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Greek Religion Greek Religion Creation of the Sacred Ancient Mystery Cults The Palgrave Handbook of Mimetic Theory and Religion Homo Necans The World of Greek Religion and Mythology Structure and History in Greek Mythology and Ritual Fifty Key Thinkers on Religion Savage Energies Gewalt und Opfer The Orientalizing Revolution The Great Transformation To Know All Mysteries Understanding Religious Sacrifice Lore and Science in Ancient Pythagoreanism Babylon, Memphis, Persepolis Violent Origins Theory and Method in the Study of Religion Guide to the Study of Religion *Walter Burkert Walter Burkert Walter Burkert Walter Burkert James Alison Walter Burkert Jan N. Bremmer Walter Burkert Gary Kessler Walter Burkert Anton Bierl Walter Burkert Karen Armstrong C. Andrew Ballard Jeffrey Carter Walter Burkert Walter Burkert Walter Burkert Carl Olson Willi Braun*

a survey of the religious beliefs of ancient greece covers sacrifices libations purification gods heroes the priesthood oracles festivals and the afterlife

greek religion already has the standing of a classic and the publication of an english version which incorporates new material and is in effect a second edition demands a toast anyone who pretends to survey greek religion must be phenomenally learned burkert is his book is a marvel of professional scholarship london review of books this book has established itself as a masterpiece packed with learning but also rich in ideas and connections of every sort its

appearance in a good english translation is an event not only for hellenists but for all those interested in the study of religion nobody else could have produced an account of the subject of comparable range and power this will be the best history of greek religion for this generation new york review of books cover illustration detail from an attic vase 450 b c showing a victory sacrifice the mansell collection

sacrifice is essential to all religions could there be a natural even biological reason why are sacrifice and numerous other religious rituals and concepts shared by so many different cultures in this extraordinary book one of the world s leading authorities on ancient religions explores the possibility of natural religion

the foremost historian of greek religion providers the first comprehensive comparative study of a little known aspect of ancient religious beliefs and practices

the palgrave handbook of mimetic theory and religion draws on the expertise of leading scholars and thinkers to explore the violent origins of culture the meaning of ritual and the conjunction of theology and anthropology as well as secularization science and terrorism authors assess the contributions of rené girard s mimetic theory to our understanding of sacrifice ancient tragedy and post modernity and apply its insights to religious cinema and the global economy this handbook serves as introduction and guide to a theory of religion and human behavior that has established itself as fertile terrain for scholarly research and intellectual reflection

blood sacrifice the ritual slaughter of animals has been basic to religion through history so that it survives in spiritualized form even in christianity how did this violent phenomenon achieve the status of the sacred this question is examined in walter burkert s famous study

in this wide ranging work on greek religion and mythology jan n bremmer brings together his stimulating and innovative articles which have all been updated and revised where necessary in three thematic sections he analyses central aspects of greek religion beginning with the gods and heroes and paying special attention to the unity of the divine nature and the emergence of the category hero the second section begins with a discussion of the nature of polis religion continues with various facets such as seers secrecy and the soul and concludes with the influence of the ancient near east the third section studies human sacrifice and offers the most recent analysis of the ideal animal sacrifice combining literature epigraphy iconography and

zooarchaeology regarding human sacrifice it concentrates on the famous cases of iphigeneia and the werewolves of mount lykaion the fourth and final section investigates key elements of greek mythology such as the definition of myth and its relationship to ritual and ends with a brief history of the study of greek mythology the multi disciplinary approach and rich footnotes make this work a must for anybody interested in greek religion and mythology

fifty key thinkers on religion is an accessible guide to the most important and widely studied theorists on religion of the last 300 years arranged chronologically the book explores the lives works and ideas of key writers across a truly interdisciplinary range from sociologists to psychologists thinkers covered include friedrich nietzsche james frazer sigmund freud emile durkheim ludwig wittgenstein mary douglas talal asad søren kierkegaard providing an indispensable one volume map of our understanding of religion in the west the book is fully cross referenced throughout and provides authoritative guides to important primary and secondary texts for students wishing to take their studies further

we often think of classical greek society as a model of rationality and order yet as walter burkert demonstrates in these influential essays on the history of greek religion there were archaic savage forces surging beneath the outwardly calm face of classical greece whose potentially violent and destructive energies burkert argues were harnessed to constructive ends through the interlinked uses of myth and ritual for example in a much cited essay on the athenian religious festival of the arrephoria burkert uncovers deep connections between this strange nocturnal ritual in which two virgin girls carried sacred offerings into a cave and later returned with something given to them there and tribal puberty initiations by linking the festival with the myth of the daughters of kekrops other chapters explore the origins of tragedy in blood sacrifice the role of myth in the ritual of the new fire on lemnos the ties between violence the athenian courts and the annual purification of the divine image and how failed political propaganda entered the realm of myth at the time of the persian wars

