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Mind in the Cave *The mind in the cave* Transformations in Consciousness **Ayla und der Clan des Bären** *Shadows in the Cave* *The Cave Painters* **Inside the Neolithic Mind** Consciousness Medicine **Machine Dreaming and Consciousness** *Yogic View of Consciousness (Epub)* *How Consciousness Creates Reality* Image-Makers The Science of Consciousness **Inside the Neolithic Mind** Entheogens, Myth, and Human Consciousness *Der Krake, das Meer und die tiefen Ursprünge des Bewusstseins* **How Consciousness Commands Matter** **Consciousness** *The Book of Consciousness* *In the Theater of Consciousness* Schamanen Consciousness from a Broad Perspective *The Word in the Cave* **Der Geschmack von Laub und Erde** *Consciousness* **A Cognitive Theory of Consciousness** Mortal Grounding **Technology and the Soul** *My Spiritual Journey into Christ* *Consciousness Splendour in the Cave* The Evolution of Consciousness Foundations of Cultural Diplomacy **Consciousness, Emotional Self-Regulation and the Brain** **Consciousness and the Cultural Invention of Language** Qianyuan Sword **The Walls of Plato's Cave** **Otherworlds** Healing the Traumatized Self: Consciousness, Neuroscience, Treatment (Norton Series on Interpersonal Neurobiology) *Strangers to Ourselves* **Sacred Darkness**

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Patanjali's Yoga Sutras are mysterious and cryptic and exert hypnotic fascination on all whose minds they touch. In The Yogic View of Consciousness, Don DeGracia unfolds the theory of consciousness enshrined in the obtuse aphorisms of the Yoga Sutras. Yoga describes the mind as a multi-leveled system closed in on itself yet illuminated from within its innermost depth by a divine spark that gives life and consciousness to every individual. Drawing on ideas Eastern and Western,

ancient and modern, from Abhinavagupta to Leibniz, Mahaprabhu to George Berkeley, IK Taimni to Hermann Weyl, DeGracia weaves an intellectual tapestry harmonizing science, philosophy, religion, mathematics, and the mystical. Compared to the grandeur of *The Yogic View of Consciousness* the hostilities of secular science and philosophy appear as little more than the psycho-babble of lunatics and an affront to the sublime majesty of existence. Take the wild ride to the very source of being revealed by *The Yogic View of Consciousness*. Using entertaining examples of the mind in action, an eminent psychologist explores current scientific theories of the mind and shows how consciousness works like a stage in which thoughts and perceptions are examined by an inner audience. UP. Walling and Hicks make a direct assault on the "Everest" of scientific mysteries. The authors trace the first glimmerings of consciousness in evolution and during emergence from anesthesia. There are no formulae or equations; all the difficult concepts have been presented as allegories and pictures. Unlike many philosophical books about consciousness, they have evidence to back up their ideas. This book is also an attempt to bridge the chasm between science and religion which the authors believe to be largely unnecessary. This book presents a philosophy that includes the enlightenment experience--a philosophy grounded on the authority of direct realization resulting from transformation in consciousness.

The Cave Painters is a vivid introduction to the spectacular cave paintings of France and Spain—the individuals who rediscovered them, theories about their origins, their splendor and mystery. Gregory Curtis makes us see the astonishing sophistication and power of the paintings and tells us what is known about their creators, the Cro-Magnon people of some 40,000 years ago. He takes us through various theories—that the art was part of fertility or hunting rituals, or used for religious purposes, or was clan mythology—examining the ways interpretations have changed over time. Rich in detail, personalities, and history, *The Cave Painters* is above all permeated with awe for those distant humans who developed—perhaps for the first time—both the ability for abstract thought and a profound and beautiful way to express it. Psychology students are fascinated by consciousness but often find the topic puzzling. This is probably because there are different ways within the discipline to approach it. In *The Science of Consciousness*, top researchers from each of the three main areas of study introduce their angle and lead the student through the basic debates and research to date, ending with suggestions for further reading. Max Velmans has structured this collection especially for use as a base for a course of lectures or seminars on consciousness. *The Science of Consciousness* will rapidly become known as the best student text in this field for undergraduates, graduates and lecturers. This book reviews some of the most important scientific and philosophical theories concerning the nature of mind and consciousness. Current theories on the mind-body problem and the neural correlates of consciousness are presented through a

