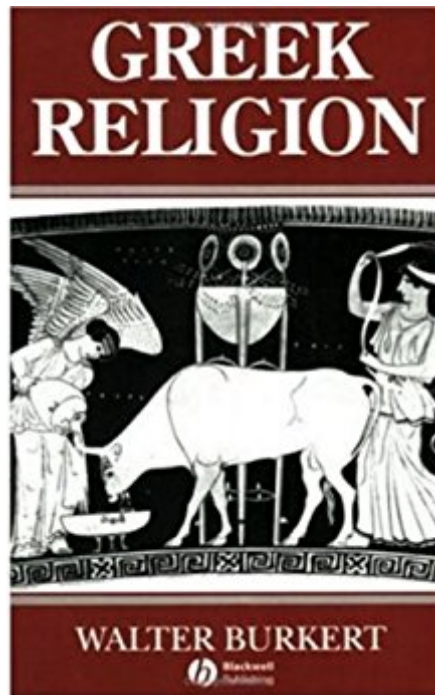


The book was found

Greek Religion: Archaic And Classical (Ancient World)



Synopsis

This is the first major synthesis of Greek religion to appear for a generation. A clearly structured and readable survey for classical scholars and students, it will also be generally welcomed as the best modern account of any polytheistic religious system. The text builds up an impressive and coherent picture of the current state of knowledge about the religion of the ancient Greeks.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Finally, a book that doesn't just go over the main Greek gods and goddesses, list a few of the festivals and some myths, and stop there. This book goes into great depth about what Greek religion was /really/ like, and the motivations, beliefs, and psychology behind it. Relying on archaeological evidence as well as other sources, this book gives an in depth look at ancient Greek religion, even confronting the issue of human sacrifice. Extensive notes in the back further flesh out this fantastic book, providing hundreds of other avenues and sources to explore. The author even provides an index of Greek words if you want to look a term up straight from the original Greek instead of wondering how it's been translated into English so you can look it up in the regular index.

The writing might be slightly dense in some areas, but this isn't a problem as the subject is so interesting and so much information is presented. A truly scholarly book.

This is a dense, dense book that assumes you know a decent amount about Ancient Greece. It goes very in-depth on all sorts of different aspects of it and also includes a lot of analysis and interpretation. When we think of "Greek religion" today we often picture some fantastic stories about a bunch of gods acting naughty. The author here works to describe it as much more than that, as a real concrete thing that defined social mores and united people in their day-to-day lives. I think he is largely successful. To understand the Greeks we must understand their religion, and I highly recommend this book to anyone trying to understand the Greeks. You can turn to virtually any random page and discover something new.

A great introduction to Greek Religion. This book was quite informative and is a great addition to my library.

With all the texts dealing with the ancient world, Burkert's is right up there among the 'must read' list. Burkert offers a definitive review of Greek Religion from the time of the Minoans right up until the early phases of Roman influence. I particularly found the section on the gods (ch. 3) compelling and a foundation for further reading. After reading this text cover to cover I feel I have attained a solid grounding in the basics of how the Greeks worshiped and how the Romans adopted their deities into the Roman pantheon.

In this book, Walter Burkert seeks to provide a comprehensive study in Greek religion during the Hellenic era. The work is monumental in its scope and content, and deserves a place in the library of anyone who needs to study such topics. In particular, I would recommend this text to people looking at comparative religion involving ancient Greece. There are a few points which are not mentioned in other reviews that I think are helpful to note. The first is that both the bibliography and the notes are extremely detailed (the notes section accounts for around 180 pages). This provides a serious student additional resources for studying any aspect covered in this book. The second is that the level of detail in areas such as festivals, animal sacrifice, groupings of gods, etc. is extremely high. This level of work allows a real reconstruction of the Greek worldview in relation to religious practice to be developed. All in all, an excellent work. Highly recommended.

Got this as a reference for a book I'm writing. In depth, well-written, excellent index. Matches related volumes then goes deeper. When an issue is unclear from the historical or archaeological record, the author will tell you what he thinks makes sense and why. I find his logic quite sound.

Walter Burkert does an excellent, well-researched job of presenting ancient Greek religion as it really was, drawing heavily on archaeological findings, classical texts and literature. He is skeptical and rational and does not veer off into flakey New Age Pagan tangents. There is a plethora of rich information here. A must-have for the serious Greek culture student.

Basically, this book attempt to present Greek religion as it (supposedly) transits from a mythological explanation of the world, with the gods as concrete personifications of abstract notions, towards a rational religion where abstract attributes and social morals and philosophical ethics supersede mythology. Such an approach does little to explain the enormous resilience shown by Greek mythology until today, yet the account is enormously informative and gives much food for alternative thinking on the subject. Recommended as a handbook for the advanced student on the subject.

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