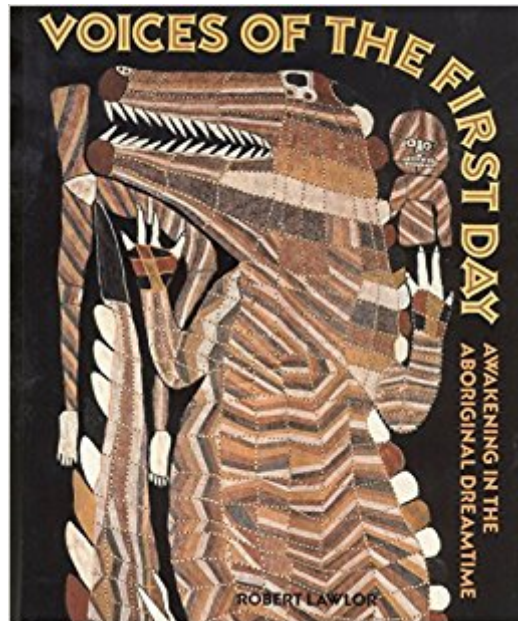




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Voices Of The First Day: Awakening In The Aboriginal Dreamtime



Synopsis

Australian aboriginal people have lived in harmony with the earth for perhaps as long as 100,000 years; in their words, since the First Day. In this absorbing work, Lawlor explores the essence of their culture as a source of and guide to transforming our own world view. While not romanticizing the past or suggesting a return to the life of the hunter/gatherer, *Voices of the First Day* enables us to enter into the mentality of the oldest continuous culture on earth and gain insight into our own relationship with the earth and to each other. This book offers an opportunity to suspend our values, prejudices, and Eurocentrism and step into the Dreaming to discover:

- A people who rejected agriculture, architecture, writing, clothing, and the subjugation of animals
- A lifestyle of hunting and gathering that provided abundant food of unsurpassed nutritional value
- Initiatic and ritual practices that hold the origins of all esoteric, yogic, magical, and shamanistic traditions
- A sexual and emotional life that afforded diversity and fluidity as well as marital and social stability
- A people who valued kinship, community, and the law of the Dreamtime as their greatest "possessions."
- Language whose richness of structure and vocabulary reveals new worlds of perception and comprehension.
- A people balanced between the Dreaming and the perceivable world, in harmony with all species and living each day as the First Day.

Voices of the First Day is illustrated throughout with more than 100 extraordinary photographs, bark paintings, line drawings and engravings. Many of these photographs are among the earliest ever made of the Aboriginal people and are shown here for the first time.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Customs and beliefs of the Australian Aborigines have long fascinated social scientists. Placing little value on material possessions or the concept of linear time, the Aborigines possess a complex social, religious, and ceremonial system focused on preserving and maintaining their ancestral lands. In the tradition of armchair anthropologists, Lawlor attempts to enter the Aboriginal mind, taking as sources early ethnological accounts, conversations with Aborigines reviving ancestral beliefs, and insights from his study of ancient religions. He believes the Aborigines possess an archaic consciousness vital to the survival of the planet, a view of human life held by ancient hunter-gatherer societies but lost with the emergence of advanced technology. Avoiding anthropological jargon, Lawlor presents a survey of Aboriginal belief and way of life, enhanced by illustrations of Aboriginal art and early photographs of Aboriginal ceremonies. Bibliographic sources, though not seen, appear to be extensive. Recommended for large collections.- Lucille Boone, San Jose P.L., Cal.Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.

The best of what the Aborigines have let outsiders know about their ecological and shamanic practices, origin myths and kinship rituals, social and spiritual practices. The illustrations are spectacular, more than 150 color and duotone illustrations include some of the earliest photographs of Aboriginal people, shown here for the first time.

great history

A great read!!! It reads like a good novel! This was the second time I read this book. I read it years ago and loaned it to someone and it was never returned. It tells of the First People and their wonderful culture before it was destroyed. Highly recommended!!!

A fantastic book that is both illuminating and inspiring, especially the DNA data that suggest an earlier origin of homo sapiens in Australia rather than Africa. And the cosmology of the aborigines is extremely interesting.

This book provides one way to look at another possibility of life as it could be or could have been from an entirely different cultural perspective.

Those are some strange questions that asked about this book. There really isn't a plot but myths and research. I's checked this out of the local library, liked it enough I wanted it for my book shelf.

It opens up a whole new world of education and learning in that this book presents, what for most people is an unknown world.. If you have an interest in early humanity - that is - pre Homo sapiens; this book will introduce you to an unknown and isolated world that existed and worked 'Down-Under' while Europe and Asia had Neanderthals and Cro-Magnon humanity also living here were people and the question is where did they really originate and when - for the enquiring mind this book is a stimulus.

A must read for those seeking a window into man and his vectors thru the universe

Robert Lawlor has an incredible ability to bridge between cultures. His descriptions of Aboriginal perceptual reality made exquisitely good sense to my rational mind and at the same time relaxed its rigidity and stretched it. Voices of the First Day had the effect of evoking what I felt like I already knew and always had known but had merely forgotten. For me it was the book of a decade, one of my half-dozen of most treasured volumes.

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