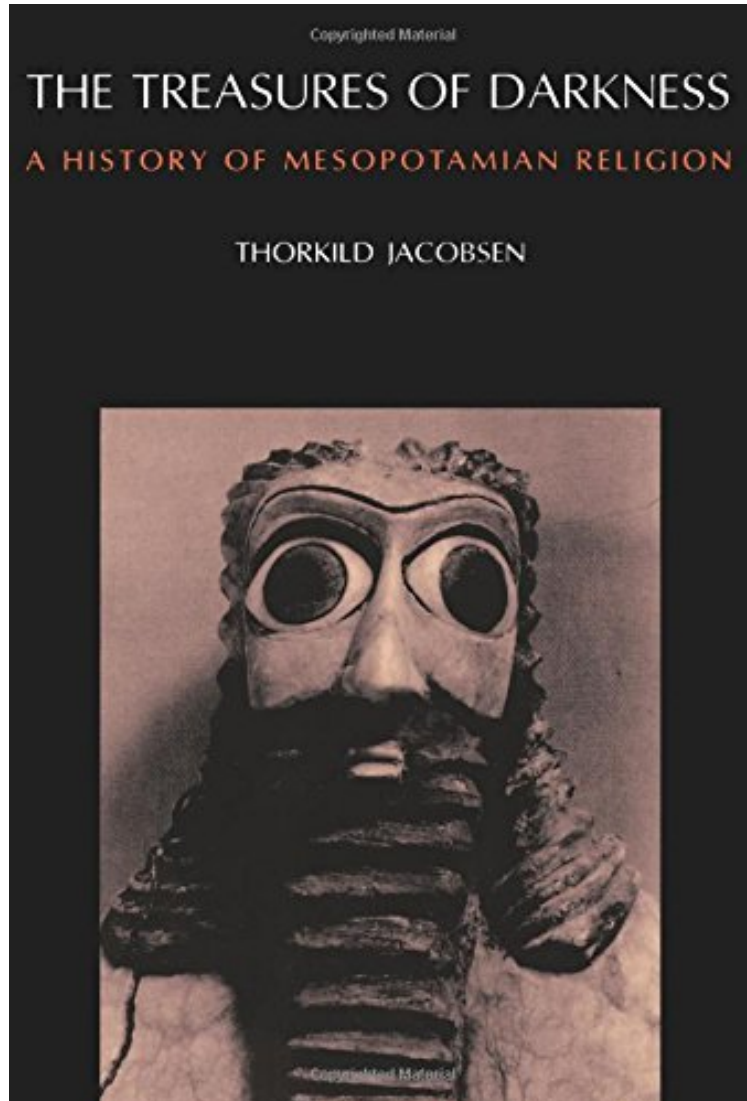


(Get free) The Treasures of Darkness: A History of Mesopotamian Religion

The Treasures of Darkness: A History of Mesopotamian Religion

Thorkild Jacobsen

*ebooks | Download PDF | *ePub | DOC | audiobook*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#521506 in Books imusti 1978-09-10Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .72 x 6.10l, 1.01 #File Name: 0300022913273 pagesYale University Press | File size: 28.Mb

Thorkild Jacobsen : The Treasures of Darkness: A History of Mesopotamian Religion before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Treasures of Darkness: A History of Mesopotamian Religion:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy VICTOR DIAZok0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Entering the 4000-year old minds is not easy, this is one noble attempt at itBy Emre SevincUnlike Kramer's "The Sumerians: Their History, Culture, and Character", this book is a slow burner and a more difficult read, demanding more patience at least in the first half of the book. No matter how fascinating the history of ancient Sumer

is, and no matter how much Jacobsen tried to compose this book for the non-specialist, we're still faced with a demanding text dedicated to only a subtopic of Sumer from one of the top-notch scholars in the field. After the warning above, I have to say that I found the last few chapters much more motivating and exciting. Starting from the "Rise of Personal Religion", continuing with "Enma Elish", and reaching its peak with the most famous Gilgamesh epic, Jacobsen's analysis is a tour de force of connecting today's understanding with the world view of 4000 years ago, as well as their connections to other cultures such as ancient Greek literature, Judaism, and Christianity. It is not easy to take such ancient material, values and ideas barely visible from the traces on clay tablets, and bring them to life in such a lively manner, providing the reader with enough context to support the mind opening analyses. The author succeeded in this, and I can recommend this book after Kramer's book, if only for its second part. 105 of 105 people found the following review helpful. Splendor in the Dark By Arch Llewellyn Jacobsen is a giant in his field, but as an introduction to the subject "Treasures of Darkness" can be heavy going. Most helpful to me was the way that he tackles the myths chronologically, starting the book with the Dumuzi cults recored in the earliest Sumerian sources and ending with the stories of Marduk and Gilgamesh from later records. In between he covers topics from the rise of kingship to the growth of personal religion in a way that makes the beliefs come alive as an evolving response to the world rather than an inert collection of tablets. Jacobsen has a tendency to present speculation as fact--you wouldn't guess from reading this alone that many of his points are disputed--and the translations are a little stilted, at least to my ears. But his book goes a long way to turning the fragmentary evidence into a coherent philosophy of nature, humanity and the gods. Mesopotamian religion is often described as pessimistic; Jacobsen restores some of the awe, love and splendor that might have made it a convincing world view for thousands of people we'll never otherwise know.

The Treasures of Darkness is the culmination of a lifetimes work, an attempt to summarize and recreate the spiritual life of Ancient Mesopotamia. Jacobsen has succeeded brilliantly. . . . His vast experience shows through every page of this unique book, through the vivid, new translations resulting from years of careful research. Everyone interested in early Mesopotamia, whether specialist, student, or complete layman, should read this book. . . . It is, quite simply, authoritative, based on a vast experience of the ancient Mesopotamian mind, and very well written in the bargain. Brian M. Fagan, History Professor Jacobsen is an authority on Sumerian life and society, but he is above all a philologist of rare sensibility. The Treasures of Darkness is almost entirely devoted to textual evidence, the more gritty sources of archaeological knowledge being seldom mentioned. He introduces many new translations which are much finer than previous versions. . . . Simply to read this poetry and the authors sympathetic commentary is a pleasure and a revelation. Professor Jacobsen accepts the premise that all religion springs from mans experience of a power not of this world, a mysterious Wholly Other. This numinous power cannot be described in terms of worldly experience but only in allusive metaphors that serve as a means of communication in religious teaching and thought. . . . As a literary work combining sensibility, imagination and scholarship, this book is near perfection. Jacquetta Hawkes, The London Sunday Times A brilliant presentation of Mesopotamian religion from the inside, backed at every point by meticulous scholarship and persistent adherence to original texts. It will undoubtedly remain for a long time a classic in its field. Religious Studies Review A fascinating book. The general reader cannot fail to admire the translated passages of Sumerian poetry with which it abounds, especially those illustrating the Dumuzi-Inanna cycle of courtship, wedding and lament for the gods untimely death. Many of these (though not all) are new even to the specialist and will repay close study. B.O.R. Gurney, Times Literary Supplement

"The Treasures of Darkness is a fascinating book. The general reader cannot fail to admire the translated passages of Sumerian poetry with which it abounds, especially those illustrating the Dumuzi-Inanna cycle of courtship, wedding and lament for the god's untimely death. Many of these (though not all) are new even to the specialist and will repay close study. There are many details showing remarkable insight which cannot be mentioned in a short review." B.O.R. Gurney, Times Literary Supplement