

feet of clay pratchett

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The phrase "feet of clay" is a well-known idiom that signifies a fundamental weakness or flaw in an otherwise strong or admirable entity. When combined with the name Pratchett, it evokes a fascinating intersection between literary metaphor and the distinctive universe crafted by Sir Terry Pratchett. Pratchett, renowned for his Discworld series, masterfully explored themes of power, morality, and human nature through a satirical lens. This article delves into the concept of "feet of clay" within Pratchett's work, examining how his stories reflect on the vulnerabilities of characters and institutions, and how this metaphor enriches our understanding of his satire and philosophical insights.

Understanding the Idiom: Feet of Clay

Origin and Meaning

The phrase "feet of clay" originates from biblical texts, specifically the Book of Daniel (Daniel 2:31-45). It symbolizes a hidden weakness in an otherwise formidable structure or person. Over time, it has come to describe a flaw or vulnerability that may lead to downfall. Recognizing this idiom's roots is essential for appreciating its thematic significance in literature and, by extension, in Pratchett's universe.

Symbolism in Literature

In literature, "feet of clay" often underscores the fragile human condition—how even the most powerful or revered figures are susceptible to flaws, hubris, and moral failings. This theme resonates deeply within Pratchett's works, where characters and institutions are frequently portrayed as imperfect yet relatable.

Feet of Clay in the Discworld Series

Central Themes and Recurrent Motifs

Pratchett's Discworld series is rich with satire, humor, and philosophical reflection. The motif of "feet of clay" manifests through various characters, institutions, and societal structures, revealing their vulnerabilities.

Key Examples of Feet of Clay

1. **The Clueless Tyrant: Lord Vetinari** – The Patrician of Ankh-Morpork, Vetinari, appears shrewd and omnipotent but harbors flaws rooted in his pragmatic and sometimes ruthless methods. His reliance on manipulations exposes a form of "feet of clay," reminding readers that even the most cunning leaders are human.
2. **The Guild of Assassins** – The guild, portrayed as highly organized and efficient, has internal flaws—rivalries, doubts, and moral ambiguities—highlighting that even institutions built on discipline are vulnerable to internal weaknesses.
3. **The Ankh-Morpork City Watch** – The Watch, led by Commander Sam Vimes, embodies law enforcement striving for justice, yet their limitations—corruption, prejudice, and human error—are their "feet of clay," emphasizing the imperfect nature of justice.
4. **The Wizards of Unseen University** – These powerful magic users possess immense knowledge but often display petty squabbles, arrogance, and complacency, illustrating their hidden vulnerabilities.

Thematic Analysis

Pratchett uses these examples to demonstrate that no person or institution is invulnerable. The "feet of clay" motif underpins his critique of authority, power, and societal pretensions, asserting that acknowledgment of flaws is essential for genuine growth and understanding.

Philosophical and Literary Significance

Exploring Human Frailty

Pratchett's portrayal of characters with "feet of clay" invites readers to reflect on their own imperfections. By humanizing figures of authority and

power, he fosters empathy and self-awareness.

Satire of Power Structures

The series often satirizes political and social institutions, highlighting their vulnerabilities. Recognizing "feet of clay" in these structures emphasizes the importance of humility, oversight, and resilience.

Morality and Redemption

Many characters in Discworld—such as Moist von Lipwig or Vetinari himself—are flawed but capable of change. Their journeys underscore that acknowledging one's weaknesses is the first step toward redemption.

Pratchett's Literary Techniques and the Feet of Clay Motif

Use of Humor and Irony

Pratchett employs humor to make the concept of flaws approachable. Irony often reveals the gap between appearance and reality, exposing the "feet of clay" beneath facades of strength.

Character Development

He develops characters that embody human vulnerabilities, making them relatable. This depth adds complexity to his satire and philosophical messages.

Intertwining Myth and Modernity

Pratchett blends mythological references with contemporary issues, reinforcing the timeless nature of "feet of clay" as a metaphor for human frailty.

