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The Future of Ritual **The Future of Ritual** **The Future of Ritual** **The Future of Ritual** **The Ritual of Writing** *A Book of Pagan Rituals* **The Necromantic Ritual Book** **Daily Rituals** Hello, Goodbye *The Book of Egyptian Ritual* Reading, Writing, and Ritualizing **Interaction Ritual** Of Gods and Books **The Rituals Religion, Ritual and Ritualistic Objects** **The Craft of Ritual Studies** **Leviticus** Rituals **Myth and Ritual** *The Book of Blessings and Rituals* **Traditional Ritual as Christian Worship** **Saga Remains of Ritual** **Draconian Ritual Book** **The Power of Ritual** The Palgrave Handbook of Anthropological Ritual Studies **Text and Ritual in the Pentateuch** *The Big Book of Pagan Prayer and Ritual* *Ritual and Politics: Writing the History of a Dynastic Conflict in Medieval Poland* **Ritual** *Lakota Belief and Ritual* **Ritual Texts for the Afterlife** **Ritual in Deuteronomy** *Dogma and Ritual of High Magic. Book I* **Understanding Religious Ritual** **A Pagan Ritual Prayer Book** **Art, Myth, and Ritual** **Your Hidden Riches** **Ritual Art of India** *The Ritual Animal*

An occasional volume collecting the most innovative articles published each year in the area of myth and ritual studies by the most outstanding thinkers in the field. The wisdom of ancient storytellers has been handed down to us by a long succession of inspired men and women in the form of great mythic narratives full of guidance and encouragement. Some of today's finest writers and scholars have turned their attention to unravelling the secrets of these timeless tales to explain their value in contemporary life. This sourcebook of cutting-edge writing on myth and ritual represents the most advanced thinking in this rapidly-changing field. More than 150 inspired—and inspiring—novelists, poets, playwrights, painters, philosophers, scientists, and mathematicians on how they subtly maneuver the many (self-inflicted) obstacles and (self-imposed) daily rituals to get done the work they love to do. Franz Kafka, frustrated with his living

quarters and day job, wrote in a letter to Felice Bauer in 1912, "time is short, my strength is limited, the office is a horror, the apartment is noisy, and if a pleasant, straightforward life is not possible then one must try to wriggle through by subtle maneuvers." Kafka is one of 161 minds who describe their daily rituals to get their work done, whether by waking early or staying up late; whether by self-medicating with doughnuts or bathing, drinking vast quantities of coffee, or taking long daily walks. Thomas Wolfe wrote standing up in the kitchen, the top of the refrigerator as his desk, dreamily fondling his "male configurations".... Jean-Paul Sartre chewed on Corydrane tablets (a mix of amphetamine and aspirin), ingesting ten times the recommended dose each day ... Descartes liked to linger in bed, his mind wandering in sleep through woods, gardens, and enchanted palaces where he experienced "every pleasure imaginable." Here are: Anthony Trollope, who demanded of himself that each morning he write three thousand words (250 words every fifteen minutes for three hours) before going off to his job at the postal service, which he kept for thirty-three years during the writing of more than two dozen books ... Karl Marx ... Woody Allen ... Agatha Christie ... George Balanchine, who did most of his work while ironing ... Leo Tolstoy ... Charles Dickens ... Pablo Picasso ... George Gershwin, who, said his brother Ira, worked for twelve hours a day from late morning to midnight, composing at the piano in pajamas, bathrobe, and slippers.... Here also are the daily rituals of Charles Darwin, Andy Warhol, John Updike, Twyla Tharp, Benjamin Franklin, William Faulkner, Jane Austen, Anne Rice, and Igor Stravinsky (he was never able to compose unless he was sure no one could hear him and, when blocked, stood on his head to "clear the brain"). Drawing on the dynastic conflict in medieval Poland this book shows how important it is for comprehension of medieval political culture to consider the complex functions of ritual—as a tool shaping political relations both in the realm of practical politics, and on the level of narrative material by which those relations were described. "It provides a fundamental perspective for viewing the nature and structure of ancient Chinese civilization as having a strong political orientation."-- Introduction. This collection of studies on ritual and ritualizing leads the reader through religious This is a volume about the life and power of ritual objects in their religious ritual settings. In this Special Issue, we see a wide range of contributions on material culture and ritual practices across religions. By focusing on the dynamic interrelations between objects, ritual, and belief, it explores how religion happens through symbolic materiality. The ritual objects presented in this volume include: masks worn in the

