

The Roman Cult Mithras Mysteries

Roman Cult of Mithras The Mysteries of Mithras The Mysteries of Mithras The Religion of the Mithras Cult in the Roman Empire The Mysteries of Mithras The Origins of the Mithraic Mysteries Mithras The Mysteries of Mithra The Roman Mithras Cult The Roman Cult of Mithras The Mysteries of Mithra Mystery Cults in Visual Representation in Graeco-Roman Antiquity Michelangelo's Puzzle The Mystery of Numbers The Parthians The Mysteries of Mithra The Mystery of Mithras Studies in Mithraism Mithraic Mysteries Manfred Clauss Attilio Mastrocinque Payam Nabarz Roger Beck Charles River Editors David Ulansey D. Jason Cooper Franz Valery Marie Cumont Olympia Panagiotidou Manfred Clauss Franz Cumont Rebecca Jelbert Annemarie Schimmel Uwe Ellerbrock Franz Cumont Franz Cumont John R. Hinnells Source Wikipedia

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since its publication in germany manfred clauss's introduction to the roman mithras cult has become widely accepted as the most reliable as well as the most readable account of its elusive and fascinating subject for the english edition the author has revised the work to take account of recent research and new archaeological discoveries the mystery cult of mithras first

became evident in rome towards the end of the first century ad during the next two centuries carried by its soldier and merchant devotees it spread to the frontier of the western empire from britain to bosnia perhaps because of odd similarities between the cult and their own religion the early christians energetically suppressed it frequently constructing churches over the caves mithraea in which its rituals took place by the end of the fourth century the cult was extinct professor clauss draws on the archaeological evidence from over 400 temples and their contents including over a thousand representations of ritual in sculpture and painting to seek an understanding of the nature and purpose of the cult and what its mysteries and secret rites of initiation and sacrifice meant to its devotees in doing so he introduces the reader to the nature of the polytheistic societies of the roman empire in which relations and distinctions between gods and mortals now seem strangely close and blurred he also considers the connections of mithraicism with astrology and examines how far it can be seen as a direct descendant of the ancient cult of mitra the persian god of contract cattle and light the book combines imaginative insight with coherent argument it is well structured accessibly written and extensively illustrated richard gordon the translator and himself a distinguished scholar of the subject has provided a bibliography of further reading for anglophone readers

attilio mastrocinque explains the mysteries of mithras in a new way as a transformation of mazdean elements into an ideological and religious reading of augustus story the author shows that the character of mithras played the role of apollo in favoring augustus victory and the birth of the roman empire

an overview of mithraism the ancient roman mystery religion popular in the roman legions provides a comprehensive history of mithraism including its influence on christianity and islam includes rituals meditations and teaching tales for readers who wish to follow the mithraic path studies the evolution and divergence of the eastern persian and western roman forms of mithraism the mysteries of mithras presents a revival of the magical practices and initiatory system of mithraism the ancient roman mystery religion that was immensely popular in the roman legions from the late second century b c until a d 400 and was taken to every corner of the roman empire as the last pagan state religion in europe it was the most important competitor to early christianity and heavily influenced christian doctrine and symbolism the parallels between christianity and ancient mithraism are striking for example the god mithra was born of a virgin in a cave

on december 25 payam nabarz reveals the history origins and spiritual and philosophical tenets of mithraism and its connections to christianity islam and freemasonry he also describes the modern neo pagan practice of mithraism in evidence today and for readers who wish to adopt the mithraic path he includes seven of its initiatory rituals and meditations as well as orations and teaching tales that open the door to the seven mithraic grades of passage

a study of the religious system of mithraism one of the mystery cults popular in the roman empire contemporary with early christianity roger beck describes mithraism from the point of view of the initiate engaging with the religion and its rich symbolic system in thought word ritual action and cult life he employs the methods of anthropology of religion and the new cognitive science of religion to explore in detail the semiotics of the mysteries astral symbolism which has been the principal subject of his many previous publications on the cult