Impact and Legacy of the Feet of Clay Theme in

Pratchett's Work

Influence on Readers and Writers

Pratchett's nuanced portrayal of flaws resonates with audiences, encouraging self-reflection and critical thinking about authority and morality.

Broader Cultural Significance

The motif has permeated popular culture, inspiring discussions about the vulnerabilities of leaders and institutions in real-world contexts.

Continuing Relevance

As societies grapple with complex challenges, the reminder that even the strongest structures have "feet of clay" remains pertinent, echoing Pratchett's enduring message.

Conclusion: The Enduring Power of the Feet of Clay in Pratchett's Literature

Sir Terry Pratchett's mastery lies in his ability to blend humor, satire, and philosophy to explore the human condition. The motif of "feet of clay" serves as a powerful reminder that all entities—be they individuals or institutions—have their vulnerabilities. Through his vivid characters and richly woven narratives, Pratchett encourages us to acknowledge our flaws and seek authenticity, humility, and resilience. In doing so, he not only enriches the literary landscape but also offers timeless insights into the nature of power, morality, and human imperfection.

Note: The phrase "feet of clay pratchett" encapsulates a core theme in Sir Terry Pratchett's work—the recognition of inherent flaws in even the most revered figures and structures. His stories serve as a mirror to our own vulnerabilities, emphasizing that acknowledging and understanding these "feet of clay" is essential for growth and wisdom.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the significance of 'Feet of Clay' in Terry Pratchett's Discworld series?

'Feet of Clay' is a novel in the Discworld series that explores themes of identity, authority, and social order through the story of golems gaining independence and questioning their place in society.

Who are the main characters in 'Feet of Clay' and what roles do they play?

The main characters include Commander Sam Vimes, Captain Carrot Ironfoundersson, and the golem Glod. Vimes investigates a series of murders, while Glod and other golems challenge societal norms, highlighting issues of discrimination and self-awareness.

How does 'Feet of Clay' address themes of prejudice and social justice?

The novel uses the golems' struggle for equality to mirror real-world issues of prejudice, exploring how society treats 'the other' and emphasizing the importance of understanding and acceptance.

What are some of the notable quotes from 'Feet of Clay' that reflect its themes?

'You can't make a golem out of clay and expect it to stay silent,' and 'People are not always what they seem,' are among the quotes that highlight the novel's themes of identity and societal perception.

How was 'Feet of Clay' received by critics and fans upon release?

'Feet of Clay' was highly praised for its clever storytelling, humor, and thought-provoking themes, becoming a favorite among Discworld fans and often cited as one of Pratchett's best social commentaries.

Are there any adaptations of 'Feet of Clay' in other media?

As of now, 'Feet of Clay' has not been officially adapted into film or television, but it remains popular in audiobook format and is frequently discussed in Discworld-related adaptations and fan works.

Additional Resources

Feet of Clay Pratchett is a captivating entry in the Discworld series by Sir Terry Pratchett that exemplifies his wit, depth, and masterful storytelling. As one of the most beloved authors in fantasy literature, Pratchett's ability to blend humor, social commentary, and intricate world-building shines brightly in this novel. "Feet of Clay" stands out not only for its compelling mystery but also for its clever satire and thought-provoking themes, making it a must-read for both longtime fans and newcomers alike.

Overview of "Feet of Clay"

"Feet of Clay" is the 19th Discworld novel, published in 1996. It features the beloved City Watch led by Commander Samuel Vimes as they investigate a series of murders threatening Ankh-Morpork, the bustling fictional city. The novel delves into themes of authority, identity, and societal prejudice, all woven into a humorous yet profound narrative. The plot revolves around the mysterious death of a golem—a creature of clay and magic—raising questions about consciousness, rights, and the nature of life itself.

Pratchett's signature style shines through in his clever plotting, memorable characters, and satirical commentary on social issues. The novel is as much a mystery as it is a satire of bureaucracy, religion, and human nature, making it a layered and rewarding read.