Dogon dance; antique ecclesiastical silver objects carried around in festive processions and shown in shrines in the southern Andes; funerary photographs and films functioning as mnemonic objects for grieving children; a dented rock surface perceived to be the god's footprint in the archaic place of pilgrimage, Gaya (India); a recovered manual of rituals (from Xiapu county) for Mani, the founder of Manichaeism, juxtaposed to a Manichaeian painting from southern China; sacred stories and related sacred stones in the Alor–Pantar archipelago, Indonesia; lotus symbolism, indicating immortalizing plants in the mythic traditions of Egypt, the Levant, and Mesopotamia; lavishly illustrated variations of portrayals of Ravana, a Sinhalese god-king-demon; figurines made of cow dung sculptured by rural women in Rajasthan (India); and mythical artifacts called 'Apples of Eden' in a well-known interactive game series. Embrace the power of ritual with simple yet "powerful" (Kim Chestney, author of *Radical Intuition* and founder of IntuitionLab) practices that slow us down to honor and mark the real moments in our lives—from the loss of a parent to the birth of a child, from grieving a pet to celebrating coming out of the closet. Life has many transitions: A baby is born. A child leaves for college. A marriage. A divorce. A death. We all experience moments of profound change, but what do we do to mark those moments? How do we become mindful of these events and imbue them with purpose and meaning? Could our lives be better, richer, and more resilient if we had more practical resources and rituals to honor, sanctify, and make sense of these transitions? Day Schildkret, artist and author behind the international Morning Altars movement, believes that what we need is ritual. Rituals are the rhythms and traditions that give us a sense of stability in the face of uncertainty by reminding us that there's always something we can do, say or make that conjures awe, contentment, and gratitude. They give us a way to acknowledge through our actions that, as life changes, we too must change. Offering ways to make these moments special and sacred, *Hello, Goodbye* teaches you to not fear uncertainty, but instead participate fully and creatively in life's inevitable changes, including: -Birth of a child - Moving and new homes -Divorce -Empty nesting -Retirement -Death anniversary -Health crises Containing over 75 hands-on ritual instructions, informed by hundreds of interviews, and filled with beautiful illustrations, inspirational story-telling, potent questions, and experienced wisdom, *Hello, Goodbye* is "certain to become a forever reference and treasured, faithful companion" (Kimberly Ann Johnson, author of *Call of the Wild* and *The Fourth Trimester*) for life's many milestones, perfect for those looking to find

meaning in change and embrace the transformative thresholds of our lives. Hello, Goodbye is a "direct and moving" (Rabbi Jill Jammer, PhD, author of The Jewish Book of Days: A Companion for All Seasons) guide we all need to navigate life's uncertainties with grace, meaning, and intention, perfect for fans of Krista Tippett, Priya Parker, and Elena Brower. "A comprehensive collection of prayers and rituals for contemporary pagans, from a variety of traditions; includes a list of offerings and a glossary of deities"-- Behind the veil of all the hieratic and mystical allegories of ancient doctrines, behind the darkness and strange ordeals of all initiations, under the seal of all sacred writings, in the ruins of Nineveh or Thebes, on the crumbling stones of old temples and on the blackened visage of the Assyrian or Egyptian sphinx, in the monstrous or marvellous paintings which interpret to the faithful of India the inspired pages of the Vedas, in the cryptic emblems of our old books on alchemy, in the ceremonies practised at reception by all secret societies, there are found indications of a doctrine which is everywhere the same and everywhere carefully concealed. Occult philosophy seems to have been the nurse or god-mother of all intellectual forces, the key of all divine obscurities and the absolute queen of society in those ages - when it was reserved exclusively for the education of priests and of kings. It reigned in Persia with the Magi, who perished in the end, as perish all masters of the world, because they abused their power; it endowed India with the most wonderful traditions and with an incredible wealth of poesy, grace and terror in its emblems; it civilized Greece to the music of the lyre of Orpheus; it concealed the principles of all sciences, all progress of the human mind, in the daring calculations of Pythagoras; fable abounded in its miracles, and history, attempting to estimate this unknown power, became confused with fable; it undermined or consolidated empires by its oracles, caused tyrants to tremble on their thrones and governed all minds, either by curiosity or by fear. Copying rituals has allowed cultural groups to proliferate over time. Rare, traumatic rituals produce strong cohesion in small relational groups, whereas daily/weekly rituals produce cohesion in expandable communities. This study presents a theory of how these two ritual modes have influenced history over thousands of years. Successful working of any of these devotions will enable you to share consciousness with the Angel of Death as well as becoming 'one' with your own death. India has been the homeland of diverse manuscript traditions that do not cease to impress scholars for their imposing size and complexity. Nevertheless, many topics concerning the study of Indian manuscript cultures still remain to receive systematic examination. Of Gods