includes pictures includes ancient accounts describing mithras includes online resources and a bibliography for further reading includes a table of contents it is as though the living tradition and written records of christianity had disappeared from the world for fifteen hundred years and there remained to us only a few hundred monuments and the ruins of some three score churches what could we glean from these of the doctrines of the faith how from such meagre remains could we reconstruct the story of the god the saving doctrines the rituals the liturgies g r s mead the mysteries of mithra in the early roman empire as christianity struggled to gain a foothold and survive in the polytheistic pool of roman theology its greatest rivals weren t the caesars or the roman aristocracy but rather the faith and devotion of the common roman legionary the faith of these men was centered on the god mithras who they believed led them to victory upon the field of battle and had done so for nearly four centuries despite this widespread belief among soldiers the cult of mithras was not a creation of the romans although they would eventually add their own rituals and mysteries to the ancient religion in fact the mithraic religion was an indo persian creation a theology which managed to travel from india and back into the hellenic and roman world by way of alexander the great s conquest of the persian empire eventually the cult of mithras would spread across the ancient world and mithras would be worshiped from the mountains of india to the coasts of spain as a result the cult of mithras could ultimately be found in every corner of the roman empire the mithras cult was one of the many mystery religions that the romans adopted several of which came from cultures outside of rome isis an egyptian goddess and

cybele an anatolian goddess were both popular with roman women while mithras which was a variation of the name of the zoroastrian demigod mithra was popular with roman soldiers and the political elite for over 400 years since the mithras cult like all of the roman mystery cults was esoteric in nature the exact nature of the influence other cultures had on the cult remains unknown but some archaeological evidence has led modern scholars to make educated deductions some believe that the conscription of persian soldiers into the roman army and continued contact between the parthians and romans led to some members of the ever eclectic roman society adopting the cult directly from the parthian zoroastrian religion clark 2001 157 this seems like the most plausible explanation but others have argued that the mithras cult was actually a roman religion that was given a parthian faade to make it appear more exotic in order to attract romans who were enthralled with eastern spirituality clark 2001 157 the best evidence to determine the origins of the mithras cult can be found in the many temples throughout europe that the romans erected to the god these temples known as mithraea were subterranean chambers where the secret rituals of the cult took place the best evidence from extant mithraea are the reliefs on the altars which depict a graphic mythological story the altar reliefs usually depict the god slaughtering a bull and often accompanied by a leaping dog clark 2001 158 the references to zoroastrian theology are unmistakable the bull slaughter is similar to an account from a zoroastrian text the bundahishen while dogs were viewed as asha animals in zoroastrian theology and an important part of the funerary ritual clark 2001 158 the detailed iconography on the mithras altars suggests that the inventors of the mithras cult had more than just a superficial knowledge of zoroastrianism which in turn indicates a provenance of the religion somewhere in persian or parthia

this volume sets forth a new explanation of the meaning of the cult of mithraism tracing its origins not as commonly held to the ancient persian religion but to ancient astronomy and cosmology

known as mitra to the indians mithra and zarathustra zoroaster in greek to the iranians and mithras to the romans this is the oldest of all living deities mithras was recognized as the greatest rival of christianity a greater threat even than the religion of isis if rome had not become christian it would have become mithrasian mithraisians had a sacrament that included wine as a symbol of sacrificial blood bread in wafers or small loaves marked with a cross was used to symbolize flesh the priestly symbols were a staff a ring a hat and a hooked sword members were called brothers and priests were called father mithras

was born on december 25th he offered salvation based on faith compassion knowledge and valor he appealed to the poor the slave and the freeman as well as to the roman aristocracy the militia and even to some emperors the christians sacked his temples burned his books and attacked his followers they desecrated his temples and built their own churches on the same foundations as the old mithraic temples cooper examines mithras and his religion in the most complete study ever done he explores the various forms of this godworshiped from lisbon to modrn bangladesh from the scottish border to the russian steppesand investigates the worship this is an exciting journey into living mythology the history of a living god and will fascinate modern western readers who want to know more about the spiritual pathwhether they want to better understand contemporary christianity the basis of many contemporary ideologies mythology or the western mystery tradition