series of biographical sketches of the most influential thinkers across the fields of philosophy of mind, psychology and neuroscience. The book is divided into two parts: the first is dedicated to philosophers of mind and the second, to neuroscientists/experimental psychologists. Each part comprises twenty short chapters, with each chapter being dedicated to one author. A brief introduction is given on his or her life and most important works and influences. The most influential theory/ies developed by each author are then carefully explained and examined with the aim of scrutinizing the strengths and weaknesses of the different approaches to the nature of consciousness. To see more manuscripts by Richard Chambers Prescott go to [Scribd.com](https://www.scribd.com) and enter Grascott or PrescottRC. This manuscript, *Mortal Grounding*, has a simple thought in mind. To bring together our modern cosmological knowledge with our understanding of what is consciousness. It is something of a task to unite these two styles of comprehension about our existence, as much as it is to join quantum physics with general and special relativity. The idea is that both want to reach the source, the source of what is cosmological and what is consciousness. It seems simple enough. Cosmology studies the creation, searching for the creator of it all, whatever that may be. Consciousness seems to look more at what is the creator in order to understand creation. They are parallel and reversed, but both seek to understand, re-link, comprehend or unite with the Mystery. This Universe's Given Moment of reaching, of conscious mortal becoming, grounded on Earth, for the brief moment, life to death, yet in and as a rare something more, the rarest star stuff circling back as consciousness that is able to grasp its origin, without a direction transposed as times beginning. This would be one idea of mortal grounding. Some of the subjects taken up in this endeavor of unification are Pure Gravity, Spacetime Fluid, the Superclustering of Universes, Wave Cosmology, Non-Local Independent Consciousness, the question, is this Logical or Mystical. The text also leans heavily on Tantras explanations, examining the myriad layers of consciousness and their psychological weight, the intriguing erotic energy, the hidden secrets that are rarely discussed and the nature of freedom according to the belief system of Tantra. This original, systematic theory of cultural diplomacy opens a new way of thinking about diplomacy, politics and culture. Dr. Laos methodically investigates the relationship between culture and politics and between the reality of the world and the reality of consciousness. In so doing, he articulates a new approach to international relations theory and the concept of power, one based on philosophical arguments about reality, history and freedom. Dr. Laos takes a stark and realistic look at the interplay between culture and politics and makes an intellectually challenging contribution to normative international relations theory. The author proposes a new way of defining 'critical' political theory (substantially different from the Frankfurt School's approach) which leads to a new, dynamic understanding of history, and he argues that the chessboard of power is not so

much on the surface of the earth as in the mental network formed by the communication between consciousnesses. He presents an original explanation of the inherent inability of Realpolitik to account for reality, throwing light on deep and controversial questions of identity for Europe and the West in general. The Evolution of Consciousness brings together interdisciplinary insights from philosophy, neuroscience, psychology and cognitive science to explain consciousness in terms of the biological function that grounds it in the physical world. Drawing on the novel analogy of a house of cards, Paula Droege pieces together various conceptual questions and shows how they rest on each other to form a coherent, structured argument. She asserts that the mind is composed of unconscious sensory and cognitive representations, which become conscious when they are selected and coordinated into a representation of the present moment. This temporal representation theory deftly bridges the gap between mind and body by highlighting that physical systems are conscious when they can respond flexibly to actions in the present. With examples from evolution, animal cognition, introspection and the free will debate, this is a compelling and animated account of the possible explanations of consciousness, offering answers to the conceptual question of how consciousness can be considered a cognitive process.

Die Begegnung mit Kraken in den Tiefen des Meeres wird zum Ausgangspunkt dieser faszinierend erzählten Evolutionsgeschichte des Bewusstseins, die sich unabhängig voneinander zweimal ereignete: Kraken und Wirbeltiere haben gemeinsame Vorfahren, und doch entwickelte sich ihre Intelligenz völlig unabhängig voneinander. Godfrey-Smith geht der Frage nach, wie Oktopusse so intelligent werden konnten, und welcher Art ihre Intelligenz ist, die nicht in einem zentralen Gehirn steckt, sondern in ihren Tentakeln. In der Begegnung mit ihnen finden wir mehr über uns selbst heraus - und wenn es einen ganz anderen, einen "außerirdischen" Geist gibt, dem wir begegnen können, dann finden wir ihn in den Oktopussen. "Peter Godfrey-Smiths Buch bringt uns das Bewusstsein der Cephalodien und die Geschichte unseres eigenen Bewusstseins näher, Tentakel für Tentakel." - Sloane Crosley, Vanity Fair "Wenn das Philosophie ist, dann funktioniert es überaus gut: Peter Godfrey-Smith ist nie dogmatisch, aber erschreckend scharfsinnig." - Carl Safina, The New York Times Book Review

