

The Shamans Of Prehistory

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the universality of shamanistic power and practice among today s hunter gatherers along with the similarity of rock art found in varied sites around the world has led jean clottes and david lewis williams to suggest in this new book that the great art of paleolithic caves can be best understood through the lens of shamanism indeed this is not a monograph on a particular site but a general discussion of the art of painted caves and their shamanistic meaning through the authors revealing words and the abundant full color illustrations we follow shamans into their trance states and we watch as they carefully paint and engrave on rock surfaces the shapes of animals whose power they seek as we learn how drawings and rituals were likely modes of shamanistic contact we understand best the actions accomplishments and traces left behind by prehistoric shamans

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wayward shamans tells the story of an idea that humanity's first expression of art, religion, and creativity found form in the figure of a proto priest known as a shaman. Tracing this classic category of the history of anthropology back to the emergence of the term in Siberia, the work follows the trajectory of European knowledge about the continent's eastern frontier. The ethnographic record left by German natural historians engaged in the Russian colonial expansion project in the 18th century includes a range of shamanic practitioners varied by gender and age. Later accounts by exiled Russian revolutionaries noted transgendered shamans. This variation vanished, however, in the translation of shamanism into archaeology theory where a male sorcerer emerged as the key agent of prehistoric art. More recent efforts to provide a universal shamanic explanation for rock art via South Africa and neurobiology likewise gloss over historical evidence of diversity. By contrast, this book argues for recognizing indeterminacy in the categories we use and reopening them by recalling their complex history.

Starting with the dawn of what we would recognise as modern human thought, this book journeys through 35,000 years of our human past. It shows how our earliest ancestors learnt to enter trance states and the revolutionary effect this had on the way they interacted with their world. Moreover, by marrying the very latest research with vivid first-person reconstructions, the book will actually take readers back in time. In its pages, we join Stone Age hunting parties, steal food from desperate starving cannibals, sit eye to eye with a mouldy Bronze Age mummy, and join the Celts for a feast where you truly are what you eat. The story of our past has never been told this way before and has never been brought to life with such vividness. This is the past as our ancestors would have known it.

Robert J. Wallis explores the interface between the new and prehistoric shamans of

popular culture and anthropology drawing on interviews with a variety of practitioners particularly contemporary pagans in Britain and North America

A distinguished anthropologist who is also an initiated shaman reveals the long hidden female roots of the world's oldest form of religion and medicine. Here is a fascinating expedition into this ancient tradition from its prehistoric beginnings to the work of women shamans across the globe today. Shamanism was not only humankind's first spiritual and healing practice; it was originally the domain of women. This is the claim of Barbara Tedlock's provocative and myth-shattering book, reinterpreting generations of scholarship. Tedlock herself, an expert in dreamwork, divination, and healing, explains how and why the role of women in shamanism was misinterpreted and suppressed, and offers a dazzling array of evidence from prehistoric African rock art to modern Mongolian ceremonies for women's shamanic powers. Tedlock combines firsthand accounts of her own training among the Maya of Guatemala with the rich record of women warriors and hunters, spiritual guides and prophets from many cultures and times, probing the practices that distinguish female shamanism from the much better known male traditions. She reveals the key role of body wisdom and women's eroticism in shamanic trance and ecstasy, the female forms of dream, witnessing, vision, questing, and use of hallucinogenic drugs, shamanic midwifery, and the spiritual powers released in childbirth and monthly female cycles. Shamanic symbolism in weaving and other feminine arts, gender shifting, and male-female partnership in shamanic practice, filled with illuminating stories and illustrations, the woman in the shaman's body restores women to their essential place in the history of spirituality and celebrates their continuing role in the worldwide resurgence of shamanism today.

The Dream on the Rock takes an interdisciplinary approach to contextualizing and

historicizing the phenomenon of shamanism from the neolithic age until the beginning of the iron age fulvio gosso and peter webster argue that rock art and other ancient materials provide a glimpse of the fundamental role played by nonordinary states of consciousness in our social and evolutionary prehistory ultimately the authors offer a comprehensive exploration of shamanism religion and the origins of human consciousness along with evidence that hallucinogenic plants may have played a key role in this process

