

# The Peyote Cult

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for half a century readers on peyotism have devoured la barre's fascinating original study which began when the author at age twenty four studied the rites of fifteen american indian tribes using *lophophora williamsii* the small spineless carrot shaped peyote cactus growing in the rio grande

valley and southward continuing his research from the 1930s through the 1980s weston la barre reviews topics such as the timothy leary richard alpert experiments with peyote and other psychotropic substances the carlos castaneda phenomenon the progress of the native american church toward acceptance as a religious denomination the presumptions of the neo american church the legal ramifications of ritual drug use and the spread of peyotism from the southwest to other north american tribes this new edition of la barre s classic study includes 334 new entries in the latest of his highly valued bibliographical essays on works relating to peyote not just in anthropology but in a variety of fields including archeology economics botany chemistry and pharmacology the bibliography lists important contributions in popular media such as newspapers audiotapes and films as well as in scholarly journals

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describes the peyote plant the birth of peyotism in western oklahoma its spread from indian territory to mexico the high plains and the far west its role among such tribes as the comanche kiowa kiowa apache caddo wichita delaware and navajo indians its conflicts with the law and the history of the native american church

this book discusses the peyote religion a religion centered around the ritual consumption of the peyote cactus its ecclesiastical organization the north american church has stirred some attention among scholars most of them anthropologists the author describes what he calls all the nativistic religious movements which have emerged in the peyote tradition in north america over the past 200 years

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