Main Themes and Topics

Justice and Authority

One of the central themes of "Feet of Clay" is the examination of justice and authority, especially through the lens of the City Watch. Vimes, a character embodying integrity and skepticism of power, navigates a city riddled with corruption, prejudice, and inefficiency. The novel questions how justice can be truly served in a society plagued by inequality and entrenched interests.

Features:

- Vimes' moral compass underscores the importance of integrity in leadership.
- The novel critiques bureaucratic systems and their tendency to protect the corrupt.
- Highlights the importance of individual morality over institutional power.

Pros:

- Thought-provoking exploration of justice.
- Relatable characters embodying real-world struggles with authority.

Cons:

- Some readers may find the satire a bit heavy-handed at times.

Golems and Sentience

Golems are a fascinating element in Discworld, representing beings made of clay imbued with life through magic. "Feet of Clay" explores the sentience of golems, raising philosophical questions about consciousness, free will, and rights. The murder mystery involves a golem who is accused of a crime, leading to debates about whether these creatures possess true agency.

Features:

- Deep philosophical questions about what it means to be alive.
- Explores themes of discrimination, as golems are often viewed as mere objects.
- Rich lore surrounding the creation and nature of golems.

Pros:

- Adds a layer of depth and moral complexity.
- Encourages reflection on societal views of non-human life.

Cons:

- The philosophical discussions may feel dense for some readers seeking lighter entertainment.

Characters and Development

Samuel Vimes

Vimes remains one of Pratchett's most compelling characters—a gritty, principled policeman with a strong sense of justice. His development throughout the novel emphasizes his humility and moral resolve, especially as he confronts societal prejudices and personal doubts.

Pros:

- Complex character with a strong moral core.
- Relatable struggles with authority and morality.

Cons:

- Vimes' gruffness might not appeal to all readers.

Other Notable Characters

- Carrot Ironfoundersson: The noble and earnest dwarf tasked with uncovering the truth.
- Nobby Nobbs: The street-smart, humorous member of the Watch.
- Detritus: The golem who becomes a central figure, embodying questions of identity.

Features:

- Diverse cast with distinct personalities.
- Character growth intertwined with plot development.

Pros:

- Well-developed characters with depth.
- The interactions provide both humor and emotional weight.

Cons:

- Some minor characters may feel underused.

Humor and Satire

Pratchett's hallmark humor permeates "Feet of Clay," blending puns, satire, and parody to create a lively and engaging narrative.

Features:

- Clever wordplay and witty dialogues.
- Satire targeting bureaucracy, religion, and societal norms.
- Parody of detective stories and classic mysteries.

Pros:

- Keeps the tone light despite serious themes.
- Offers sharp social critique through humor.

Cons:

- Humor style might not resonate with all readers, especially those preferring straightforward fantasy.

World-Building and Setting

The city of Ankh-Morpork is brought to life with intricate detail, blending medieval, Victorian, and modern elements. Pratchett's vivid descriptions and inventive lore create a believable, lively city filled with diverse inhabitants.

Features:

- Rich details about city life, institutions, and culture.
- Creative magical elements like golems and the Unseen University.

Pros:

- Immersive setting that enhances the story.
- Inventive world-building that rewards attentive readers.

Cons:

- Some world-building details may slow down the pacing for those eager for action.

Narrative Style and Writing Quality

Pratchett's writing is characterized by clarity, wit, and a conversational tone that makes complex themes accessible. His narrative seamlessly blends comedy with serious commentary, creating a balanced and engaging reading experience.

Features:

- Accessible prose with humorous asides.
- Clever metaphors and allegories.

Pros:

- Easy to read with layered meanings.
- Engages both casual and dedicated readers.

Cons:

- The tone may seem inconsistent to those expecting purely serious fantasy.

Critical Reception and Legacy

"Feet of Clay" is widely regarded as one of the standout novels in the Discworld series. Critics praise it for its clever plotting, depth of themes,

and memorable characters. It is often recommended as a gateway into Pratchett's work due to its accessibility and richness.

Pros:

- Celebrated for its intelligent satire and engaging mystery.
- Resonates with readers interested in social issues and philosophical questions.

