

Persephone's Quest: Entheogens And The Origins Of Religion

The Twelve Gates
The Indo-Aryans of Ancient South Asia
Bronze Age Eleusis and the Origins of the Eleusinian Mysteries
The Cnidaria, Past, Present and Future
The Mycenaean Feast
Shamanism
The Chemistry of Mind-altering Drugs
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True Hallucinations
The Multiple Natural Origins of Religion
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Miracles
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in the twelve gates clinical anthropologist john rush embarks on a spellbinding journey through death rituals in various cultures centering on the ancient egyptian philosophy of death and resurrection the first part of the book provides an overview of different rituals encouraging readers to confront their feelings about death and to reevaluate their lives the author details his own experiences preparing for death including a painful tattooing process inspired by the ancient egyptian books of the netherworld he then guides readers through the twelve gates of the underworld symbolic ritual stages during which they can figuratively experience death and rebirth a set of full color tarot cards designed by the author is included as an aid in passing through each of the gates these ancient rituals performed by pharaohs and priests for thousands of years help ease the way toward a peaceful conscious death

no detailed description available for the indo aryans of ancient south asia

this book provides a synthesis of the archaeology of eleusis during the bronze age reconstructing the origins and early development of the eleusinian mysteries

this volume presents a broad panorama of the current status of research of invertebrate animals considered belonging to the phylum cnidaria such as hydra jellyfish sea anemone and coral in this book the cnidarians are traced from the earth's primordial oceans to their response to the warming and acidifying oceans due to the role of corals in the carbon and calcium cycles various aspects of cnidarian calcification are discussed the relation of the cnidaria with mankind is approached in accordance with the editors philosophy of bridging the

artificial schism between science arts and humanities cnidarians encounters with humans result in a broad spectrum of medical emergencies that are reviewed the final section of the volume is devoted to the role of hydra and medusa in mythology and art

the large scale formal consumption of huge quantities of food and drink is a feature of many societies but extracting evidence for feasting from the archaeological record has until recently been problematic this collection of essays investigates the rich evidence for the character of the mycenaean feast

a guide to worldwide shamanism and shamanistic practices emphasizing historical and current cultural adaptations this two volume reference is the first international survey of shamanistic beliefs from prehistory to the present day in nearly 200 detailed readable entries leading ethnographers psychologists archaeologists historians and scholars of religion and folk literature explain the general principles of shamanism as well as the details of widely varied practices what is it like to be a shaman entries describe region by region the traits such as sicknesses and dreams that mark a person as a shaman as well as the training undertaken by initiates they detail the costumes music rituals artifacts and drugs that shamans use to achieve altered states of consciousness communicate with spirits travel in the spirit world and retrieve souls unlike most western books on shamanism which focus narrowly on the individual s experience of healing and trance shamanism also examines the function of shamanism in society from social political and historical perspectives and identifies the ancient continuous thread that connects shamanistic beliefs and rituals across cultures and millennia

this fascinating book presents a scientifically objective and thoroughly documented exposition of the pharmacological and psychological effects of nearly every known substance that affects human consciousness from alcohol to zopiclone it also features first hand accounts and descriptions of the social cultural and religious milieus in which many psychotropic plants are used and discusses historical allusions to many literary and scientific figures who used or wrote of mind altering drugs including freud dickens yeats and huxley intended for a wide audience of general readers seeking unbiased information the book gives an accessible explanation of drug receptor interaction and organic chemical structures as well as descriptions of the discovery isolation and syntheses of the chemical substances responsible for drug activity written by an experienced chemist the book nevertheless keeps technical information to a minimum

this fascinating book discusses the role played by psychoactive mushrooms in the religious rituals of ancient greece eurasia and mesoamerica r gordon wasson an internationally known ethnomycologist who was one of the first to investigate how these mushrooms were venerated and employed by different native peoples here joins with three other scholars to discuss the evidence for his discoveries about these fungi which he has called entheogens or god generated within

richard clark traces how religion could have originated in prehistory and antiquity out of natural human and prehuman behaviour evidence is brought to bear from primatology palaeoanthropology ethnography ancient history and history of religions as well as theology neurology and psycho pharmacology

since the eighteenth century classical scholars have generally agreed that the greek playwright aristophanes did not as a matter of course write political plays yet according to an anonymous life of aristophanes when

dionysius the tyrant of syracuse wanted to know about the government of athens plato sent him a copy of aristophanes clouds in this boldly revisionist work michael vickers convincingly argues that in his earlier plays aristophanes in fact commented on the day to day political concerns of athenians vickers reads the first six of aristophanes eleven extant plays in a way that reveals the principal characters to be based in large part on pericles and his ward alcibiades according to vickers the plays of aristophanes far from being nonpolitical actually allow us to gauge the reaction of the athenian public to the events that followed pericles death in 429 b c to the struggle for the political succession and to the problems presented by alcibiades emergence as one of the most powerful figures in the state this view of aristophanes reaffirms the central role of allegory in his work and challenges all students of ancient greece to rethink long held assumptions about this important playwright

can science psychology and biology explain miracles this work explores this subject it examines miracles of body mind and spirit presenting the research and writing on these uncommon events

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