A comprehensive guide to the safe and ethical application of expanded states of consciousness for therapists, healing practitioners, and sincere explorers

Psychedelic medicines also known as entheogens are entering the mainstream. And it's no wonder: despite having access to the latest wellness trends and advances in technology, we're no healthier, happier, or more meaningfully connected. Psilocybin mushrooms, ayahuasca, and LSD—as well as other time-tested techniques with the power to shift consciousness such as drumming, meditation, and vision quests—are now being recognized as potent catalysts for change and healing. But how do we ensure that we're approaching them effectively? Françoise

Bourzat—a counselor and experienced guide with sanctioned training in the Mazatec and other indigenous traditions—and healer Kristina Hunter introduce a holistic model focusing on the threefold process of preparation, journey, and integration. Drawing from more than thirty years of experience, Bourzat’s skillful and heartfelt approach presents the therapeutic application of expanded states, without divorcing them from their traditional contexts. Consciousness Medicine delivers a coherent map for navigating nonordinary states of consciousness, offering an invaluable contribution to the field of healing and transformation.

Machine Dreaming and Consciousness is the first book to discuss the questions raised by the advent of machine dreaming. Artificial intelligence (AI) systems meeting criteria of primary and self-reflexive consciousness are often utilized to extend the human interface, creating waking experiences that resemble the human dream. Surprisingly, AI systems also easily meet all human-based operational criteria for dreaming. These “dreams are far different from anthropomorphic dreaming, including such processes as fuzzy logic, liquid illogic, and integration instability, all processes that may be necessary in both biologic and artificial systems to extend creative capacity. Today, multi-linear AI systems are being built to resemble the structural framework of the human central nervous system. The creation of the biologic framework of dreaming (emotions, associative memories, and visual imagery) is well within our technical capacity. AI dreams potentially portend the further development of consciousness in these systems. This focus on AI dreaming raises even larger questions. In many ways, dreaming defines our humanity. What is humanly special about the states of dreaming? And what are we losing when we limit our focus to its technical and biologic structure, and extend the capacity for dreaming into our artificial creations? Machine Dreaming and Consciousness provides thorough discussion of these issues for neuroscientists and other researchers investigating consciousness and cognition. Addresses the function and role of dream-like processing in AI systems Describes the functions of dreaming in the creative process of both humans and machines Presents an alternative approach to the philosophy of machine consciousness Provides thorough discussion of machine dreaming and consciousness for neuroscientists and other researchers investigating consciousness and cognition The main argument in this book is the undeniable openness of every system to the unknown. And the fundamental question goes: What does this openness produce? We are a part of the infinite universe and an incorporation of its wholeness. Both for us means an individualized reality, through which the universe expresses itself and on the other hand through which it is built up with. It also means our necessity, importance and indestructibility for the sum of its incorporations. Most connections among ourselves are hardly conscious for us. Meanwhile the infinitesimality structure of all consciousness guarantees not only the logical lack of inconsistency of these connections but also the freedom of choice of every individual. Our goal