and Books pays attention to one of these topics - the use of manuscripts as ritualistic tools. Literary sources deal quite extensively with rituals principally focused on manuscripts, whose worship, donation and preservation are duly prescribed. Around these activities, a specific category of ritual gift is created, which finds attestations in pre-tantric, as well as in smṛta and tantric, literature, and whose practice is also variously reflected in epigraphical documents. De Simini offers a first systematic study of the textual evidence on the topic of the worship and donation of knowledge. She gives account of possible implications for the relationships between religion and power. The book is indispensable for a deeper understanding of the cultural aspects of manuscript transmission in medieval India, and beyond. In *The Future of Ritual*, Richard Schechner explores the nature of ritualised behaviour and its relationship to performance and politics. A brilliant and uncontainable examination of cultural expression and communal action, *The Future of Ritual* asks pertinent questions about art, theatre and the changing meaning of 'culture' in today's intercultural world. An exciting new work by the author of *Performance Theory*. "The real value of *Lakota Belief and Ritual* is that it provides raw narratives without any pretension of synthesis or analysis, as well as insightful biographical information on the man who contributed more than any other individual to our understanding of early Oglala ritual and belief." *Plains Anthropologist*"In the writing of Indian history, historians and other scholars seldom have the opportunity to look at the past through 'native eyes' or to immerse themselves in documents created by Indians. For the Oglala and some of the other divisions of the Lakota, the Walker materials provide this kind of experience in fascinating and rich detail during an important transition period in their history." *Minnesota History*"This collection of documents is especially remarkable because it preserves individual variations of traditional wisdom from a whole generation of highly developed wicasa wakan (holy men). . . . *Lakota Belief and Ritual* is a wasicun (container of power) that can make traditional Lakota wisdom assume new life." *American Indian Quarterly*"A work of prime importance. . . . its publication represents a major addition to our knowledge of the Lakotas' way of life" *Journal of American Folklore*Raymond J. DeMallie, director of the American Indian Studies Research Institute and a professor of anthropology at Indiana University, is the editor of *James R. Walker's Lakota Society* (1982) and of *The Sixth Grandfather: Black Elk's Teachings Given to John G. Neihardt* (1984, a Bison Book), both published by the University of Nebraska Press. Elaine A.