Cons:

- Some may find the philosophical discussions challenging or lengthy.

Conclusion

"Feet of Clay" exemplifies Terry Pratchett's mastery of blending humor, social critique, and storytelling. Its exploration of justice, consciousness, and societal prejudices makes it not only an entertaining read but also a thought-provoking one. With memorable characters, inventive world-building, and sharp satire, the novel stands as a testament to Pratchett's literary genius. Whether you are a longtime fan of Discworld or a newcomer eager to explore its depths, "Feet of Clay" offers a rewarding journey into a world where humor and humanity collide.

Overall Rating: 4.5/5

Pros:

- Rich thematic depth and social commentary
- Engaging mystery intertwined with philosophical questions
- Memorable characters and witty humor
- Immersive and detailed world-building

Cons:

- Philosophical and satirical elements may be dense for some
- Pacing can slow during detailed world-building sections

If you enjoy fantasy that makes you think as much as it entertains, "Feet of Clay" is a must-read that exemplifies Terry Pratchett's unique voice and storytelling prowess.

[Feet Of Clay Pratchett](#)

feet of clay pratchett: Feet of Clay Terry Pratchett, 1996 A crime novel set in the fantasy city of Discworld where municipal workers are robots and never strike for higher pay. But they do murder and the story is a hunt by police for one such murderer. The police are aided by a female werewolf.

feet of clay pratchett: Feet of Clay Terry Pratchett, 2013-07 Someone is murdering old men, the Patrician has been poisoned, the clay workers have started committing suicide, and there is a werewolf suffering from pre-lunar tension.

feet of clay pratchett: Feet of Clay Terry Pratchett, 2015-02-10 Someone is killing Lord Vetinari, Patrician of Ankh-Morpork. No one knows who, no one knows why and, worst of all, no one knows how he just gets weaker and weaker. But it's not just Vetinari across the city, people are being murdered, but there's no trace of anything alive having been at the crime scene. Commander Vimes, Head of the City Watch, is a man who hates clues. He and his team must question everyone the butcher, the baker, the candlestick maker. In a city teeming with vampires, werewolves, dwarfs with attitude and golems, Vimes must solve the crimes and save the Patrician. As all children know, the way you get into a fantasy world is by accident... You go into the wardrobe, looking for somewhere to hide and bingo. And that's how Stephen Briggs found Discworld. In 1990, he wrote to ask Terry if he could stage Wyrdsisters. That was the first time anyone, anywhere in the world, had dramatised Terry's work. He had no idea it would go any further than one play (possibly two). But it did. So far, he has now adapted, staged and published twenty-two plays. He and Terry also worked together to produce the original Discworld Maps and Diaries, Nanny Ogg's Cookbook, The Discworld Companion (now called Turtle Recall) The Wit & Wisdom of Discworld.

feet of clay pratchett: Feet of Clay Terry Pratchett, 1996 As autumn fogs hold Ankh-Morpok in their grip, the City Watch must find a murderer who can't be seen. The golems may know something, but they've all started to commit suicide. And on top of all this, the Watch have other problems to deal with, such as a werewolf suffering from Pre-Lunar Tension.

feet of clay pratchett: Feet of Clay Terry Pratchett,

feet of clay pratchett: Terry Pratchett's Narrative Worlds Marion Rana, 2018-02-12 This book highlights the multi-dimensionality of the work of British fantasy writer and Discworld creator Terry Pratchett. Taking into account content, political commentary, and literary technique, it explores the impact of Pratchett's work on fantasy writing and genre conventions. With chapters on gender, multiculturalism, secularism, education, and relativism, Section One focuses on different characters' situatedness within Pratchett's novels and what this may tell us about the direction of his social, religious and political criticism. Section Two discusses the aesthetic form that this criticism takes, and analyses the post- and meta-modern aspects of Pratchett's writing, his use of humour, and genre adaptations and deconstructions. This is the ideal collection for any literary and cultural studies scholar, researcher or student interested in fantasy and popular culture in general, and in Terry Pratchett in particular.