by no means can be to decide completely consciously. Responsibility contains spontaneity or rather trust in a meaningful working together of the forces. We increasingly become aware of our role in the entire relationship and we learn to contribute optimally to the value fulfillment of all individuals, ourselves included. Beyond the supposed differences between objective and subjective reality, we at some point of awareness comprehend that we create our reality out of our innermost depths. A neurobiological explanation of self-awareness and the states of mind of severely traumatized people. Cultivation of emotional awareness is difficult, even for those of us not afflicted by serious mental illness. This book discusses the neurobiology behind emotional states and presents exercises for developing self awareness. Topics include mood (both unipolar and bipolar), anxiety (particularly PTSD), and dissociative disorders. Frewen and Lanius comprehensively review psychological and neurobiological research, and explain how to use this research to become aware of emotional states within both normal and psychopathological functioning. Therapists will be able to help survivors of trauma, mood disorders, anxiety disorders, and dissociative disorders develop emotional awareness. The book also includes case studies, detailed instructions for clinicians, and handouts ready for use in assessment/therapy with patients/clients. This book studies the origins of language. It presents language as the product of a unique non-linguistic cognitive feature (i.e. metacognition) that emerged late in human evolution. Within this framework, the author lays special emphasis on the tight links that exist between language and consciousness, with the conviction that the creation of language was ultimately made possible by the onset of a new type of awareness that enabled the invention of words. The volume studies the parallels between human cultural behaviour and human language, discusses the motivational underpinnings that favoured the emergence of language, and offers a possible evolutionary timeline for the advent of language. It also addresses the question of whether artificial intelligence will ever develop the kind of thinking and language observable in humans. A unique look into the beginnings of human language, this book will be indispensable for students and researchers of language and linguistics, language evolution, cultural studies, cognitive linguistics, psycholinguistics, and cognitive science. The spiritual journey is an experience of the deepest darkest side of ourselves and the highest and most sacred truth of who we are. In this book I have written about my experiences of both which eventually brought me to a state of Christ Consciousness. I have also shared the wisdom I have gained along the way. We are in the most amazing time on earth, a time of mass spiritual awakening along with the evolution of mother earth herself to a higher frequency. I have written this book with the intention of reaching out to light workers who are still asleep and those who are just waking up. It is critical that all light workers fulfill the mission for which we have come to earth to do in this period of transformation. I accept that this book will be a light on the path for those it is intended to reach. I

honor all who are walking this path and making the way easier for those souls who are to follow. Presents a new theory on the nature of consciousness and its relation to the brain. Evidence is drawn from introspection psychology, the neurosciences and cognitive science. Some of the classical arguments are also brought to bear - the Theory of Extension, for example. The Book of Consciousness by Dr. Bara H. Loveland Have you ever wondered what Consciousness is, or the mind, the unconscious or Archetypes and Symbols – how they work and how to define these? Without arriving at the reach of Consciousness, there are numerous books on "consciousness;" there are conferences held, and groups searching for "consciousness," with dictionaries attempting to define it. Why have they not found the ultimate definition of Consciousness, to this day of the publication of The Book of Consciousness, in January 2011? Could Bara's new book, The Book of Consciousness, hold the answer? Can it deliver the ultimate in Consciousness? There are many other questions, which science has not positively answered yet. Why is it that our "brain" (cerebrum), seat of the mind, has to be calmed from 40+ Hertz to 8 Hertz or less (literally put to sleep), in order to reach highest states of awareness, although the cerebrum is supposed to be the seat of the world's highest intelligence? Why is this "seat of highest intelligence" polluting the earth to the brink of dying of life? Why is the unconscious called unconscious, when it is able to construct meaningful dreams; and is there a difference between an Archetype and a Symbol, appearing in dreams and myths? Could a neurosis not be a disease? And what is it the mind really knows? Profound contemplation of Consciousness must lead to further questions about the origins of Archetypes and Symbols, about wisdom and similarities of ancient Stone Age Symbols, East Indian and Egyptian scriptures, Runes, Mayan glyphs and biblical Symbols, or world religions in general. One may wonder, why an Egyptian god is frequently named in Christian churches, and is mentioned in both, the Old and the New Testaments. Is God "He," and could "He" exist? Could there be a different world behind our visible one, and could we have "Bio*Modulators" to sense the other world? What can we learn from a Germanic "king?" Is it possible that we have more than five senses and how many diseases could naturally exist? Can the DNA communicate, and how many laws exist in the universe? What is the meaning of certain Bible verses, and what could have been the message, Jesus gave the world on the cross? Is New Age wisdom contained in the Bible, and could it be that common science limits itself, when excluding miracles it could perform with ease, protecting the animals from harm? Are there more levels of logic than one? How could we realize or activate them? What is the role, our belief plays in our life and in science? The Book of Consciousness begins where common science ends. Be surprised by the innovative answers, with some published about 30 years ago by this author! Be captivated by the author's authentic, new style; by the insights, humor and vivid experiences, enjoy the 40 figures and tables, as well as exercises, to reach altered states of

