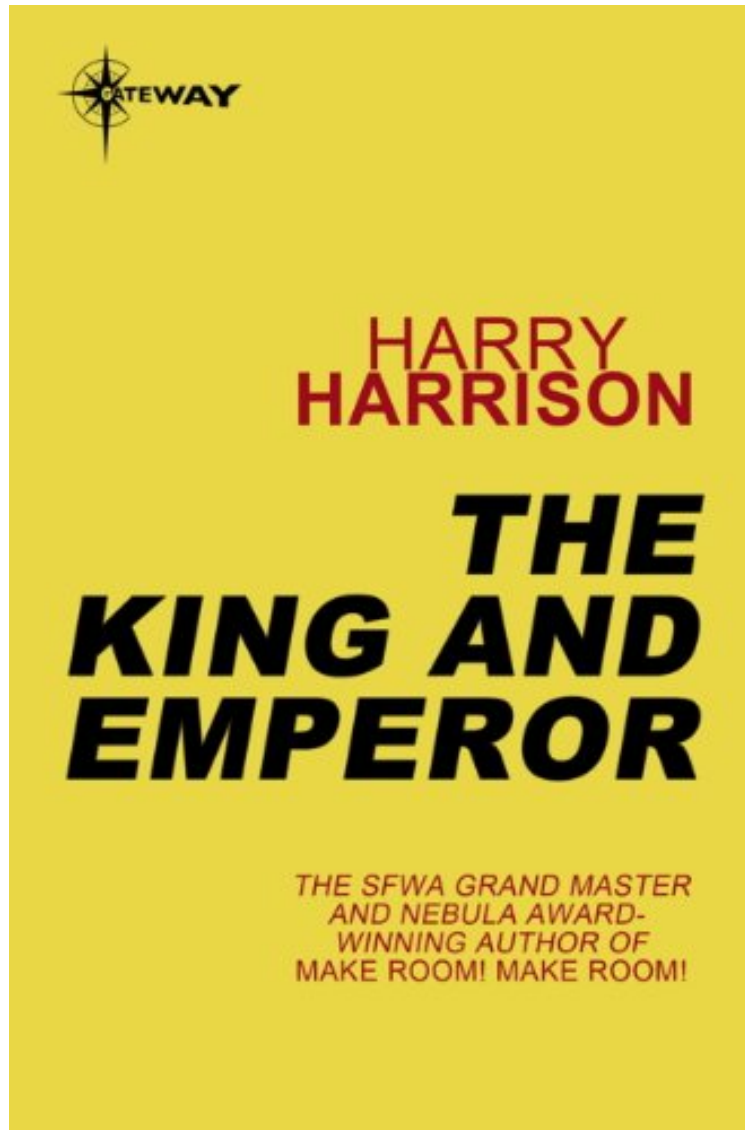


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## King and Emperor (Hammer and the Cross Book 3) (English Edition)

Von Harry Harrison, Tom Shippey  
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**Von Harry Harrison, Tom Shippey : King and Emperor (Hammer and the Cross Book 3) (English Edition)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised King and Emperor (Hammer and the Cross Book 3) (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An Excellent Merciless Dissection of ChristianityVon Ein KundeHarrison tries to evoke a world where the reign of

Christianity has been replaced with a more heterogeneous array of faiths. The 'Way', a sort of pagan reaction to the threatened 'Skuld-world' that Christianity would bring about, has as its champion the good king Shef. Shef, and the followers of the Way, are very much of this world and believe in the use of man's creative reason to better man's worldly condition---something the 'Christ-priests' are loathe to do. The Christ-priests are more concerned with subjugating and dominating man, than actually improving his worldly life. Christianity is portrayed, correctly in my view, as an unmitigated disaster for the Western world. Other monotheistic faiths are also skewered: Judaism is portrayed as too bookish, Islam is portrayed as too complacent and smug. Clearly, Harrison discerns a common virus in each of these three faiths. The essence of Harrison's narrative is 'man'. Harrison creates an alternative history where men create their own gods, who are in effect reifications of men's needs. To heal the wounds within the divine realm, therefore, requires that wounds among men here on earth must first be healed. And the Way is about that. The tale is basically about man coming to grips with all that makes him human---his creative side, reified into the god Rig, as well as his anarchic side, reified into Loki. The book will rankle those who do not believe that Christianity is an affliction best overcome by a renewed invigoration of a more worldly, life-affirming pagan morality. The idea that Christ never died, but lived and recovered to pursue a family life is interesting, as is Christ's apostasy. "Eloi, eloi, lama sabachthani?"

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Trips just short of the finish line, a great shame

Von Tom Speight (tspeight@anselm.edu) I loved the first two books in this trilogy (as well as many other books by this author), but there's something about this book that bugs me. While respecting Mr. Harrison's creative license with his characters, I thought this was a conclusion unworthy of the other two books. The characters were mostly well done, as always, but the plot was flawed. The excessive Christ metaphors and intellectual leaps and bounds (especially towards the end) took attention away from the main point of the story-- THERE'S A WAR ON, REMEMBER??? and furthermore it leaves the reader hanging more than it should, since the overly-neat wrap-up at the end is too fake to be realistic. I was left with a sense of "is that all there is?" after reading this. The technical aspects of the book-- catapult artillery and so on-- are both interesting and amusing, and the battle scenes ought to have been more involved. All in all, it was a poor ending to a great story. Mr. Harrison, if you read this, I suggest some sort of post-Shef account of events up north.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Great start, poor finish.

Von Stephen Wortley The Hammer and the Cross started a potentially excellent series; the premise, the rediscovery of lost technology, together with the inclusive approach to religion, offered a more than competent and generally exciting author vast scope to demonstrate his powers. Having made the first book so intriguing that I could hardly wait for the second, I was delighted with "One king's way" - not only were the situations in the first volume moved towards a resolution {albeit by largely dropping the female interest in tHC}, but fascinating new creatures were introduced. The third volume seemed to drop most of the original themes to concentrate on one, which proved least interesting. There was a conclusion to the story, but it seemed to me, at least, that the author had lost interest and commitment to the project. After an enthralling beginning and a strong middle movement, the orchestra went home.

Kurzbeschreibung Shef, the One King, is a visionary and warrior. His accomplishments have changed the history of the Dark Ages as we know it - he has defeated the English, the Pope's army and the Norse in turn. Now, he must face the reborn power of the Holy Roman Empire. While the Gods of Asgard continue to use him as a plaything Shef must defeat Bruno, the German emperor, who wields the Holy Lance which pierced Christ's side. The terrible invention of Greek Fire threatens Shef's fearsome Viking navy, and he must turn to the East to seek new wisdom. Finally, his quest may lead him to the Holy Grail itself. As Harry Harrison's highly-acclaimed series reaches its climax, not even the gods can predict victor and vanquished.

Pressestimmen "A powerful climax to one of the most satisfying alternate histories I've read in the last six years."--"Locus"

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