Jahner, a professor of English at Dartmouth College, has edited Walker's *Lakota Myth* (1983), also a Bison Book. A unique workbook detailing ancient Egyptian rituals from experts in the field. Honor life's milestones and bring sacredness into everyday life. *The Book of Blessings and Rituals* shows you how to create ceremony and meaning around the most important events in your life. Drawing from different world traditions, leading metaphysical teacher Athena Perrakis presents blessings to cover a wide array of occasions and intentions, including holidays and sacred days, love, healing, protection, prosperity and success, lunar blessings and rituals, and manifestation. Organized by month, you'll be able to celebrate the sacred all year long. Create medicine bundles and altars to support blessings and ceremonies. Know which crystals to use to amplify rituals and clear energy. Learn how to smudge for clearing and protection. Use the power of invocations to assist in strengthening goals and intentions. Deepen your experience of the sacred, find inspiration, and heal with this non-denominational guide to blessings and rituals. Using writing to deepen your connection with the Universe. *The Ritual of Writing* explores the connection between writing and ritual in Pagan spirituality. Focusing upon practical tasks, it begins by helping readers create a piece of writing connected to the Wheel of the Year and honouring a seasonal festival, taking them step by step through the process. There is a key element of working with the spirit of place, wherever the reader is in the world. The book also considers other ways in which writing can inform spiritual practice, discussing elements such as poetry, non-fiction and ritual work. Practical throughout, with developmental tasks at each stage, *The Ritual of Writing* helps the reader build skill and confidence and to find their own writing voice. 'What a fantastic idea to connect writing with the magic of place, seasonal celebration, and the art of ritual. As I read through *The Ritual of Writing*, I found my desire to write reignited.' Philip Carr-Gomm, *OBOD In The Future of Ritual*, Richard Schechner explores the nature of ritualised behaviour and its relationship to performance and politics. A brilliant and uncontainable examination of cultural expression and communal action, *The Future of Ritual* asks pertinent questions about art, theatre and the changing meaning of 'culture' in today's intercultural world. An exciting new work by the author of *Performance Theory*. Casper ter Kuile, a Harvard Divinity School fellow and cohost of the popular *Harry Potter and the Sacred Text* podcast, explores how we can nourish our souls by transforming common, everyday practices—yoga, reading, walking the dog—into sacred rituals that can heal our crisis of social isolation and

struggle to find purpose—a message we need more than ever for our spiritual and emotional well-being in the age of COVID-19. “After half a decade of research and hundreds of conversations with people around the country, I am convinced we are in the midst of a paradigm shift. That what used to hold us in community no longer works, and that the spiritual offerings of yesteryear no longer help us thrive.”—Casper ter Kuile

What do Soul Cycle, gratitude journals, and tech breaks have in common? For ter Kuile they offer rituals that create the foundation for our modern spiritual lives. We are in crisis today. Our modern technological society has left too many of us—no matter our ages—feeling isolated and bereft of purpose. Previous frameworks for building community and finding meaning no longer support us. Yet ter Kuile reveals a hopeful new message: we might not be religious, but that doesn’t mean we are any less spiritual. Instead, we are in the midst of a paradigm shift in which we seek belonging and meaning in secular practices. Today, we find connection in: CrossFit and SoulCycle, which offer a sense of belonging rooted in accountability and support much like church groups Harry Potter and other beloved books that offer universal lessons Gratitude journals, which have replaced traditional prayer Tech breaks, which provide mindful moments of calm

In *The Power of Ritual*, ter Kuile invites us to deepen these ordinary practices as intentional rituals that nurture connection and wellbeing. With wisdom and endearing wit, ter Kuile’s call for ritual is ultimately a call to heal our loss of connection to ourselves, to others, and to our spiritual identities. *The Power of Ritual* reminds us that what we already do every day matters—and has the potential to become a powerful experience of reflection, sanctuary, and meaning. From the Fall Equinox and Beltane to celebrations of peace and justice, *A Pagan Ritual Prayer Book* offers more than 700 prayers for the rituals of life from the sacred to the mundane. A companion to the popular *A Book of Pagan Prayer*, this handbook of rituals and prayers is organized thematically, making it convenient to use if one is seeking prayers for specific occasions, seasons, times of day, meals, or milestones. Included is an extensive section on the requisites of ritual and how to use ritual and prayer to create lasting change in your life and in the world. *A Pagan Ritual Prayer Book* is suitable for all pagans: Druids, Wiccans, solitaries, Greek & Norse Reconstructionists, Mystery Cult Reconstructionists, and more, offering perfect petitions or invocations to invoke, embrace, and honor the major events that make up our lives. “Not then, men and their moments. Rather, moment and their men,” writes Erving Goffman in the introduction to his groundbreaking 1967 *Interaction Ritual*, a study of face-to-face

