

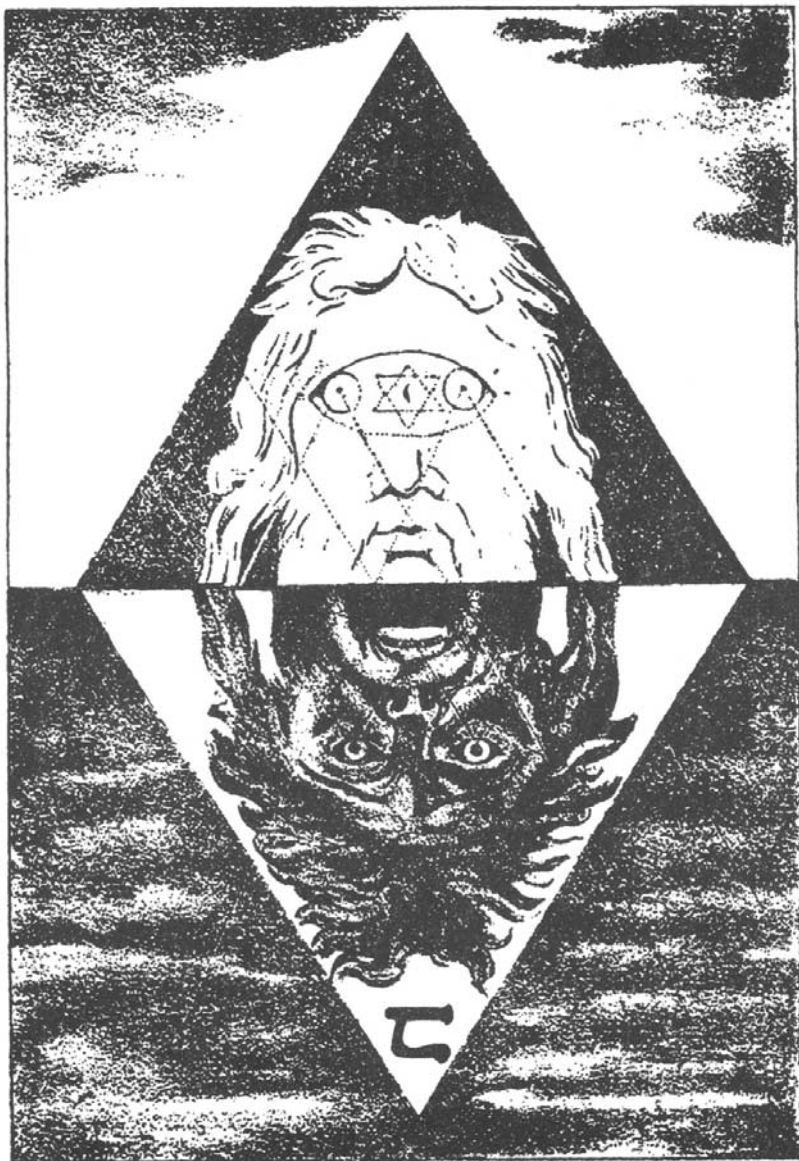
Cambridge University Press
0521437776 - The Myth of the Magus
E. M. Butler
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Canto is an imprint offering a range of titles, classic and more recent, across a broad spectrum of subject areas and interests. History, literature, biography, archaeology, politics, religion, psychology, philosophy and science are all represented in Canto's specially selected list of titles, which now offers some of the best and most accessible of Cambridge publishing to a wider readership.

Cambridge University Press
0521437776 - The Myth of the Magus
E. M. Butler
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

THE MYTH OF THE MAGUS

Cambridge University Press
0521437776 - The Myth of the Magus
E. M. Butler
Frontmatter
[More information](#)



Cambridge University Press
0521437776 - The Myth of the Magus
E. M. Butler
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

THE
MYTH OF THE MAGUS

BY

E. M. BUTLER

*Formerly Schröder Professor of German in the
University of Cambridge*



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
0521437776 - The Myth of the Magus
E. M. Butler
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo

Cambridge University Press
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521437776

© Cambridge University Press 1948

First published 1948
First paperback edition 1979
Canto edition 1993

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN-13 978-0-521-43777-6 paperback
ISBN-10 0-521-43777-6 paperback

Transferred to digital printing 2005

Cambridge University Press
0521437776 - The Myth of the Magus
E. M. Butler
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

To

R. G. B. and F. J. B.

Fain would I have known of any melodies of Orpheus, if any there are. . . .

APOLLONIUS OF TYANA

CONTENTS

<i>List of illustrations</i>	<i>page xi</i>
<i>Preface</i>	xiii
 <i>Introduction: ORIGINS</i>	
(a) The Ritual Hero	1
(b) The Professional Practitioner	4
<i>PART I. THE GOLDEN AGE</i>	
 <i>Chapter I. THE WISE MEN OF THE EAST</i>	
(a) The Magi	15
(b) Zoroaster	20
II. HEBREW HOLY MEN	
(a) Moses	29
(b) Solomon	35
III. THE SAGES OF GREECE	
(a) Pythagoras	44
(b) Apollonius of Tyana	55
IV. THE DOWNFALL OF THE MAGUS	
(a) Christ	66
(b) Simon Magus	73
<i>PART II. THE DARK AGES</i>	
 <i>Chapter I. UNDER THE CHRISTIAN CLOUD</i>	
(a) Cyprian	87
(b) Theophilus	91
(c) Gerbert	94