historians of art or religion and mythologists such as joseph campbell and mircea eliade have written extensively on prehistoric religion but no one before has offered a comprehensive and uniquely archaeological perspective on the subject hayden opens his book with an examination of the difference between traditional religions which are passed on through generations orally or experientially and more modern book religions which are based on some form of scripture that describes supernatural beings and a moral code such as judaism christianity and islam he attempts to answer the question of why religion developed at all arguing that basic religious behaviors of the past and present have been shaped by our innate emotional makeup specifically our ability to enter into ecstatic states through a variety of techniques and to create binding relationships with other people institutions or ideals associated with those states

in the origins of shamanism spirit beliefs and religiosity h sidky examines shamanism as an ancient magico religious divinatory medical and psychotherapeutic tradition found in various parts of the world sidky uses first hand ethnographic fieldwork and scientific theoretical work in archaeology cognitive and evolutionary psychology and neurotheology to explore the origins of shamanism spirit beliefs the evolution of human consciousness and the origins of ritual behavior and religiosity

this long awaited book discusses both ancient and modern shamanism demonstrating its longevity and spatial distribution the book is divided into eleven thought provoking chapters that are organised into three sections mind body nature and culture it discusses the clear associations with this sometimes little understood ritualised practice and asks what shamanism is and if tangible evidence can be extracted from a largely fragmentary archaeological record the book offers a novel portrayal of the material culture of shamanism by collating carefully selected studies by specialists from three different continents promoting a series of new perspectives on this idiosyncratic and sometimes intangible phenomenon

kehoe anthropology u of wisconsin milwaukee seeks to inoculate her students against the mushy thinking she finds concerning shamans and shamanism she traces the misinformation to a sensational mid 20th century french tome by which expatriate romanian mircea eliade hoped to acquire a reputation and a place in a european or american university he succeeded annotation copyrighted by book news inc portland or

shamanism is a term with specific anthropological roots but which is used more generally to cover a set of interactions between a practitioner or shaman and a spiritual or religious realm beyond the reach of most members of the community it has often been considered from an anthropological viewpoint but this book gathers the most recent studies on a subject which has not been comprehensively studied by archaeologists by putting together experts from two continents who have studied the phenomenon of shamanism lands of the shamans through carefully selected case studies uses the archaeological evidence to construct the shamans worldview landscape and cosmology recent interdisciplinary studies support the idea of the existence of shamanistic representations as long ago as the middle upper palaeolithic

but at the same time do not follow developments during the history of humankind as ethnographic evidence shows shamanistic activity represents a complex phenomenon that is extremely diversified its spiritual activity possessing a large variety of expressions in the material culture in other words shamanism could be defined as a series of differing spiritual world views which model the material culture and the landscape throughout the archaeological record of all prehistoric and historic periods there is a series of visual representations and objects and landscape alterations that could be ascribed to these differing world views many thought to represent shamanistic cognition and activity the shaman s landscape reveals itself to the world as one of multifaceted spiritual and material activity consequently this first book dedicated completely to the shamanistic landscape presents in fresh perspective the landscapes of the lower and upper worlds as well as their phenomenological experience case studies come from europe north america and asia

this book provides an in depth look at the beliefs and practices centered on the shaman a person believed to have powers to heal and communicate with the spirit world the work features more than 90 of the author s drawings of masks fetishes carvings and ongon and 40 rare photographs of shamans medicine men and women and healers provided by publisher

ideal for high school and college students studying history through the everyday lives of men and women this book offers intriguing information about the jobs that people have held from ancient times to the 21st century this unique book provides detailed studies of more than 300 occupations as they were practiced in 21 historical time periods ranging from prehistory to the present day each profession is examined in a compelling essay that is specifically written to inform readers about career choices in different times and

cultures and is accompanied by a bibliography of additional sources of information sidebars that relate historical issues to present day concerns as well as related historical documents readers of this work will learn what each profession entailed or entails on a daily basis how one gained entry to the vocation training methods and typical compensation levels for the job the book provides sufficient specific detail to convey a comprehensive understanding of the experiences benefits and downsides of a given profession selected accompanying documents further bring history to life by offering honest testimonies from people who actually worked in these occupations or interacted with those in that field

for courses in religions of the world history of religions comparative religion and introduction to religious studies in departments of religion religious studies theology and philosophy unique in approach this text combines an historical descriptive presentation of individual religions with a comparative thematic approach it begins with a discussion of the basic human questions and concerns relating to religion e g origin and identity ultimate reality human nature and the good life and then uses these essential concepts to help describe the beliefs practices and historical development of each religion as the work of a single scholar much of it based on original research this book offers a consistency and depth missing in many of the texts in this field

this book comprises of two volumes volume 1 is 366 pages and volume 2 is 298 pages

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