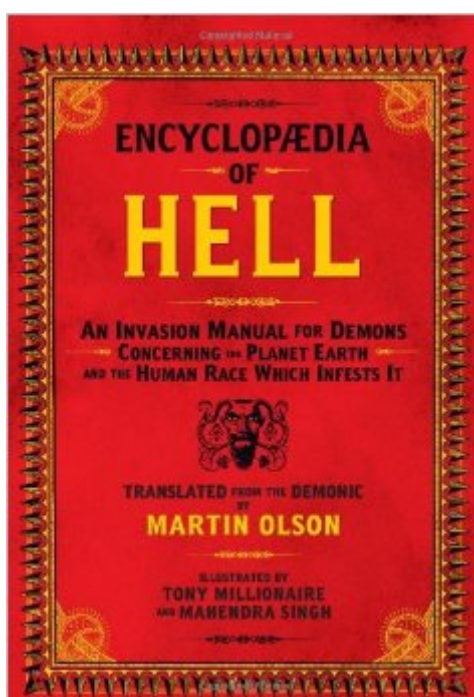


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Encyclopaedia Of Hell: An Invasion Manual For Demons Concerning The Planet Earth And The Human Race Which Infests It



Synopsis

A tour de force of darkness, Encyclopaedia of Hell is a manual of Earth written by Lord Satan for his invading hordes of demons, complete with hundreds of unpleasant illustrations, diagrams, and a comprehensive and utterly repulsive dictionary of Earth terms. Since the customs and mores of humanity are alien and inconceivable to demons, Satan wrote this strangely poetic military handbook for the enlightenment and edification of his demon armies. A masterpiece expressing Satan's hatred for humanity and himself, the Encyclopaedia includes "Techniques of Stalking and Eating Humans," "Methods of Canning Human Pus," and "Dicing and Slicing Orphaned Children." Why the invasion? During the last century in particular, Hell has become seriously overcrowded. Satan needs more land mass for the damned and to use the human livestock to feed his hungry demon invaders. Since this book is the 666th commemorative edition, this Encyclopaedia contains special commemorative material. Martin Olson's savage wit provides the firepower for a preposterous literary feat unaccomplished since Mark Twain passed; channeling the real voice of Satan. Over the past fifteen years, Olson has written and produced nine comedy specials, inflicted on the populace via CBS, HBO, Showtime, Cinemax, and A&E.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

When I stumbled upon Encyclopaedia of Hell's Facebook page, I was immediately taken with the book cover that serves as its profile picture. Being drawn to anything having to do with the occult, I instantly assumed it to be some aged manuscript that had been dug up at some obscure sorcerer's crumbling abode, and reprinted by an equally obscure publishing house sympathetic to the aspiring

mage. Upon further inspection, I discovered it was a book of satire, allegedly written by Satan Himself. Dashed were my hopes of at last finding a spell or three that would grant me the power to turn my long list of wretched enemies into ebola-afflicted three-headed mules. Undaunted, however, I continued my investigation. What I discovered was a book that accomplished what my miserable former fiance through her best efforts could not: bring tears to my eyes. The kind of tears that accompany intense bouts of laughter, of course. The biting commentary by Lord Satan on the inane futility of human existence is priceless, but it is his bumbling editor Zyk who almost steals the show with his memos to "the publisher" interspersed throughout The Encyclopaedia cataloging his mishaps and misadventures (of all the demons mentioned in the book, his is the sole unfamiliar demonic nomenclature). The amazing thing about Encyclopaedia of Hell, is the extent to which Martin Olson has fleshed out all of the supporting characters in the limited space allotted. Yet through intermittent notes the personalities of Lilith, Behemoth, Belial, and other demon commentators are cemented into the brain almost immediately. This Encyclopaedia is one of the best books I have ever purchased. From the writing to the illustrations to the binding itself.

"The following manuscript is alleged to be a pirated edition of the original housed in a secret vault in Rome beneath the Vatican Basilica di Santa Croce of Gerusalemme." So begins the "Warning to the Reader" prefacing veteran comedy writer Martin Olson's uproariously clever "Encyclopaedia of Hell," a satirical tome of otherworldly lampoonery. Purported to be authored by the greatest critic of humanity we have ever dreamed up, Satan himself, "Encyclopaedia" pushes dark social commentary to a new, ferocious level. While the text might not actually originate from another dimension as alleged, it may as well have, so surreal and inspired is Olson's wit. At its core a twisted Twain-ian takedown of modern society, "Encyclopaedia" approaches our culture from the perspective of Satan and his various demon associates, who try to make sense of mankind's tendencies in preparation for a full scale invasion of Earth. Upon scrutinizing our behavior, however, they come upon a series of dark, at times uncomfortably accurate conclusions about who we are and what we are up to. To wit, they understand the concept of "high school" to be "a place of learning in which human children learn the market value of drugs and weapons." Examining the orgasm, they deem it "the ten-second bio-electric discharge which motivates all human endeavor." In addition, Olson meticulously constructs an entire new (highly blasphemous) mythological framework to further poke fun of the follies of humanity. Using the various supernatural characters he evokes, he posits alternate, cutting explanations for how different antisocial aspects of society have come to be.

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