die beiträge des autorenkolloquiums am zentrum für interdisziplinäre forschung der universität bielefeld nov 2007 setzen sich intensiv mit walter burkert und seinem werk auseinander der international hoch angesehene gräzist hat in seinen epochen machenden studien die um die ursprünge menschlichen zusammenlebens in riten um opfer schuld und grausame todesszenarien kreisen fragestellungen der biologischen verhaltensforschung aufgenommen und über die altertums und religionswissenschaften hinaus eine große intellektuelle wirkung

entfaltet

ancient greek culture is often described as a miracle owing little to its neighbors walter burkert argues against a distorted view toward a more balanced picture under the influence of the semitic east from writers craftsmen merchants healers greek culture began its unique flowering soon to assume cultural hegemony in the mediterranean

national bestseller an extraordinary investigation of a critical moment in the evolution of religious thought from the new york times bestselling author of a history of god and the spiral staircase a splendid book lucid highly readable relevant to a world still embroiled in military conflict and sectarian hatreds the new york times in the ninth century bce events in four regions of the civilized world led to the rise of religious traditions that have endured to the present day development of confucianism and daoism in china hinduism and buddhism in india monotheism in israel and philosophical rationalism in greece armstrong one of our most prominent religious scholars examines how these traditions began in response to the violence of their time studying figures as diverse as the buddha and socrates confucius and jeremiah armstrong reveals how these still enduring philosophies can help address our contemporary problems

this book examines the way that paul presents himself as a guide into mysteries a mystagogue in 1 2 corinthians by describing himself as a type of mystagogue for the community paul was following a precedent in both jewish and non jewish sources for invoking mystagogic language to engage in polemics with a rival in opposition to the precedent however paul understands the mystagogue to be a bi partite figure comprised of both foolishness and wisdom simultaneously c andrew ballard argues that ancient mystagogues were often described in two disparate ways figures of power and figures of weakness and foolishness paul synthesizes both aspects of the mystagogue in his self presentation to the corinthians the figure of the mystagogue as a wise fool was useful to paul because it was descriptive not only of his own experience as a suffering yet authoritative apostle but also of the experience of his deity the suffering and glorified christ by presenting himself as both a powerful and foolish mystagogue paul could argue that he was a more authentic imitator of christ than his opponents in corinth who boasted in self exaltation instead of self humility in this way paul used the character of the mystagogue as a strategic rhetorical tool in his communication with the corinthians

this volume provides a thorough introduction to the major classic and modern writings dealing with religious sacrifice collected here are twenty five influential selections each with a brief

introduction addressing the overall framework and assumptions of its author as they present different theories and examples of sacrifice these selections also discuss important concepts in religious studies such as the origin of religion totemism magic symbolism violence structuralism and ritual performance students of comparative religion ritual studies the history of religions the anthropology of religion and theories of religion will particularly value the historical organization and thematic analyses presented in this collection

for this first english edition of his distinguished study of pythagoreanism weisheit und wissenschaft studien zu pythagoras philolaos und platon walter burkert has carefully revised text and notes taking account of additional literature on the subject which appeared between 1962 and 1969 by a thorough critical sifting of all the available evidence the author lays a new foundation for the understanding of ancient pythagoreanism and in particular of the relationship within it of lore and science he shows that in the twilight zone when the greeks were discovering the rational interpretation of the world and quantitative natural science pythagoras represented not the origin of the new but the survival or revival of ancient pre scientific lore or wisdom based on superhuman authority and expressed in ritual obligation

this book traverses the ancient world s three great centers of cultural exchange babylonian nineveh egyptian memphis and iranian persepolis to situate classical greece at the western margin of a more comprehensive near eastern aegean cultural community that emerged in the bronze age and expanded westward in the first millennium b c

burkert girard and smith hold important and contradictory theories about the nature and origin of ritual sacrifice and the role violence plays in religion and culture these papers and conversations derive from a conference that pursued the possibility and utility of a general theory of religion and culture especially one based on violence the special value of this volume is the conversations as such the real record of working scholars engaged with one another s theories as they make and meet challenges and move and maneuver girard and burkert present different versions of the same conviction that a single theory can account for ritual and its social function a theory that posits original acts of group violence smith sharply questions both the possibility and the utility of such a general theory among the highlights of this stimulating interchange of ideas is a searching criticism of girard s theory of generative scapegoating which he answers with clarity and conviction and a challenging of burkert s theory of the origin of sacrifice in the hunt by smith s argument posed as a jeu d esprit that sacrifice originates with

the domestication of animals

this anthology provides students with a useful collection of theoretical essays concerning the nature of religion and the methodological means by which scholars analytically approach the subject organized in a point counterpoint fashion this volume will foster in class discussion and the honing of a student s own critical perspectives

what is religion can it be defined at all or is it too easily defined in far too many ways so as to make a religion a drifting signifier or whatever one s pleasure is does the study of religion require special perhaps religious tools of analysis and explanation what is the difference between a knowledge of religion derived from practicing it and a knowledge about religion derived from nonreligious modes of inquiry sooner or later any serious student of religion must face these questions if religious practices are to be investigated in the light of the terms and aims of the social and human sciences in the modern university the guide to the study of religion provides a map of the key concepts and thought structures for imagining and studying religion as a class of everyday social practices that lend themselves to no more or less difficult explanation than any other class of social phenomena

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