awareness—naturally and at will. May The Book of Consciousness raise into Oneness the conscious of all those who read its 640 pages; may they be the "igniters," inspiring divine Oneness and Love in the perception of all! Genre: Specialty Books A tour of the human unconsciousness as defined by contemporary psychology explains that it is comprised of sophisticated mental processes, identifying a gap between self-knowledge and reality, and warning about the dangers of too much introspection. (Psychology & Self-Help) Der Welterfolg von Jean M. Auel! Die Urzeit vor 30 000 Jahren: Das junge Mädchen Ayla irrt verlassen durch die gefährliche Wildnis der vorzeitlichen Erde. Der «Clan des Bären», ein Stamm von Urmenschen, nimmt sie auf. Doch Ayla ist nicht wie die anderen Stammesmitglieder. Sie ist blond, schlank und lernt überdurchschnittlich schnell ... Ayla lebt vor 30.000 Jahren in einer Zeit, in der Schnee und Eis weite Teile des europäischen Kontinents bedecken. Als während eines Erdbebens Aylas Stamm vernichtet wird, irrt sie ziellos umher und überlebt nur knapp den Angriff eines Höhlenlöwen. Völlig entkräftet wird sie vom Clan des Bären gefunden und aufgenommen. In Iza, der Heilerin des Clans, und deren Bruder Creb, einem mächtigen Medizinmann, findet Ayla neue Eltern. Bald schon ergeben sich Konflikte durch Aylas Andersartigkeit. Nicht nur ihr Aussehen, sondern auch ihre seltsame Art, durch Laute zu kommunizieren, befremden die Clan-Mitglieder. Bald lernt Ayla, auf die "richtige" Art zu sprechen - in der Gebärdensprache. Viele Verhaltensregeln und Tabus, die den Frauen des Bärenclans auferlegt sind, bereiten der selbstbewussten Ayla auch weiterhin Probleme. Mit Feuereifer stürzt sich Ayla in ihre Ausbildung zur Medizinfrau, denn darin sieht sie ihre einzige Chance, in Zukunft vom Clan akzeptiert zu werden. Doch ihr unabhängiges Wesen lässt sich nicht unterdrücken. So sehr sie sich auch müht, sie bleibt eine Außenseiterin in einer ihr fremden Kultur ... Hagiography of Balananda Brahmachari, 1829-1937, Hindu saint. During the last decade, the study of emotional self-regulation has blossomed in a variety of sub-disciplines belonging to either psychology (developmental, clinical) or the neurosciences (cognitive and affective). Consciousness, Emotional Self-Regulation and the Brain gives an overview of the current state of this relatively new scientific field. Several areas are examined by some of the leading theorists and researchers in this emerging domain. Most chapters seek to either present theoretical and developmental perspectives about emotional self-regulation (and dysregulation), provide cutting edge information with regard to the neural basis of conscious emotional experience and emotional self-regulation, or expound theoretical models susceptible of explaining how healthy individuals are capable of consciously and voluntarily changing the neural activity underlying emotional processes and states. In addition, a few chapters consider the capacity of human consciousness to volitionally influence the brain's electrical activity or modulate the impact of emotions on the psychoneuroendocrine-immune network. This book will undoubtedly be useful to

scholars and graduate students interested in the relationships between self-consciousness, emotion, the brain, and the body. (Series B) C. G. Jung famously declared that it is not the psyche that is in us, but rather we who are in the psyche. Updating this insight, the second volume of Wolfgang Giegerich's *Collected English Papers* examines what must be regarded as the most all-encompassing presence of our lives today: technological civilization. Living within technology, we now find that what we had formerly regarded as psychological phenomena—our feelings and emotions, images and dreams—have been superseded by phenomena bearing the predicates "artificial," "manufactured," and "virtual." Television, the World Wide Web, and the nuclear bomb are cases in point. Far from being mere things among things, each of these has transformed the whole of man's world-relation. Though deplored by many as soulless on this account, these phenomena, it may be argued, are the real gods, the real archetypes, of the soul today. Psychologically it is not what we think and feel about them that counts, but what they think, what they feel. This volume offers an introduction to consciousness research within philosophy, psychology and neuroscience, from a philosophical perspective and with an emphasis on the history of ideas and core concepts. The book begins by examining consciousness as a modern mystery. Thereafter, the book introduces philosophy of mind and the mind-body problem, and proceeds to explore psychological, philosophical and neuroscientific approaches to mind and consciousness. The book then presents a discussion of mysterianist views of consciousness in response to what can be perceived as insurmountable scientific challenges to the problem of consciousness. As a response to mysterianist views, the next chapters examine radical approaches to rethinking the problem of consciousness, including externalist approaches. The final two chapters present the author's personal view of the problem of consciousness. Consciousness remains a mystery for contemporary science—a mystery raising many questions. Why does consciousness persist as a mystery? Are we humans not intelligent enough to solve the riddle of consciousness? If we can solve this mystery, what would it take? What research would we need to conduct? Moreover, the mystery of consciousness prompts the larger question of how well the cognitive sciences have actually advanced our understanding of ourselves as human beings. After all, consciousness is not just a minor part of our existence. Without consciousness, we would not be human beings at all. This book aims to increase the accessibility of major ideas in the field of consciousness research and to inspire readers to contribute to the ongoing discussion of the place of consciousness in nature. Bernard Baars suggests a way to specify empirical constraints on a theory of consciousness by contrasting well-established conscious phenomena with comparable unconscious ones, such as stimulus representations known to be preperceptual, unattended or habituated. By adducing data to show that consciousness is associated with a kind of workplace in the nervous system,

