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## Egyptian Religion: Egyptian Ideas of the Future Life (Citadel Library of Mystic Arts)

*E. A. Wallis Budge*

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#2860051 in Books Citadel 2000-06-01 2000-06-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.22 x .62 x 5.54l, .57 #File Name: 0806512296228 pages | File size: 18.Mb

**E. A. Wallis Budge : Egyptian Religion: Egyptian Ideas of the Future Life (Citadel Library of Mystic Arts)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Egyptian Religion: Egyptian Ideas of the Future Life (Citadel Library of Mystic Arts):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very good read  
By GTOKeVExcellent Read  
2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Very outdated  
look elsewhere!  
By DAJBudge's books circulate online because they're out of copyright; this one is from 1901. It's rarely a good idea to trust century-old scholarship in any field, and Budge was not even the most sophisticated Egyptologist of his time, merely the most prolific. His works served to introduce Egyptian religion to the public, but as current Egyptologists themselves say in *Eternal Egypt*, "unfortunately many [of Budge's books] have been kept in print long after their usefulness has been exhausted." This work really has two main topics: gods and afterlife beliefs. All of the familiar deities are described here, most of them only cursorily. Like many Egyptologists of his time, Budge was attached to the idea that a single monotheistic god lay behind the obvious polytheism of Egyptian religion. To his credit, Budge was not as condescending about Egyptian religion as some of his contemporaries (though that attitude shows up more in the companion volume, *Egyptian Magic*). Today's interpretations of Egyptian theology, however, are much more subtle than his. On afterlife beliefs, the book isn't so much inaccurate as imbalanced, focusing on some afterlife beliefs, such as the familiar judgment of the dead, at the expense of others that are just as important but didn't appeal so much to a turn-of-the-century Christian audience. The book is padded with long quotations from hymns and the *Book of the Dead*, which might be of interest to someone wanting to read primary sources except that Budge's translations are also held in very low regard today. Fortunately there are plenty of up-to-date alternatives to Budge. *Ancient Egyptian Religion* by Stephen Quirke is a readable overview of all aspects of the religion, while *Gods and Men in Egypt* is a less accessible but more thorough treatment. For a concise but extensive introduction to Egyptian gods and theology, *The Complete Gods and Goddesses of Ancient Egypt* is excellent; if you want to study theology in real detail, *Conceptions of God in Ancient Egypt* and *The Search for God in Ancient Egypt* are difficult but fundamental reading. Geraldine Pinch's *Egyptian Mythology* is the best book on myth that I have read. The only comprehensive treatment of afterlife beliefs is the very dense *Death and Salvation in Ancient Egypt*, but sources like John Taylor's general study of funerary practices, *Death and the Afterlife in Ancient Egypt*, treat those beliefs in about as much depth as Budge does.  
4 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Good start  
By E. KingEasy to read and lots of illustrations, all in 224 pages. This is a reproduction London edition of 1900. The first Carol Publishing Group Edition was 1991.

The ancient Egyptians worshipped fish and monkeys, snakes and crocodiles. They had gods for every province, town and village and even for individual families. This book makes clear that the immense variety of Egyptian deities never excluded a firm belief in a single almighty Sun-god Ra.