interaction in natural settings, that class of events which occurs during co-presence and by virtue of co-presence. The ultimate behavioral materials are the glances, gestures, positionings, and verbal statements that people continuously feed into situations, whether intended or not. A sociology of occasions is here advocated. Social organization is the central theme, but what is organized is the co-mingling of persons and the temporary interactional enterprises that can arise therefrom. A normatively stabilized structure is at issue, a "social gathering," but this is a shifting entity, necessarily evanescent, created by arrivals and killed by departures. The major section of the book is the essay "Where the Action Is," drawing on Goffman's last major ethnographic project observation of Nevada casinos. Tom Burns says of Goffman's work "The eleven books form a singularly compact body of writing. All his published work was devoted to topics and themes which were closely connected, and the methodology, angles of approach and of course style of writing remained characteristically his own throughout. Interaction Ritual in particular is an interesting account of daily social interaction viewed with a new perspective for the logic of our behavior in such ordinary circumstances as entering a crowded elevator or bus." In his new introduction, Joel Best considers Goffman's work in toto and places Interaction Ritual in that total context as one of Goffman's pivotal works: "His subject matter was unique. In sharp contrast to the natural tendency of many scholars to tackle big, important topics, Goffman was a minimalist, working on a small scale, and concentrating on the most mundane, ordinary social contacts, on everyday life." "Draconian Ritual Book" will introduce you into foundations and practical methods of Draconian magic as a path of self-initiation. With this book you will learn how to start your practice on the Path of the Dragon, establish contact with gods and spirits that will assist you in this work, build your personal temple, prepare tools for your rituals, and design your own workings and exercises. Each practice is provided with background information, explaining the purpose and possible ways in which it may affect your initiatory process. You will find here invocations and evocations, meditations and trances, exercises for cleansing, grounding, and raising the inner Serpent Force. There are instructions that will help you in your astral travels and dream magic, teach you how to work with seals and sigils, enhance your magical senses, and show you how to use gates and doorways to the Other Side. Practices such as blood sacrifice and sex magic are discussed in a practical way as well. You will read here about the Draconian Tradition, as well as the Left Hand Path in general, learning what it means to be a

Draconian Initiate. This book will also guide you through the process of Kundalini awakening, discussing symptoms and providing exercises that will help you in your individual practice. Finally, you will find here a ritual of self-initiation into the Draconian current. If you are a beginner to Draconian magic, this book will teach you where to start and help you understand the basics of the initiatory process, while more advanced practitioners will find here practical instructions and information on how to develop and expand their work on the Path of the Dragon. The book includes the Introduction and Lexicon by Bill Duvendack. Amsterdam of the 50s, 60s and 70s is viewed from the perspective of Inni Wintrop, a man who leads a capricious life, floating comfortably on open possibilities. This collection of rituals, practices, and exercises has been drawn from ancient sources, some have been preserved and some rituals have been updated by scholars from various pagan groups. This deluxe one-volume edition is specially designed to be read by candlelight. Readership: Students and scholars of ritual studies, religious studies, anthropology

From the New York Times bestselling authors of *The Passion Test* comes a book that will teach readers to harness the power of ritual to unlock their unique gifts and create a life of love, wealth, and happiness. Rituals are the common feature of every ancient culture on Earth. Yet, modern society has lost touch with the power and value of ritual to create a rhythm for daily life, balance, and a connection with others. In the process, many of us have lost touch with ourselves. *Your Hidden Riches* is a call to reignite the power of personal and community rituals--to sustain us in the midst of an ever-increasing onslaught of information and expectations, and to sustain our world by reawakening the awareness of our interconnection with all life. In the book you will learn to engage with:

- o Rituals for Magical Relationships
- o Rituals for Diet, Health, and Beauty
- o Creating Wealth Through Ritual
- o Rituals for the Seasons of Life
- o Rituals for a Closer Family Circle

