

Handbook Of Inca Mythology

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the first introduction to the incas and their myths aimed at students and general readers bringing together a wealth of information into one convenient resource full of hard to find information handbook of inca mythology provides an accessible introduction to the rites beliefs and spiritual tales of the incas it provides a concise overview of incan civilization and mythology a chronology of mythic and historical events and an a z inventory of central themes sacrifice fertility competition reversal dualism colors constellations giants and miniatures personages viracocha manco capac pachackuti inca locations lake titicaca corickancha rituals and icons the last native american culture to develop free of european influence the incas who had no written language are known only from spanish accounts written after the conquest and archaeological finds from these fragments a vanished world has been reborn and reintroduced into modern andean life there is no better way into that world and its mind bending mythology than this unique handbook

inca myths were primarily a diffuse and fragmentary oral tradition eventually preserved in writing only in a piecemeal fashion in this volume a leading andean scholar reviews the sources of our current knowledge of inca mythology

this book is dedicated to exploring the gods and goddesses that the incas on the american continent worshiped and within the pages you will find subtopics like historical background of the inca empire before the colonists arrived the myths about creation death procreation and more strange gods and goddesses they worshipped sometimes in brutal macabre ways the polytheist inca religion child sacrifices and inhumane rituals as part of idol worship typical elements that made up the inca civilization inca mythology is intricate complex and the ideals behind their mythological beliefs were often intertwined with real life events this book will examine how both myth and fact contributed to the culture and traditions of the inca and how these influences and some stories continue to live on throughout the centuries add this book to cart now

a process of assimilation and cultural layering makes incan mythology a rich and complex brew of andean folklore history and belief this book serves up a sumptuous offering of incan and other andean myths and sheds light on cultures that often remain shrouded in mystery to this day these myths and legends are placed within a context of history archaeology religion folk beliefs and culture that both explains and enhances their meaning dozens of full color images illuminate the rich storytelling

the inca empire at its zenith spanned much of south america including present day peru ecuador bolivia and parts of chile and argentina known for its advanced architecture agricultural systems and administrative organization the inca civilization also possessed a deeply spiritual culture central to their worldview was a rich tapestry of mythology that explained the creation of the world the origins of humankind and the roles of the gods in the natural and spiritual realms these sacred legends were not just stories they were the very foundation upon which the inca society was built shaping everything from daily rituals to the governance of the empire inca mythology was intricately connected to the natural world with gods and deities representing various elements of the environment such as the sun the moon the earth and water the inca people believed that these deities were not distant abstract beings but rather active forces that influenced their lives the most important gods were thought to have a direct relationship with the ruler often considered to be divine or descended from these gods as such the inca king or sapa inca was revered as the son of the sun god inti and his authority was considered sacred the role of mythology extended beyond the divine and into the social and political spheres it was through myth that the inca legitimized their rule connected their empire to the divine order and reinforced the unity of their vast territories legends of the first rulers such as manco capac and mama ocllo were tied to creation myths that depicted them as divine figures sent to bring civilization to the world these stories were used to justify inca conquests and to explain the hierarchical structure of society

the myths of the inca gods in the first section of the book explain how the world was created and also detail the adventures of various deities as they vie for supremacy or act as tricksters in the worlds of mortals and huacas alike

describes the background of the myths of the indian cultures of the continents of north and south america

an illustrated summary of the various myths and legends from the native tribes in north and south america

includes pictures explains inca mythology and religious practices including human sacrifices includes footnotes and a bibliography for further reading during the age of exploration native american tribes fell victim to european conquerors seeking legendary cities made of gold and other riches attempts that were often being made in vain and yet of all the empires that were conquered across the continent the one that continues to be most intimately associated with legends of gold and hidden riches is the inca empire the inca empire which flourished in modern day peru and along the west coast of south america was the largest native american empire in pre columbian america until pizarro and the spanish conquistadors conquered them in the 16th century what ultimately sealed their doom was the rumor that huge amounts of gold were available in regions south of the andes mountains though the spanish physically conquered them in quick fashion the culture and legacy of the inca empire has continued to endure throughout the centuries in both europe and south america due in no small part to the fact they were one of the most advanced and sophisticated cultures on the continent like the aztecs the spanish burned much of the inca s extant writings but it is estimated that as many as 35 million people once fell under their banner and the empire s administrative skills were so sharp that they kept accurate census records their religion organization and laws were also effectively centralized and tied to the rulers of the empire and their military mobilization would have made the ancient spartans proud after the spanish conquest several rebellions in the area attempted to reestablish the proud inca empire over the next two centuries all while famous europeans like voltaire glorified the inca empire in optimistic artistic portrayals the mythology and religion of the inca examines the history and legacy of the religion practiced by the famous incan empire along with pictures and a bibliography you will learn about the inca s religion and mythology like you never have before in no time at all

presents a brief overview of these cultures their customs religion gods heroes and legends

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the new afterword focuses on the durability of indian mythology and the abundant material increasingly available since the mid 80s bierhorst offers new information on previously obscure tribes on the mythological map includes information on amazon myth anaconda bird nester bororo indians chorote indians christ corn tree cuna indians emergence myths flood myths fox ge indians inca culture jaguar kogi indians origin of male domination mataco indians mundurucu indians parrot brides quechua indians selknam indians shavante indians shuar indians star woman tehuelche indians toba indians tree and the flood trickster tupinamba indians twin myth underwater woman vulture warrau indians wirakocha yamana indians yurupari etc

vol two is a compilation of five books each author describes the cultural background written sources and continuing legacy of the major myths illustrated throughout by archaeological and artistic evidence

analyzes inca mythology in light of the historical events that transformed their world at the time of the arrival of spanish conquistadors

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