Baars helps clarify the problem. Paläolithikum - Bevölkerungsgeschichte - Religionsgeschichte. This book will inspire you to question what you've heard from the scientific experts about how the universe works and what role we play in it. For centuries, science has believed that matter is king, and the job of scientist is to measure interactions of matter, not consciousness. Based on revolutionary new developments in physics and neuroscience, including his own groundbreaking research, Dr. Farwell challenges this view. Using impeccable scientific techniques, he has proven in the laboratory that consciousness plays a commanding role in the universe. Dr. Larry Farwell (Bio) Dr. Larry Farwell is a Harvard educated former Harvard faculty member who is currently chief scientist of the Human Brain Research Laboratory. As a neuroscientist, he has conducted and published pioneering research on the interaction of consciousness and matter at the quantum-mechanical level. The well-known physicist Dr. George Farwell (his father) collaborated in this research. Dr. Larry Farwell invented a direct brain-to-computer communication system using electrical brain activity. He discovered the technique of Brain Fingerprinting to identify criminals and clear innocent suspects by measuring brain-wave responses to relevant words or pictures presented on a computer screen. CBS Evening News, ABC World News, CNN Headline News, the Discovery Channel, the New York Times, the Washington Post, US News and World Report, and television, radio, newspapers, and magazines throughout the world have featured Dr. Farwell and his discoveries. Dr. Farwell's personal philosophy is that anything is possible. He sees his scientific research as a process of discovering the unlimited possibilities available for human life. He believes that the goal of life is the full development and complete integration of mind, heart, body, and spirit. In addition to his BA, MA, and PhD in neuroscience, he is a qualified Transcendental Meditation teacher and has a black belt in kung fu. ENTHEOGENS, MYTH AND HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS is a much needed accessible exploration into the role of psychoactive sacraments - entheogens - in religion, mythology, and history, and also includes most treatments of the subject focus on modern scientific research, psychotherapy, are auto-bibliographic accounts, or are agenda-driven or otherwise naive and myopic. A great mystery of altered states of consciousness and species development is expanding with new archeological and anthropological discoveries. Religious story telling (myth) is a timeless journey. Surprisingly it's not about truth. It's about finding one's self in the midst of the discovery of the "Other." It is the story of what is separate and unknown that creates self-consciousness. Our entire life consists ultimately in the discovery of the "Other," which gives meaning to the discovery of the self. The arts and language are the fossil remnants scattered on our path. ENTHEOGENS, MYTH AND HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS discusses the influence of psychoactive substances on consciousness, human evolution and mystical experiences. It explores how religion, mythology, art and culture stem from

