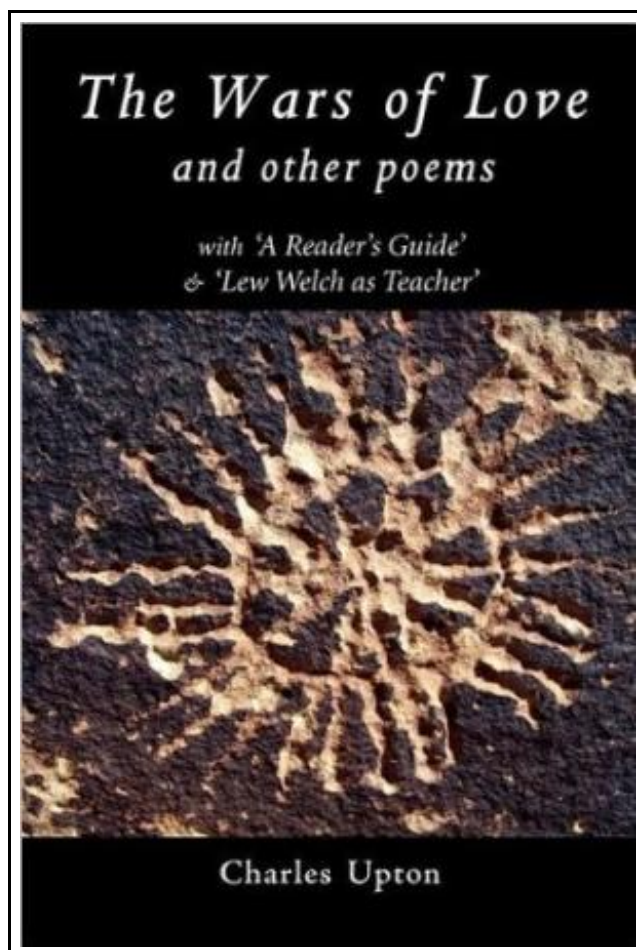


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Sophia Perennis et Universalis, United States, 2011. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 226 x 150 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.When poet Jack Gilbert, some time in the 1970 s in San Francisco, asked his poetry class, Who here aspires to write a masterpiece?, not one hand was raised. I, on the other hand, wanted to do just that; after reading Blake s Prophetic Books for the first time, as a naive youth, I said to myself: Wow! I d like to write one of those! So I tried my best; it took me thirty-three years. The idol of street language that entered my art in the 1970 s was of no interest to me; I wanted to write in a dense, heightened, magical, poetic language such as ear of cabbie or bar-fly had never heard. I respect those poets who, like my mentor Lew Welch, can bring high poetic diction and the common speech of the Tribe seamlessly together; in many ways I like that kind of poetry better than I do my own. But I was given to write in a certain style, to fill in a certain blank square on the map of the English language, and so I complied. The Muse assigns styles as God assigns fates, and thus - to paraphrase the Hindu scriptures - it is better to write one s own poetry, no matter how poorly, than to try and write somebody else s, no matter how well. Much of the poetry in this book hails from a collective psychic era of great and chaotic imaginative force, whose ruins we are in many ways still poking around in today, looking for shards, coins, and old photographs. It was written over a period of around 40 years; it s all...



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