feet of clay pratchett: Feet of Clay Terry Pratchett, 2000 Commander Sir Samuel Vimes, Ankh-Morpork City Guard, is trying to protect the Patrician, solve the murder of two elderly men, and discover why the Golems are committing suicide. The truth may be on the city streets, or perhaps amongst the words in the head. Some strong language. 1997.

feet of clay pratchett: Power and Society in Terry Pratchett's Discworld Justine Breton, 2025-04-24 A critical deep-drive into conceptions of power and society in Terry Pratchett's Discworld novels, this book brings together experts in fantasy literature, political sciences, economics, philosophy, history, and journalism to consider the intricate social tapestry of one of the most intricate worlds in modern fantasy. Surveying the Discworld's institutionalised power structures from government and police to civil services, banks and societies, it explores ideas such as language, translation, humour, crowds, community, justice and coercion in the series' major works. Featuring analyses of novels such as Men at Arms, Equal Rites, Carpe Jugulum, Guards! Guards!, Jingo, Night Watch, Wyrdsisters, Witches Abroad and many more, this collection illuminates how Pratchett juxtaposed his narratives with contemporary reflections on social constructs. Broken down into parts looking at social power dynamics, building and destroying worlds and the power of language, the book offers a much-needed corrective to the dearth of scholarship on one of fantasy literature's worldbuilding titans.

feet of clay pratchett: Secrets of The Wee Free Men and Discworld Carrie Pyykkonen,

Linda Washington, 2008-04-15 A fascinating guide to the international bestselling Discworld series and the award-winning *The Wee Free Men*—soon to be a major motion picture Before J. K. Rowling became the best-selling author in Britain, Terry Pratchett wore that hat. With over 45 million books sold, Pratchett is an international phenomenon. His brainchild is the Discworld series—novels he began as parodies of other works like *Macbeth*, *Faust*, and *The Arabian Nights*. *The Wee Free Men*, one of Pratchett's most popular novels, will be made into a movie by Spider-Man director Sam Raimi. It's the story of 9-year-old wannabe witch Tiffany Aching, who unites with the Nac Mac Feegle (6-inch-tall blue men who like to fight and love to drink) to free her brother from an evil fairy queen. A fun, interactive guide that will explore the land of Discworld, *Secrets of The Wee Free Men* and Discworld is filled with sidebars, mythology trivia, and includes a bio of the fascinating author Terry Pratchett, and an in-depth analysis of his work. This unofficial guide is a great resource for readers of *The Wee Free Men* and the other books of the Discworld series.

feet of clay pratchett: *Terry Pratchett's Ethical Worlds* Kristin Noone, Emily Lavin Leveret, 2020-08-05 Terry Pratchett's writing celebrates the possibilities opened up by inventiveness and imagination. It constructs an ethical stance that values informed and self-aware choices, knowledge of the world in which one makes those choices, the importance of play and humor in crafting a compassionate worldview, and acts of continuous self-examination and creation. This collection of essays uses inventiveness and creation as a thematic core to combine normally disparate themes, such as science fiction studies, the effect of collaborative writing and shared authorship, steampunk aesthetics, productive modes of ownership, intertextuality, neomedievalism and colonialism, adaptations into other media, linguistics and rhetorics, and coming of age as an act of free will.

