

Magic and Religion Illustrated: An Exploration of the Supernatural World

Throughout history, humans have been fascinated by the supernatural world. From ancient beliefs in gods and spirits to modern-day practices of witchcraft and astrology, the line between the natural and the supernatural has always been blurred. In his classic work *Magic and Religion*, Andrew Lang explores this fascinating topic, providing a comprehensive overview of the role that magic and religion have played in human cultures worldwide.

Magic and the Supernatural

Lang begins by defining magic as "the art of controlling the course of nature by words or ceremonies." He argues that magic is based on the belief that the world is governed by unseen forces that can be manipulated by human actions. This belief is found in many cultures around the world, from the ancient Egyptians to the modern-day Wiccans.



Magic and Religion (Illustrated) by Andrew Lang

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 2262 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 332 pages
Screen Reader : Supported

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Lang goes on to describe the various types of magic that have been practiced throughout history. These include:

* **Sympathetic magic:** This type of magic is based on the principle of "like attracts like." For example, a person who wants to heal a wound might rub a piece of their own skin on the wound. * **Contagious magic:** This type of magic is based on the principle that "once connected, always connected." For example, a person who wants to harm someone might bury a piece of their clothing with a curse. * **Imitative magic:** This type of magic is based on the principle of "imitation is the sincerest form of flattery." For example, a person who wants to become a great hunter might dance like a deer.

Religion and the Supernatural

Lang then turns his attention to the role of religion in the supernatural world. He argues that religion is a system of beliefs and practices that revolves around the supernatural. This includes beliefs in gods, spirits, and other supernatural beings.

Lang goes on to describe the various types of religion that have been practiced throughout history. These include:

* **Animism:** This is the belief that all things have a soul or spirit. * **Polytheism:** This is the belief in multiple gods. * **Monotheism:** This is the belief in one god. * **Atheism:** This is the belief that there is no god.

The Relationship Between Magic and Religion

Lang concludes by exploring the relationship between magic and religion. He argues that these two phenomena are often closely intertwined. This is

because both magic and religion are based on the belief that the world is governed by unseen forces.

However, Lang also argues that there are some important differences between magic and religion. First, magic is typically seen as a practical art, while religion is seen as a spiritual one. Second, magic is often performed by individuals, while religion is typically practiced by groups.

Magic and Religion Illustrated is a fascinating and informative exploration of the supernatural world. Andrew Lang provides a comprehensive overview of the various beliefs and practices that have been associated with magic and religion throughout history. This book is a valuable resource for anyone who is interested in learning more about this fascinating topic.

Further Reading

* [Magic and Religion by Andrew Lang]

(<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/17833/17833-h/17833-h.htm>) * [The Supernatural by E.T. Kirby](<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/32556/32556-h/32556-h.htm>) * [The Occult by Colin Wilson]

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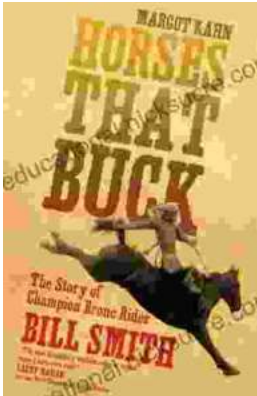
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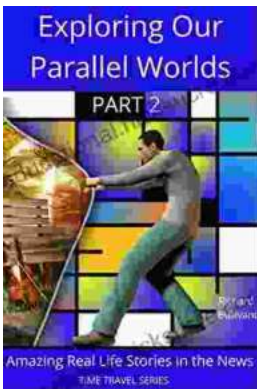
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