



# The Tantric Alchemist: Thomas Vaughan and the Indian Tantric Tradition

By Peter Levenda

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*The Tantric Alchemist* is a work on alchemy as decoded by Tantra and a work on Tantra as understood by alchemists. It uncovers works by Thomas Vaughan and suggests how he and his wife—a 17th-century Welsh couple unique in the history of western alchemy—met their fate when dealing with forces they knew only too well, but which were stronger than their ability to control them.

Using the works of Vaughan as his text, Levenda applies the “twilight language” of Tantra to the surreal prose of the alchemist and in the process lays bare the lineaments of the arcane tradition that gave rise to the legend of Christian Rosenkreutz, the reputed founder of Rosicrucianism who learned his art in the East; and to the 19th- and 20th-century occult movements lead by such luminaries as P.B. Randolph, Theodore Reuss, Helena Blavatsky, and Aleister Crowley who also sought (and discovered) this technology in the religions and cultures of Asia.

Readers will find that the many disparate threads of an authentic spiritual tradition are woven together here in a startling tapestry that reveals—without pretense or euphemism—the psycho-sexual technique that is at the root of both Tantra and alchemy: that is to say, of both Asian and European forms of esoteric praxis.

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## Bibliography

- Rank: #671175 in eBooks
- Published on: 2015-09-01
- Released on: 2015-09-01
- Format: Kindle eBook

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### Editorial Review

#### About the Author

**Peter Levenda** is an author of esoterica and historical investigation. His esoteric titles include such works as *The Dark Lord*, *Tantric Temples*, and *Stairway to Heaven: Chinese Alchemists, Jewish Kabbalists, and the Art of Spiritual Transformation*. Levenda has appeared numerous times on the History Channel, the Discovery Channel, NatGeo, and in shows ranging from Brad Meltzer's *Decoded* to *The Nostradamus Effect*.

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