feet of clay pratchett: All the Discworld's a Stage: Volume 1 Terry Pratchett, 2015-02-10 Feet of Clay Someone is killing Lord Vetinari, Patrician of Ankh-Morpork. No one knows who, no one knows why and, worst of all, no one knows how – he just gets weaker and weaker. But it's not just Vetinari – across the city, people are being murdered, but there's no trace of anything alive having been at the crime scene. Commander Vimes, Head of the City Watch, is a man who hates 'clues'. He and his team must question everyone – the butcher, the baker, the candlestick maker. In a city teeming with vampires, werewolves, dwarfs with attitude and golems, Vimes must solve the crimes and save the Patrician. The Rince Cycle As a punishment, failed wizard Rincewind is given the task of guiding and safeguarding the Disc's first tourist, Twoflower (with his magical luggage on legs). As they travel the city and beyond, they meet the world's oldest hero, Cohen the Barbarian. With him, and with Bethan (a qualified sacrificial victim), they encounter druids, trolls, adventurers, a hairdresser and a power-crazed wizard. Oh, and Death. But not fatally. Did we mention that Rincewind also has to save the world from destruction by a huge red star that will collide with the Discworld at Hogswatch? The Rince Cycle is mostly based on *The Light Fantastic*, with bits of *The Colour of Magic* and *Sourcery* added for good measure. Unseen Academicals 'Two households, both alike in dignity, in fair Ankh-Morpork, where we lay our scene...' Football divides the city. Each area has its own team – and rivalry means supporters never mix. Until a Dimwell fan falls for a Dolly Sisters girl. And now an ancient bequest means the wizards of Unseen University must win a football match, without using magic. Luckily they're coached by the mysterious Mr Nutt (and no one knows anything much about Mr Nutt, not even Mr Nutt, which worries him, too). As the match approaches, four lives are entangled and changed forever. Because the thing about football – the important thing about football – is that it is not just about football.

feet of clay pratchett: Clues: A Journal of Detection, Vol. 35, No. 2 (Fall 2017) Elizabeth Foxwell, 2017-09-22 For over two decades, *Clues* has included the best scholarship on mystery and detective fiction. With a combination of academic essays and nonfiction book reviews, it covers all aspects of mystery and detective fiction material in print, television and movies. As the only American scholarly journal on mystery fiction, *Clues* is essential reading for literature and film students and researchers; popular culture aficionados; librarians; and mystery authors, fans and critics around the globe.

feet of clay pratchett: An Enchantment of Digital Archaeology Shawn Graham, 2020-07-01

The use of computation in archaeology is a kind of magic, a way of heightening the archaeological imagination. Agent-based modelling allows archaeologists to test the 'just-so' stories they tell about the past. It requires a formalization of the story so that it can be represented as a simulation; researchers are then able to explore the unintended consequences or emergent outcomes of stories about the past. Agent-based models are one end of a spectrum that, at the opposite side, ends with video games. This volume explores this spectrum in the context of Roman archaeology, addressing the strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities of a formalized approach to computation and archaeogaming.

feet of clay pratchett: Dark Nights, Bright Lights Susanne Bach, Folkert Degenring, 2015-10-16 Light and darkness shape our perception of the world. This is true in a literal sense, but also metaphorically: in theology, philosophy, literature and the arts the light of day signifies life, safety, knowledge and all that is good, while the darkness of the night suggests death, danger, ignorance and evil. A closer inspection, however, reveals that things are not quite so clear cut and that light and darkness cannot be understood as simple binary opposites. On a biological level, for example, daylight and darkness are inseparable factors in the calibration of our circadian rhythms, and a lack of periodical darkness appears to be as contrary to health as a lack of exposure to sunlight. On a cultural level, too, night and darkness are far from being universally condemnable: in fiction, drama and poetry the darkness of the night allows not only nightmares but also dreams, it allows criminals to ply their trade and allows lovers to meet, it allows the pursuit of pleasure as well as deep thought, it allows metamorphoses, transformations and transgressions unthinkable in the light of day. But night is not merely darkness. The night gains significance as an alternative space, as an 'other of the day', only when it is at least partially illuminated. The volume examines the interconnection of night, darkness and nocturnal illumination across a broad range of literary texts. The individual essays examine historically specific light conditions in literature, tracing the symbolic and metaphoric content of darkness and illumination and the attitudes towards them.

