



Godwin begins the interview describing his background as a professor of musicology and his specialization in analysis of the Western esoteric tradition. From a young age, taboo subjects fascinated him, inevitably leading to an interest in esotericism. Next, he describes how he co-wrote *The Forbidden Book* with novelist Guido Mina di Sospiro over the course of several years as a way to explore his creative urges and as a challenging departure from non-fiction books, for which he is so well known. *The Forbidden Book* explores themes of magick, alchemy, and symbolism juxtaposed with political extremism and violence. In addition, the novel is based upon a real “forbidden book” – *Il mondo magico de gli heroi* (the magickal world of the hero), a seventeenth-century Italian text by Cesare Della Riviera.



Godwin shares his perspectives on fiction versus non-fiction, traditionalism versus liberalism, Eastern esotericism versus Western esotericism, and music and alchemy. Rather than attempt to summarize his views, I would encourage you to listen to the recording as Godwin is one of the most erudite and important scholars of Western esotericism in the world today. I will, however, praise *The Forbidden Book* as a wonderful novel that is realistic, widely-accessible, and a thrilling read. In my opinion, this is simply the best work of occult fiction that I've ever read and sets the standard for the genre. The finely crafted plot, nuanced characters, and realism with regard to magick, alchemy, symbolism, and political / religious extremism make this novel an exquisite read, with no suspension of disbelief required. If you enjoy this show, you'll definitely enjoy *The Forbidden Book*. I highly recommend it!