CONTENTS

II.	POST-PAGAN SHADES	
	(a) Virgil	<i>page</i> 98
	(b) Merlin	104
III.	BENEATH A BLACK SUN	
	(a) Zyto	112
	(b) Joan and Gilles	116
	(c) Doctor Faust	121
	(d) Friar Bacon	144
IV.	IN THE LIGHT OF COMMON DAY	
	(a) Dee and Kelley	160
	(b) Gauffridi and Grandier	172
<i>PART III. RETURN OF THE MAGI</i>		
<i>Chapter I.</i>	ARISTEAS REDIVIVUS	179
II.	THE MAN OF MYSTERY	185
III.	THE GRAND COPHT	215
IV.	MADAME AND THE MASTERS	243
V.	THE 'HOLY DEVIL'	261
	<i>Conclusion</i>	264
	<i>Bibliography</i>	269
	<i>Index</i>	277

ILLUSTRATIONS

The Magical Head of the Zohar	<i>Frontispiece</i>
(From E. Lévi, <i>The History of Magic</i> . By permission of Rider and Co.)	
I. Idealized portrait from a sculpture supposed to represent Zoroaster	<i>facing p. 28</i>
(From A. V. Williams Jackson, <i>Zoroaster</i> . By permission of the Macmillan Co., New York)	
II. Apollonius of Tyana	56
(From Philostratus, <i>Life of Apollonius</i> , trans. F. C. Conybeare, M.A. By permission of the Loeb Classical Library)	
III. The Death of Simon Magus. By Benozzo Gozzoli	78
(By Gracious Permission of H.M. The King)	
IV. The Miracle of Theophilus	94
(From Grillot de Givry, <i>Witchcraft, Magic and Alchemy</i> . George G. Harrap and Co. Ltd.)	
V. Merlin	110
(From Thomas Heywood, <i>The Life of Merlin</i> . London 1641)	
VI. Dr Faustus. From an etching by Rembrandt	122
(From Grillot de Givry, <i>Witchcraft, Magic and Alchemy</i> . George G. Harrap and Co. Ltd.)	
VII. Dr John Dee	160
(By permission of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford)	
VIII. Grandier's Pact	174
(From Scheible, <i>Das Kloster</i>)	
IX. Mahatma Koot Hoomi	254
(From H. E. and W. L. Hare, <i>Who Wrote the Mahatma Letters?</i> By permission of Williams and Norgate, Ltd.)	
X. Caricature of Rasputin—'Russia's Ruling House'. By N. Ivanov	262
(From René Fülöp-Miller, <i>Rasputin, the Holy Devil</i> . G. P. Putnam's Sons, Ltd.)	

PREFACE

Qui s'excuse s'accuse; nevertheless I cannot refrain from a word of explanation on sending this vulnerable volume to press. It was originally designed as Part I of a book which has pulled apart into three, and this one falls between two stools, being too thorough perhaps as an exposition of the place of Faust in the history of magic, and certainly too sketchy as an outline of that vast magnetic field. The gaps in the bibliography have given me recurrent nightmares, though this has not forced me to fill them; for I was too fearful of falling into pits of learning, and floundering, and never scrambling out again to come to grips with Faust.

It is a relief to turn away from my own shortcomings and to pay tributes where they are due. First and foremost to the Syndics and officials of the Cambridge University Press for their unflinching courtesy, sympathy, patience and help. Then I owe so much to so many authors of so many books that it seems invidious to single any of them out. But Palmer and More must be mentioned and warmly thanked for *The Sources of the Faust Tradition*, a fascinating collection of magical and Faustian lore hitherto only referred to by the scholars and now presented to the general public in a stimulating, concrete and readable way, making dead knowledge live again. Nor shall I ever forget picking up *The Hero* by Lord Raglan on a station book-stall, and hardly noticing as I devoured it that the 'express' from Leeds to Manchester was running three hours late. If the gifted author should ever glance at the introduction to this book he will realize that his brilliant analysis of the hero in literature underlies my more heavy-footed approach.

A personal debt lies in the enduring memory of the vistas opened to me in the past by Jane Harrison, whose books are still here to keep her influence fresh; but I fear that she would shake her head rather sternly over the baldness and superficiality of the chapter called 'The Sages of Greece'; and but for the kindly advice of Mr Guthrie, author of *Orpheus and Greek Religion*, she would have had even more to condemn. The section on Zoroaster would also have been still less satisfactory than it is, were it not for some familiarity with Eastern

Cambridge University Press
0521437776 - The Myth of the Magus
E. M. Butler
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

PREFACE

thought, due to my friendship with the Secretary of the Pali Text Society, Miss Isaline Horner, who has generously spared the time from her multifarious duties to compile the index of this book, and to whose works and conversations about Buddhism I owe an incalculable intellectual debt.

There are others who might be mentioned; but it will be abundantly clear to my readers that, although this volume sprang from a Faustian impulse (the desire for more knowledge than I could attain to), I have not invoked the devil's aid and need tender no thanks to him.

E. M. BUTLER

CAMBRIDGE