feet of clay pratchett: Harnessing the Power of the Criminal Corpse Sarah Tarlow, Emma Battell Lowman, 2018-05-17 This open access book is the culmination of many years of research on what happened to the bodies of executed criminals in the past. Focusing on the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, it looks at the consequences of the 1752 Murder Act. These criminal bodies had a crucial role in the history of medicine, and the history of crime, and great symbolic resonance in literature and popular culture. Starting with a consideration of the criminal corpse in the medieval and early modern periods, chapters go on to review the histories of criminal justice, of medical history and of gibbeting under the Murder Act, and ends with some discussion of the afterlives of the corpse, in literature, folklore and in contemporary medical ethics. Using sophisticated insights from cultural history, archaeology, literature, philosophy and ethics as well as medical and crime history, this book is a uniquely interdisciplinary take on a fascinating historical phenomenon.

feet of clay pratchett: Operating Manual for Enlightenment Lincoln Stoller, 2024-11-01 This book is not offering enlightenment, it's describing it. The enlightened mind unites intellect and emotion despite their separation being built into the structure of our brains. This split appears in the mythic division between our lower and higher natures, and the separation of mind and body. Intellect and emotion function in concert. As color and shape are to vision, one complements the other. When fully integrated, they cannot be taken apart. The topics in the book's first half lean toward the intellectual. The second half looks at the division from the emotional side. What we are separating with one hand, we are putting together with the other. Struggle: We naturally consider our problems as different from ourselves. We see them in our environment, and rely on our skills and insights to resolve them. Our intellectual solutions address one aspect of these problems, while our emotions address another. Are these problems to be solved, or processes to be understood? What should we do if our problems are inside us? Mind: Your state determines your readiness, arousal, and self-reflection. Your state of mind orients your thinking, how you can feel about yourself, and who you're able to be. Equally important are thoughts you're not likely to have, or cannot have at all.

This book is about the states of mind that support focus, awareness, thoughts, and feelings. It is not a guide to solving problems, it is an explanation of how you see. State: With our state of mind, we gather our thoughts and focus our attention. Focus without a state is like a telescope with no one to look through it. In order to focus, first take full responsibility for all you think and feel. The properties of your state determine what you're capable of. One state of mind is not enough because you cannot understand the world from one point of view. Your future is determined by your range of states of mind. Wisdom: Alternate states of mind support understandings we don't have. They may be logical, emotional, spiritual, or evanescent. They could involve knowledge spread across generations so that no one generation has the complete picture. We might call them prophetic, inspired, psychedelic, or delusional. Larger states of mind develop with experience, but they're not defined by the facts they hold. One needs a state of mind that can accommodate contradictions without generating conflict. Instantaneous Enlightenment: Change does not happen instantly, but epiphanies feel instantaneous. The reason is simple: a new state is a whole rearrangement of one's previous conception. There are no halfway states to total rearrangement. Many pieces need to fall into place before we can make ourselves into something new. We are at a watershed moment in our understanding of the mind, after which psychology will change. Instead of focusing on thoughts and behavior, we are coming to understand that what's important is what you can think and how you can behave. The Operating Manual is an intellectual, emotional, and neurological road map to the integration you don't yet have. REVIEWS and WORDS of PRAISE What a pleasure to see the wry wit and humor of an old friend focused on that which we all take for granted: our deep complex 'hard problem' of consciousness. It is not a linear treatise, but a winding through the mind's labyrinthine pathways to archetypal insights. What a pleasant journey! --Jay Gunkelman, Chief Science Officer of Brain Science International and NeuroNet Neuroscience Centers. Past president of the International Society for Neurofeedback and Research, and the Biofeedback Society of California I strongly recommend Operating Manual for Enlightenment. It is a true guide to empowering and liberating yourself, written in common language. The pages are full of gems for readers of all ages and interests. --Adrian Bejan, Distinguished Professor of Engineering, author of Freedom and Evolution, and The Physics of Life: The Evolution of Everything Like Castaneda's The Teachings of Don Juan, Lincoln's Operating Manual is an essential life reference... wherever, whenever or whoever slips into these fields of care and concern, or dives into the waves of the vast ocean of life. These visions from the oh so human minds are worthy of the effort ~!~ Thank you, inspired ~!~ --Armand Huet de Grenier, psychotherapist, adult and youth special educator, organization business consultant, Fellow of the Clinical Hypnosis Society of Nova Scotia, and past president of the Mahone Bay Buddhist Meditation Centre. Carrier of the of the Eagle Staff at the Gesgapegiag Mi'kmaq SunDance in Maria, Quebec Dr. Lincoln Stoller thinks outside the box of current thoughts and existing practices, beyond the dross of what's taught to find the potential we've been told to keep hidden. Are you a conformist or a rebel? Do you do what you're told or go for the gold ring? Go over the breach to lead future generations into the world! Thank you, Dr. Stoller. --Tony Hunt, Host of Educational Triage Podcast, Alternative Ed Director and Developer A cornucopia of facts, thoughts, and ideas about what it is to be us. Such a pleasure to read!" — Allan Leslie Combs, Professor of Consciousness Studies, author of The Radiance of ~Being, and Consciousness Explained Better ("The finest book on consciousness written in modern times, bar none.) --Ken Wilber Lincoln's work goes to places few have gone before. Drawing on dozens of fields, he creates a super-structure of everything that inhabits your body and mind. I consider him a true sage, sharp thinker, and skillful therapist. For the first time in my life I'm grasping what it feels like to be integrated. Whole with myself. --Richard Guenther, MSc, IT Manager, Business Analyst 've gained so many connections into the crazy day I've had, allowing me a bigger space to process all the voices, personalities, and opinions that came up. --Charlene Bradbury, speech therapist Through carefully crafted examples and exercises, the author illustrates how these elements converge, enhancing our understanding of such a complex subject. An enriching journey of insights on enlightenment, highlighting the interconnectedness of intellect and emotion, experience and being, with clear and brilliant exposition. --Dr. Rubén Pérez-Elvira,