Embracing ritual will allow you to finally live the life of health, wisdom, and love that you deserve. *Ritual in Deuteronomy* explores the symbolic world of Deuteronomy's ritual covenant and curses through a lens of religious studies and anthropology, drawing on previously unexamined Mesopotamian material. This book focuses on the ritual material in Deuteronomy including commands regarding sacrifice, prayer objects, and especially the dramatic ritual enactment of the covenant including curses. The book's most unique feature is an entirely new comparative study of Deut 27–30 with two ritual texts from Mesopotamia. No studies to date have undertaken a comparison of Deut 27–30 with ancient Near Eastern ritual texts outside of the treaty

oath tradition. This fresh comparison illuminates how the ritual life of ancient Israel shaped the literary form of Deuteronomy and concludes that the performance of oaths was a social strategy, addressing contemporary anxieties and reinforcing systems of cultural power. This book offers a fascinating comparative study which will be of interest to undergraduate and graduate students in biblical studies, classical Hebrew, theology, and ancient Near Eastern studies. The book's more technical aspects will also appeal to scholars of the Pentateuch, Deuteronomy, Biblical Law, Ancient Near Eastern History, Mesopotamian Studies, and Classics. Although numerous studies of religious rituals have been conducted by religious studies scholars, anthropologists, sociologists, and psychologists, it is rare to find a work that brings scholars from different disciplines together to discuss the similarities and differences in their research. This book represents contributions by leading scholars from several disciplines that show the diversity of approaches to religious rituals, while also providing cross-disciplinary perspectives on this topic. The goals of the chapters are to consider where the field currently stands in understanding religious rituals and what novel ideas can improve our knowledge about these practices; and furnish innovative applications of theory by discussing particular examples which are drawn from the authors' fieldwork. The chapters cover Christian, Buddhist, Jewish, and Islamic rituals, thus providing a view of how ritual practices vary across the globe, but also how they share some important characteristics. Fascinating texts written on small gold tablets that were deposited in graves provide a unique source of information about what some Greeks and Romans believed regarding the fate that awaited them after death, and how they could influence it. These texts, dating from the late fifth century BCE to the second century CE, have been part of the scholarly debate on ancient afterlife beliefs since the end of the nineteenth century. Recent finds and analysis of the texts have reshaped our understanding of their purpose and of the perceived afterlife. The tablets belonged to those who had been initiated into the mysteries of Dionysus Bacchius and relied heavily upon myths narrated in poems ascribed to the mythical singer Orpheus. After providing the Greek text and a translation of all the available tablets, the authors analyze their role in the mysteries of Dionysus, and present an outline of the myths concerning the origins of humanity and of the sacred texts that the Greeks ascribed to Orpheus. Related ancient texts are also appended in English translations. Providing the first book-length edition and discussion of these enigmatic texts in English, and their first English translation, this book is essential to

the study of ancient Greek religion. *Remains of Ritual*, Steven M. Friedson's second book on musical experience in African ritual, focuses on the Brekete/Gorovodu religion of the Ewe people. Friedson presents a multifaceted understanding of religious practice through a historical and ethnographic study of one of the dominant ritual sites on the southern coast of Ghana: a medicine shrine whose origins lie in the northern region of the country. Each chapter of this fascinating book considers a different aspect of ritual life, demonstrating throughout that none of them can be conceived of separately from their musicality—in the Brekete world, music functions as ritual and ritual as music. Dance and possession, chanted calls to prayer, animal sacrifice, the sounds and movements of wake keeping, the play of the drums all come under Friedson's careful scrutiny, as does his own position and experience within this ritual-dominated society. Building upon his life-long work on the *Book of Leviticus*, Milgrom makes this book accessible to all readers. He demonstrates the logic of Israel's sacrificial system, the ethical dimensions of ancient worship, and the priestly forms of ritual. The first five books of the Hebrew Bible contain a significant number of texts describing ritual practices. Yet it is often unclear how these sources would have been understood or used by ancient audiences in the actual performance of cult. This volume explores the processes of ritual textualization (the creation of a written version of a ritual) in ancient Israel by probing the main conceptual and methodological issues that inform the study of this topic in the Pentateuch. This systematic and comparative study of text and ritual in the first five books of the Hebrew Bible maps the main areas of consensus and disagreement among scholars engaged in articulating new models for understanding the relationship between text and ritual and explores the importance of comparative evidence for the study of pentateuchal rituals. Topics include ritual textualization in ancient Anatolia, Egypt, Greece, and Mesopotamia; the importance of archaeology and materiality for the study of text and ritual in ancient Israel; the relationship between ritual textualization and standardization in the Pentateuch; the reception of pentateuchal ritual texts in Second Temple writings and rabbinic literature; and the relationship between text and ritual in the Dead Sea Scrolls. In addition to the editors, the contributors to this volume include Dorothea Erbele-Küster, Daniel K. Falk, Yitzhaq Feder, Christian Frevel, William K. Gilders, Dominique Jaillard, Giuseppina Lenzo, Lionel Marti, Patrick Michel, Rüdiger Schmitt, Jeremy D. Smoak, and James W. Watts. This stirring collection presents spiritual rituals from around the world and offers guidance on bringing the powerful practices into modern