this book is the first full cognitive history of an ancient religious practice in this ground breaking study on one of the most intriguing and mysterious cults olympia panagiotidou with contributions from roger beck shows how cognitive historiography can supplement our historical knowledge and deepen our understanding of past cultural phenomena the cult of the sun god mithras which spread widely across the graeco roman world at the same time as other mystery cults offered its devotees certain images and assumptions about reality initiation into the mysteries of mithras and participation in the life of the cult significantly affected and transformed the ways in which the initiated perceived themselves the world and their position within it the cult s major ideas were conveyed mainly through its symbolic complexes the ancient written testimonies and other records are not adequate to establish a definitive reconstruction of mithraic theologies and the meaning of its complex symbolic structures the roman mithras cult identifies the cognitive and psychological processes which would have taken place in the minds and bodies of the mithraists during their initiation and participation in the mysteries enabling the perception apprehension and integration of the essential images and assumptions of the cult in its worldview system the roman mithras cult a cognitive approach is the first full cognitive history of an ancient religion that highlights how cognitive historiography can supplement our historical knowledge and deepen our understanding of past cultural phenomenon the cult of the sun god mithras which spread widely across the greco roman world at the same time as other mystery cults and christianity offered to its devotees certain images and assumptions about reality initiation into the mysteries of mithras and participation in the life of the cult significantly affected and transformed the ways in which the

initiates perceived themselves the world and their position within it the cult's major ideas were conveyed mainly through its major symbolic complexes the ancient written testimonies and other records are not adequate to establish a definitive reconstruction of mithraic theologies and the meaning of its complex symbolic structures filling this gap the roman mithras cult a cognitive approach identifies the cognitive and psychological processes which took place in the minds and bodies of the mithraists during their initiation a

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first published in 1956 this seminal study by the great belgian scholar franz cumont remains the definitive coverage of a great ideological struggle between the west and the orient in the first centuries of the christian era mithraism a mystery religion originating in persia spread rapidly through the roman empire and achieved such strength that europe almost

became mithraic dr cumont the world's greatest authority on aspects of classical religions here discusses the origins of this colourful oriental religion and its association with the roman army then utilizing fragmentary monuments and texts in one of the greatest feats of scholarly detection he reconstructs the mystery teachings and secret doctrines the hidden organization and cult of mithra this volume includes 70 illustrations

mystery cults in visual representation in graeco roman antiquity aims to fill a gap in the study of mystery cults in graeco roman antiquity by focusing on images for investigating their ritual praxis nicole belayche and francesco massa have gathered experts on visual language in order to illuminate cultic rituals renowned for both their mysteries and their images this book tackles three interrelated questions focusing on the cult of dionysus it analyses whether and how images are used to depict mystery cults the relationship between historiography and images of mystery cults is considered with a focus on the mithraic and isiac cults finally turning to the cults of dionysus and the mother of the gods this work shows how depictions of specific cultic objects succeed in expressing mystery cults

michelangelo's puzzle forgery star maps and the sistine chapel will be popular with readers who are interested art crime art history astronomy and puzzles michelangelo's puzzle expands on rebecca's article published in journal of art crime 2019 in which she argued that the vatican's laocoön group was created by michelangelo as a forged antiquity drawing on the traditional link between laocoön and the constellation of ophiuchus michelangelo was able to depict the famous sculpture within the context of a hidden star map on the sistine chapel ceiling the foreword has been written by noah charney founder of the association for research into crimes against art arca this book is unique as it has been written by a professional artist who combines creative insight with rigorous research

why is the number seven lucky even holy in almost every culture why do we speak of the four corners of the earth why do cats have nine lives except in iran where they have seven from literature to folklore to private superstitions numbers play a conspicuous role in our daily lives but in this fascinating book annemarie schimmel shows that numbers have been filled with mystery and meaning since the earliest times and across every society in the mystery of numbers annemarie schimmel conducts an illuminating tour of the mysteries attributed to numbers over the centuries she begins with an informative and often surprising introduction to the origins of number systems pre roman europeans for example may have had one based