Neuropsychologist Enlightenment is a complex concept in these dark times. Or is it? Lincoln Stoller has a knack for deriving clarity from complexity without being verbose. He shines his 'black light' of enlightenment on the 'crime scene' of contemporary consciousness, finding clues to the nature of humanity where others see only stains. An enjoyable, insightful read. --Captain Ben Doc" Askin, author and podcast host of Anti-Hero's Journey

feet of clay pratchett: The Wyrdest Link David Langford, 2014-03-13 A follow-up to the highly successful Discworld Unseen University Quizbook, *The Wyrdest Link* will present itself as qualifying tests for various levels of mastery in Ankh-Morpork City's Guilds and other organisations - from the dignified Thieves' Guild to illicit outfits like the feared Breccia (the trolls' Mafia) or the wholly reprehensive Elucidated Brethren of the Ebon Night (see Guards! Guards!). As before, the straight Discworld general knowledge inquisition - presented with offbeat twists and linking themes - will be varied with trick questions, outrageous bogglers, and the occasional near-impossible poser to suit all levels of Discworld fans.

feet of clay pratchett: Discworld and Philosophy Nicolas Michaud, 2016-08-09 In Discworld, unlike our own frustrating Roundworld, everything makes sense. The world is held up by elephants standing on the back of a swimming turtle who knows where he's going, the sun goes round the world every day, so it doesn't have to be very hot, and things always happen because someone intends them to happen. Millions of fans are addicted to Pratchett's Discworld, and the interest has only intensified since Pratchett's recent death and the release of his final Discworld novel, *The Shepherd's Crown*, in September 2015. The philosophical riches of Discworld are inexhaustible, yet the brave explorers of Discworld and Philosophy cover a lot of ground. From discussion of Moist von Lipwig's con artistry showing the essential con of the financial system, to the examination of everyone's favorite Discworld character, the murderous luggage, to the lawless Mac Nac Feegles and what they tell us about civil government, to the character Death as he appears in several Discworld novels, *Discworld and Philosophy* gives us an in-depth treatment of Pratchett's magical universe. Other chapters look at the power of Discworld's witches, the moral viewpoint of the golems, how William de Worde's newspaper illuminates the issue of censorship, how fate and luck interact to shape our lives, and why the more simple and straightforward Discworld characters are so much better at seeing the truth than those with enormous intellects but little common sense.

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