life. Filled with fascinating details on the history and meaning behind a wide range of sacred rituals for love, awareness, joy, and so much more, this timeless handbook guides readers through more than 40 empowering practices—including a candlelight ritual for renewal, a soothing ritual for unwinding, and a tea ceremony for fostering connection and gratitude. With evocative watercolors throughout, this book is a lovely invitation to nourish the mind, body, and soul through enduring rituals for well-being.

A necessary task of missionaries in recent decades has been to help local Christians "inculturate" or "contextualize" their faith, although the criteria for doing so often came from outside the context in which new believers developed their understanding of Christianity. Highlighting the voices of non-Western scholars, this work recognizes the importance of ritual and ceremony in the life of communities that seek to worship God in ways that reflect culturally appropriate responses to Scripture. The contributors -- some of missiology's leading lights -- discuss rituals, beliefs, and practices of diverse peoples, supporting the conclusion that orthodox Christianity is hybrid Christianity. Designed for both academic and lay audiences, this book identifies the characteristics of ritual and, via multiple examples, details how ritual works on the human body and brain to produce its often profound effects. These include enhancing courage, effecting healing, and generating group cohesion by enacting cultural—or individual—beliefs and values. It also shows what happens when ritual fails.

Looks at Indian sculpture, paintings, carvings, and shrines, describes their connection with religious rites, rituals, and festivals, and discusses nature worship, popular cults, and fertility rites

A brilliant examination of cultural expression and communal action, *The Future of Ritual* asks pertinent questions about art, theatre and the changing meaning of 'culture' in today's intercultural world.

Ritual Studies have achieved prominence since the 1980s, when interest in ritual as an object of inquiry was established, bridging over a number of humanities and social science disciplines. Both connected with religious studies and independent of it; overlapping with social and cultural anthropology, but also with history; related to science and health practices and ranging across the life course to education, Ritual Studies has come to encompass studies of change and dynamism in social life. Rituals are determinate in form, but not static. They enunciate distinctive social values within specific contexts that frame them; and they relate to the wider concerns and issues of their practitioners. Due to this broad and wide-ranging scope, it is often difficult to find a single resource on Ritual Studies, and even more so to find one which moves beyond the beginnings of

anthropological theorizing to grapple with the present-day contexts of ritual. Bringing together recent ethnographies of ritual practice and ritualization from across the globe, this Handbook provides case study of ritual in the light of Emotion and Cognition, Identity, Religious Power, Performance and Literature, Ecology and Ecological Disaster, Media, and other topics. While each chapter provides a deep ethnography of a specific society, ritual, or ritualized practice, each also engages with current theoretical and substantive approaches to the relevant topic. The scholars collected here provide original synoptic and indicative pieces as guideposts and pathways through the complex, varied and cross-disciplinary, and vast landscape of scholarship that constitutes Ritual Studies today and points to developments in the future. In *The Future of Ritual*, Richard Schechner explores the nature of ritualised behaviour and its relationship to performance and politics. A brilliant and uncontainable examination of cultural expression and communal action, *The Future of Ritual* asks pertinent questions about art, theatre and the changing meaning of 'culture' in today's intercultural world. An exciting new work by the author of *Performance Theory*.

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