on twenty not ten as suggested by the english word score and the french word for 80 quatrevingt four times twenty while the mayans had a system more sophisticated than our own schimmel also reveals how our fascination with numbers has led to a rich cross fertilization of mathematical knowledge arabic numerals for instance were picked up by europe from the arabs who had earlier adopted them from indian sources algorithm and algebra are corruptions of the arabic author and title names of a mathematical text prized in medieval europe but the heart of the book is an engrossing guide to the symbolism of numbers number symbolism she shows has deep roots in western culture from the philosophy of the pythagoreans and platonists to the religious mysticism of the cabala and the islamic brethren of purity to kepler s belief that the laws of planetary motion should be mathematically elegant to the unlucky thirteen after exploring the sources of number symbolism schimmel examines individual numbers ranging from one to ten thousand discussing the meanings they have had for judaic christian and islamic traditions with examples from indian chinese and native american cultures as well two for instance has widely been seen as a number of contradiction and polarity a number of discord and antithesis and six according to ancient and neo platonic thinking is the most perfect number because it is both the sum and the product of its parts 1 2 3 6 and $1 \times 2 \times 3 = 6$ using examples ranging from the bible to the mayans to shakespeare she shows how numbers have been considered feminine and masculine holy and evil lucky and unlucky a highly respected scholar of islamic culture annemarie schimmel draws on her vast knowledge to paint a rich cross cultural portrait of the many meanings of numbers engaging and accessible her account uncovers the roots of a phenomenon we all feel every friday the thirteenth

this volume provides a comprehensive overview of the history and culture of the parthian empire which existed for almost 500 years from 247 bc to 224 ad the parthians were rome s great opponents in the east but comparatively little is known about them the parthians focuses on the rise expansion flowering and decline of the parthian empire and covers both the wars with the romans in the west and the nomads in the east sources include the small amount from the empire itself as well as those from outside the parthian world such as greek roman and chinese documents ellerbrock also explores the parthian military social history religions art architecture and numismatics all supported by a great number of images and maps the parthians is an invaluable resource for those studying the ancient near east during the period of the parthian empire as well as for more general readers interested in this era

with over 50 large to full page illustrations the mysteries of mithra examines the history and origin of the mithraic religion it covers the dissemination of mithraism into the roman empire the doctrine of the mithraic mysteries the liturgy clergy and devotees and the art of the mithraic religion mithra is the zoroastrian angelic divinity yazata of covenant light and oath in addition to being the divinity of contracts mithra is also a judicial figure an all seeing protector of truth and the guardian of cattle the harvest and of the waters the romans attributed their mithraic mysteries the mystery religion known as mithraism to persian i e zoroastrian sources relating to mithra

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please note that the content of this book primarily consists of articles available from wikipedia or other free sources online pages 26 chapters aion deity arimanus cautes and cautopates cimrm fert rakos mithraeum mithras name mithras in comparison with other belief systems mithras liturgy rudchester mithraeum tauroctony excerpt the mithraic mysteries were a mystery religion practised in the roman empire from about the 1st to 4th centuries ad the name of the persian god mithra adapted into greek as mithras was linked to a new and distinctive imagery writers of the roman empire period referred to this mystery religion by phrases which can be anglicized as mysteries of mithras or mysteries of the persians modern historians refer to it as mithraism or sometimes roman mithraism the mysteries were popular in the roman military worshippers of mithras had a complex system of seven grades of initiation with ritual meals initiates called themselves syndexioi those united by the handshake they met in underground temples called mithraea which survive in large numbers the cult appears to have had its centre in rome numerous archeological finds including meeting places monuments and artifacts have contributed to modern knowledge about mithraism throughout the roman empire the iconic scenes of mithras show him being born from a rock slaughtering a bull and sharing a banquet with the god sol the sun about 420 sites have yielded materials related to the cult among the items found are about 1000 inscriptions 700 examples of the bull killing scene tauroctony and about 400 other monuments it has been estimated that there would have been at least 680 690

mithraea in rome no written narratives or theology from the religion survive with limited information to be derived from the inscriptions and only brief or passing references in greek and latin literature interpretation of the physical evidence remains problematic and

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