entheogenic consciousness and why it's important to us today. "Entheogens, or psychoactive sacraments, have a long, storied history that has played an essential role in the evolution of consciousness, mythology, culture, religion, art - and even history and politics. **ENTHEOGENS, MYTH AND HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS** outlines this suppressed - yet seminal - undercurrent of history, giving examples of the role of entheogens from the primal shamanic religions through, the historical religions, esoteric mystical traditions including the Mystery Religions, alchemy and Freemasonry, and into contemporary expressions. Authors Ruck and Hoffman draw upon decades of research and personal experience in discussing the best documented examples of historically important entheogenic evidences, various ongoing threads of research and speculation to muse upon the 'meaning' of it all..." Our hominid ancestors experienced a spiritual awakening at the very dawn of consciousness that set them apart from the other creatures of our planet. It was a journey to another realm induced by a special food that belonged to the gods. This was a plant that was animate with the spirit of deity. It was an entheogen. It was the visionary vehicle for the trip of the first shaman. The story was told over and over again until it achieved the perfect form of a myth. The realm was imagined as a topographical place, the outer limit of the cosmos, the fiery empyrean, or its geocentric opposite, our own planet Gaia. Myths multiplied over time, but they always preserved this primordial truth. These myths provide a road map, a scenario, if you can read them, for whoever today wants to follow. However, it is not an easy journey, and it is also fraught with many dangers, of getting lost, of finding no return. Access to the entheogens is now largely prohibited or strictly licensed. The restrictions constitute an infringement of cognitive freedom, limiting the further evolution of human potential into productive creative imagination and experiences that lie beyond the normal, the traditional province of shamans, who can understand the speech of plants and animals, change shape at will, and journey, both physically and in the spirit, to distant exotic realms. In addition, religions have staked out territorial claims to this realm of spiritual consciousness. They have colonized it, identified it with their god, often reserving the access for their own elite. Similarly, trade in drugs, both medicinal and illegal, has colonized the entheogens, making them only chemicals, rationally depriving them of their spirit. **ENTHEOGENS, MYTH AND HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS** is a guide for the curious that provides a historical overview of the role that entheogens have played in the development of our unique supremacy as a species and offers also pathways and advice for reconnecting with the primordial sources of nature's power. **ENTHEOGENS, MYTH AND HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS** investigates the role entheogens have played in the evolution of humankind's attempt to define reality in a context of metaphysical or theological dimensions. Although other botanical intoxicants will be considered (cannabis, daphne, opium, Syrian rue, datura, mandrake), none, with the possible exception of mandrake, seem to have lent

themselves so readily to metaphoric personifications, which make this the subject for a course on mythology. The source of humankind's fascination and repulsion for fungi, indeed, leads to a fundamental consideration of the psychological nature of mankind's fascination or awareness of what in the categorization of religions is termed animism and rituals of ecstatic shamanism. In addition, the linking of bread and wine as sacramental foods is due to parallel concepts of controlled fungal growth as a simulacrum of the cosmos itself. The goal is not so much to acquire factual knowledge of this vast subject, but to open up pathways for reflection upon the basic nature of human existence and consciousness. The narrative is the awesome history of discovery and the findings of ancient rituals that meld into twentieth-century controversy and criticism of psychedelics. The future of humanity and the direction of twenty-first century brain science is challenged as well as our sense of social convention. Entheogens have been deemed prohibited controlled substances and as such is an infringement of cognitive freedom. Whatever the danger of potential abuse, the substance is not the fault, but the user. The hammer is not guilty, but the carpenter who misuses it because of deficient training. In order to exonerate the executioner in Classical antiquity, the axe was brought to trial and found guilty. The prohibition has drastically retarded the investigation into the therapeutic potential of proscribed drugs, including their efficacy in curing addiction. Some of these substances also offer the potential for accessing levels of cognition and consciousness beyond the ordinary, the traditional provenance of mystics and shamans, like bilocation, clairvoyance, and zoomorphism. An unknown sword with an unknown cultivation technique had achieved a breakthrough to the next realm. It was a useless weapon that could not be cultivated. He had unraveled the secrets of each continent and walked towards the Endless Planes. What kind of innate mission did he have? And how was he going to walk to the pinnacle step by step? Was fühlt ein Tier, wie lebt es und wie nimmt es seine Umwelt wahr? Um das herauszufinden, tritt Charles Foster ein faszinierendes Experiment an. Er schlüpft in die Rolle von fünf verschiedenen Tierarten: Dachs, Otter, Fuchs, Rothirsch und Mauersegler. Er haust in einem Bau unter der Erde, schnappt mit den Zähnen nach Fischen in einem Fluss und durchstöbert Mülltonnen auf der Suche nach Nahrung. Er schärft seine Sinne, wird zum nachtaktiven Lebewesen, beschreibt wie ein Weinkenner die unterschiedlichen »Terroirs« von Würmern und wie sich der Duft der Erde in den verschiedenen Jahreszeiten verändert. In die scharfsinnige und witzige Schilderung seiner skurrilen Erfahrungen lässt er wissenswerte Fakten einfließen und stellt sie in den Kontext philosophischer Themen. Letztendlich geht es dabei auch um die eine Frage: Was es bedeutet, Mensch zu sein. Now in compact paperback, a compelling examination of how brain structure and cultural context interacted in the Neolithic period, 10,000 years ago, to produce unique patterns in belief systems. What do the headless figures found in the famous paintings at Catalhoyuk

