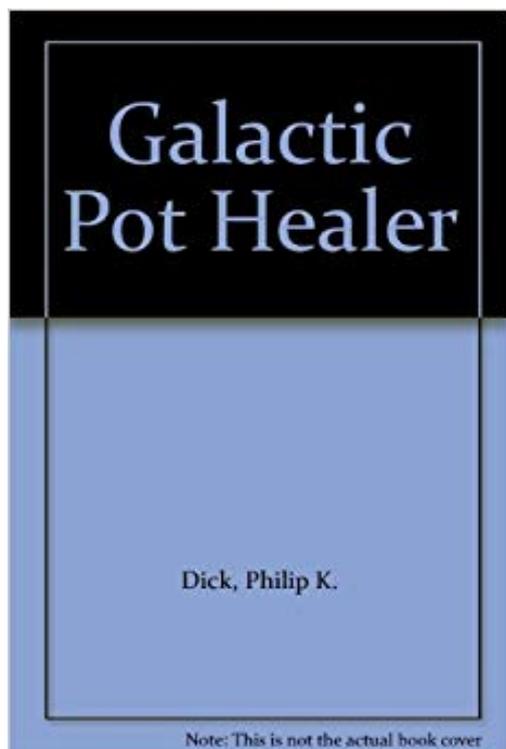


## Galactic Pot Healer *by* Philip K. Dick



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## Reviews of the **Galactic Pot Healer** *by* Philip K. Dick

Adrietius

I've read pretty much all of the sci-fi novels of Philip K. Dick (and some of the mainstream ones) and I consider him a genius of transcendental ideas and speculative nightmares. Biochemistry, physics, cybernetics, politics, history, Japanese culture, opera, hi-fi fidelity--all are his métier, immersed in a hallucinatory traumatized reality (and unreality). In "Galactic Pot Healer," Joe Fernwright a "healer" of broken pots, living on an overpopulated totalitarian Earth, is summoned to Plowman's Planet by a massive pancake-shaped creature or demigod called the Glimmung. The multifarious residents of other planets--including gastropods, jellied invertebrates, and a gray-skinned female with whom he falls in love--who are experts in specialized fields, such as hydraulic engineering and graphic archaeology, have also been summoned by Glimmung to participate in the epic task of raising a sacred Cathedral from the ocean. One of the major obstacles to success is the existence of the Black Cathedral, its malignant twin, resting alongside it on the ocean floor. Another is the Book of Kalends, which is constantly being rewritten to account for the ever-changing present, and which also

predicts the future. Two significant predictions are that the Cathedral-raising project will fail and that Joe will kill Glimmung.

This minor masterpiece is replete with humor, myth and mysticism, and offers the proposition that every person's life has a purpose, however bizarre that purpose might be, and that he or she must find it and cling to it if existence is to have any meaning.

It is a short but incredible read.

lets go baby

This is one of the stranger Philip K. Dick books I've read (which is saying something) and is an amazingly prescient look at the loss of hope and purpose in the 21st Century. Many questions are asked, few are answered, and the book ends with an amazingly funny one liner. What more could you ask for?

Freighton

This is another PKD sci-fi effort that is wild, vivid, and touches on philosophical matters. It's like nothing else in the world, except for his own books. IMO this one is up there in his top 20, and the difference between most of those is not so great as reductionists like to pretend. He works magic here, and brings a unique world to life. The book does not have a great ending ... and in fact I think that he went on to spend a lot of the the 1970's and early 1980's trying to find a way to express some of these themes (which resemble VALIS and the Exegesis) from slightly different angles, perhaps striving for some type of ending or more perfect resolution.

Mogelv

Another great crazy science fiction novel from the inimitable Philip K Dick. Darkness and paranoia are always evident, including imaginative and unpredictable plots with unearthly characters. Dick lived in the Bay Area during the 50s and 60s, and some of the flavor of that period, such as creating modern ceramics and making contemporary jewelry, often make their way into his books. I enjoy these personal insights of Dick's, which just add to the scope of his talents. I love this book and highly recommend it.

Adrielmeena

My first impression of this book was from a review I read about this book (maybe on Goodreads) that said that Dick did not think much of this work of his.... Yeah, not the most inspiring thing, yet I had such a blast with "Martian Time-Slip" on Audio Cassette, that when I saw this had the same guy reading it, I felt I had to have it.

Actually my first impression would have been just reading the title "Galactic Pot-Healer"--- Well, Hell Yeah!

Well it turns out it is not what it sounds like,.... :)

Ok so on one level I would admit that this is not among Dick's greatest works, but on another level I think "God, what an imagination this man had, and I love all the weird places it takes me!" I love all the weird aliens (and robot "Willis") that Dick introduces us to, and of course the wonderful blend of Science-Fiction and Theology (for want of a better word,[ or maybe Philosophy:]) that is so characteristic of PKD.

"What's not to love?" I kept asking myself as I listened to this strange idiosyncratic tale, and I found most of the time, I was loving it.

What's it all about? Hahahahaha, You figure it out

Sirara

One of my favorite books by him, wish the seller made it a bit cheaper though.

Bremar

You rarely see "Galactic Pot-Healer" rated as one of PKD's best works. I don't know why. Oh, certainly it doesn't have the gravitas of "The Man in the High Castle", nor quite the unsettling

atmosphere of "VALIS", or the pop-culture cred of "Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep". Who cares? I love Galactic Pot-Healer because it is so unabashedly, messily insane. This was clearly written, as were many of PKD's books, at a breakneck speed. PKD claimed to be able to write up to 70 pages of final copy a day (with the use of certain, ahem, pharmaceuticals), and I'm sure this book was written in such a state. It's full of wild ideas, but they fly at you like a cloud of rabid bats released from long-term underground confinement. A future world of dreary, state-controlled slavery! Check. Messages from God found floating in a toilet! Check. A book that reveals the future! Check. A commission to raise a temple from an alien sea bed! Check. What it lacks in coherent structure and pacing it more than makes up with the sheer amount of hilariously brilliant images, settings, characters and deities that flit across the pages. Perhaps one or two of them will roost in your own mind. PKD was America's own, private, wiggled-out demiurge and this is one of his most cuckoo books. Check it out, man.

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