



Mystery Religions in the Ancient World

By Joscelyn Godwin

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A lively, illustrated overview of the variety of mystery religions that flourished at the dawn of the Christian era. In clear, enlightened text and striking images, *Mystery Religions* holds up a "distant mirror" to our own times, showing that the quest for spiritual illumination from Eastern religions, and emphasis on spiritual development and experience, and a concern for hidden knowledge are deeply rooted in Western culture. *Mystery Religions* brings the myths, the magic, their rites and the wisdom of a bygone age to compelling life, making them comprehensible to modern readers.... Here is a compelling account of the forms mystery religions took, from the cults of Mithras, Dionysus, and Orpheus to those of the Goddess, esoteric Christianity and Judaism, and Gnosticism. Godwin offers a rich and varied selection of illustrations; the symbolism of paintings, statues, reliefs, and other visual imagery provides a wealth of additional information about these religions. --- excerpts from book's back cover

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Mystery Religions in the Ancient World By Joscelyn Godwin Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1832850 in Books
- Published on: 1982-03
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Binding: Paperback
- 176 pages

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