in Turkey have in common with the interlinked spirals carved on the monumental tombs at Newgrange and Knowth in Ireland? How can the concepts of “birth,” “death,” and “wild” cast light on the changes in relationships between people and animals? In the new compact paperback version of *Inside the Neolithic Mind*, David Lewis-Williams and David Pearce examine the intricate web of belief, myth, and society in the Neolithic period, arguably the most significant turning point in human history, when agriculture became a way of life and the fractious society that we know today was born. The authors focus on two contrasting times and places: the beginnings in the Near East, and Western Europe. They argue that neurological patterns hardwired into the brain help explain the nature of the art, religion, and society that Neolithic people produced. In proposing provocative new theories about religious motivation in ancient times, they create a fascinating neurological bridge to the mysterious thought-lives of the past and reveal the essence of a momentous period in human history. Scientist and psychonaut David Luke weaves personal experience and scientific research in this comprehensive exploration of chemically mediated extra ordinary human experiences."Emphasizing parapsychological aspects of the psychedelic experience, Luke's new book fills in a fascinating and previously neglected lacuna in the burgeoning field of human studies with these compounds. " - Rick Strassman, PhD "A psychedelic Indiana Jones. " - Matt Colborn, PhD "David Luke's delightful one-liner about his book is that it's 'about weird people in weird places taking weird substances doing weird things and, importantly, having weird experiences' . . . On reflection, it's much more profound than that . . . So weird reader, forge ahead without fear. " - Dean Radin, PhD "In his fascinating book David plunges into this controversial topic and gives the backstory, the front story, and possible ways forward to bring paranormal and psychedelic research together, and further our understanding of both. " - Dennis J. McKenna, PhD "A remarkable collection and a necessary one. This body of research illuminates aspects of psychedelic experiences usually obscured or denied in the medical and clinical research and sensationalized in the popular press. " - James Fadiman, PhD "A real Dr Gonzo. " - Will Self The breathtakingly beautiful art created deep inside the caves of western Europe has the power to dazzle even the most jaded observers. Emerging from the narrow underground passages into the chambers of caves such as Lascaux, Chauvet, and Altamira, visitors are confronted with symbols, patterns, and depictions of bison, woolly mammoths, ibexes, and other animals. Since its discovery, cave art has provoked great curiosity about why it appeared when and where it did, how it was made, and what it meant to the communities that created it. David Lewis-Williams proposes that the explanation for this lies in the evolution of the human mind. Cro-Magnons, unlike the Neanderthals, possessed a more advanced neurological makeup that enabled them to experience shamanistic trances and vivid mental imagery. It became important for people to "fix," or paint, these images on cave walls, which

they perceived as the membrane between their world and the spirit world from which the visions came. Over time, new social distinctions developed as individuals exploited their hallucinations for personal advancement, and the first truly modern society emerged. Illuminating glimpses into the ancient mind are skillfully interwoven here with the still-evolving story of modern-day cave discoveries and research. *The Mind in the Cave* is a superb piece of detective work, casting light on the darkest mysteries of our earliest ancestors while strengthening our wonder at their aesthetic achievements. An exploration of how brain structure and cultural systems developed throughout the Neolithic period 10,000 years ago explains how unique life patterns and belief systems evolved in the Near East and western Europe, revealing how neurological patterns can offer insight into developments in agriculture, religion, and art. Providing insight into an image-making process that became extinct at the end of the nineteenth-century, this book shows that, far from being trivial, hunter-gatherer rock art was embedded in religion. It explores the complex social relations of those who made rock art and why they made it. The breathtakingly beautiful art created deep inside the caves of western Europe has the power to dazzle even the most jaded observers. Caves have been used in various ways across human society but despite the persistence within popular culture of the iconic caveman, deep caves were never used primarily as habitation sites for early humans. Rather, in both ancient and contemporary contexts, caves have served primarily as ritual spaces. In *Sacred Darkness*, contributors use archaeological evidence as well as ethnographic studies of modern ritual practices to envision the cave as place of spiritual and ideological power and a potent venue for ritual practice. Covering the ritual use of caves in Europe, Asia, Australia, Africa, Mesoamerica, and the US Southwest and Eastern woodlands, this book brings together case studies by prominent scholars whose research spans from the Paleolithic period to the present day. These contributions demonstrate that cave sites are as fruitful as surface contexts in promoting the understanding of both ancient and modern religious beliefs and practices. This state-of-the-art survey of ritual cave use will be one of the most valuable resources for understanding the role of caves in studies of religion, sacred landscape, or cosmology and a must-read for any archaeologist interested in caves.

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