

## John Ransom Phillips: A Contemporary Book of the Dead

Zahi Hawass, Wendy Doniger



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The ancient Egyptians were the first to examine the afterlife in a book composed between 1567 and 1085

BC. This collection of funerary texts has historically been referred to as the Book of the Dead or Book of
Going Forth by Day. For the Egyptians, the Book of the Dead was a vital part of the quest for immortality.

Millennia later, the second Book of the Dead, written in Tibet dating from the eighth century CE, tells a
similar tale, but this journey has an entirely different end?rebirth here on earth, instead of in another world.

Using watercolors on papyrus?an echo of the Book of the Dead incantations written on papyrus scrolls
buried with mummies in ancient Egypt?this collection creates a contemporary interpretation of how human
beings contemplate their earthly and spiritual existence. Phillips's work is a vivid visual study into universal
and timeless themes of life, love, fear, hope, and sublime happiness that combine into the human experience.



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