Marsilio Ficino Western Esoteric Masters

An influential intellectual and religious leader of the Italian Renaissance, Marsilio Ficino is remembered for his synthesis of Neoplatonic thought with Christian orthodoxy. He was one of the most important figures of the Italian Renaissance, and his thought had a profound impact on the development of Western esotericism.

Ficino was born on October 19, 1433, in Florence, Italy. He was educated in the liberal arts and theology at the University of Pisa and later studied at the University of Padua. He became a priest and was ordained in 1458.

Ficino's major work was his translation of Plato's Dialogues, which he completed in 1482. This translation was a major influence on the development of Western esotericism, and it played a key role in the spread of Neoplatonic thought in the Italian Renaissance.

Ficino also wrote extensively on philosophy, theology, and theurgy. He was a key figure in the development of the Platonic Academy in Florence, which was a center of Neoplatonic study.

In addition to his academic work, Ficino was also involved in religious life. He was a friend of St. Francis of Assisi and was appointed as the head of the Franciscan order in Italy.

Ficino died on October 1, 1499, in Florence. He is remembered as one of the most important figures of the Italian Renaissance, and his influence can be seen in the development of Western esotericism.

Marsilio Ficino was one of the most influential humanist philosophers of the early Italian Renaissance. Though an ordained priest, he was also a practicing astrologer and magician whose early life was dedicated to reconciling religious faith with philosophical reason — which included integrating pagan magical practice with Christianity.

The Western Esoteric Traditions: A Historical Introduction

Nicholas Goodrick-Clarke

Western esotericism has now emerged as a critical area of scholarly investigation, prompting many researchers to re-examine the nature and impact of the esoteric traditions throughout history. Through this collection of essays, Nicholas Goodrick-Clarke demonstrates the rich and complex influence of esoteric traditions on Western thought and culture.