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2012) Christianity's roots  
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Reconstructing the Roman  
Mystery Religion of Mithras.  
Matthew McCarty. 2019.05.29  
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## Harwa Mystery Cults Of The Ancient

A pendant to the official cults of the Greeks and Romans, mystery cults served more personal, individualistic attitudes toward death and the afterlife. Most were based on sacred stories ( hieroi logoi) that often involved the ritual reenactment of a death-rebirth myth of a particular divinity. In addition to the promise of a better afterlife, mystery cults fostered social bonds among the participants, called mystai.

Mystery Cults in the Greek and Roman World | Essay |

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The ...

By richly illustrating the evidence from ancient art and archaeology, and drawing on enlightening new work in the anthropology and cognitive science of religion, *Mystery Cults of the Ancient World* allows readers to imagine as never before what it was like to take part in these ecstatic and life-changing religious rituals--and what they meant to those who participated in them. Stunning images of Greek painted pottery, Roman frescoes, inscribed gold tablets from Greek and South Italian tombs ...

*Mystery Cults of the Ancient*

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World: Bowden, Hugh ...

This is the first book to describe and explain all of the ancient world's major mystery cults--one of the most intriguing but least understood aspects of Greek and Roman religion. In the nocturnal Mysteries at Eleusis, participants dramatically re-enacted the story of Demeter's loss and recovery of her dau

Mystery Cults of the Ancient  
World by Hugh Bowden  
The Greeks found that  
mystery cults had roots in  
Egypt and had originated  
there. However, this has not  
been established although  
there may be some truth in

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it. Modern researchers have associated mystery cults with the likes of the sinister brotherhood which was introduced and expanded by Babylonian King Nimrod or even an Indo-European proto religion.

Mystery Cults of Secret Societies—The Inside Story  
Mystery cults were a feature of the ancient Mediterranean world from around 700 BC until the changed social climate in the years after AD 400 saw the sanctuaries and meeting-places abandoned or closed down. Before that happened the expanding Roman empire had brought such cults as far as Britain.



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Mystery Cults in the Ancient  
World - Watkins MIND BODY

...

Mysteries were always secret cults into which a person had to be "initiated" (taken in). The initiate was called *mystēs*, the introducing person *mystagōgos* (leader of the *mystēs*). The leaders of the cults included the *hierophantēs* ("revealer of holy things") and the *dadouchos* ("torchbearer"). The constitutive features of a mystery society were common meals, dances, and ceremonies, especially initiation rites.

Mystery religion | Greco-

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Roman religion | Britannica  
1. CULT OF CYBELE Cybele, or Magna Mater, came to Greece around the 5th century BCE from the ancient Indo-European... 2. CULT OF SABAZIOS Zardulu The cult of Sabazios originated with the Phrygians and Thracians of Eastern Europe but was... 3. ELEUSINIAN MYSTERIES Zardulu The Eleusinian mysteries ...

7 Greco-Roman Mystery Cults You Should Know | Mental Floss

Other mystery schools Cult of Despoina - An Arcadian cult worshipping a goddess who was believed to be the daughter of Poseidon and Demeter. Cult of Attis - A

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Greek cult that was not followed in Rome until its early days as an empire. It followed the Story of...  
Cults of Cybele - A number of cults ...

Greco-Roman mysteries -  
Wikipedia

The term "mystery cult" is used to refer to certain religious organizations which flourished in Ancient Greece and Rome. Membership in these organizations was closed, with proceedings only open to chosen initiates, and these groups were extremely secretive by nature.

What is a Mystery Cult? -

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wiseGEEK

The Eleusinian Mysteries were initiations held every year for the cult of Demeter and Persephone based at the Panhellenic Sanctuary of Eleusis in ancient Greece. They are the "most famous of the secret religious rites of ancient Greece". Their basis was an old agrarian cult, and there is some evidence that they were derived from the religious practices of the Mycenaean period. The mysteries represented the myth of the abduction of Persephone from her mother Demeter by the king of the underworld H

Eleusinian Mysteries -

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Wikipedia

Mystery Cults 31 August,  
2020 - 18:45 John S.

Richardson Mithras, the  
Persian God Championed by  
the Roman Army Mithras the  
god originated in the east,  
in Persia (modern day Iran)  
where he was first  
worshipped.

Mystery Cults | Ancient  
Origins

Burkert's Mystery Cults  
scores low not because of  
its schematic treatment of  
the late antiquity mystery  
cults such as the mysteries  
of Meter, Isis or Mithra-  
the Eleusinian Mysteries are  
certainly the exception to  
the rule although the author

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scrupulously avoids treating them in their great classical era- but because of its disorganized structure.

Ancient Mystery Cults by  
Walter Burkert - Goodreads  
Mystery Cults Bowden Mystery  
Cults in the Ancient World.  
Pp. 256, Ills, Maps, Colour  
Pls. London: Thames &  
Hudson, 2010. Cased, £28.  
ISBN: 978-0-500-25164-5.

Hugh Bowden, Mystery Cults  
of the Ancient World -  
PhilPapers  
The ancient Greek-Roman  
mystery cults, or secret  
societies, including the  
Mithras cult, guarded their

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secrets very well. The initiates kept quiet, not divulging anything. As explained by the Egyptian scholar Albert Pike, after being introduced in different countries, they were altered by these countries.

The Mystery Behind the  
Mithras Cult

Mystery Cults of the Ancient  
World, by Hugh Bowden.

Princeton, New Jersey,

Princeton University Press,  
2010. 256 pp. \$39.95 US

(cloth). The difficulty with studying mystery cults is that their initiates kept secret their rituals, and these secrets, passed down

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orally for centuries, were forgotten once Christianity came to dominate Western culture.

Mystery Cults of the Ancient World. - Free Online Library  
Even the namesake of the religion is shrouded in mystery. Ancient Romans believed Mithras was based on a Persian god, though most modern scholars have since debunked this theory. According to...

The Ancient Roman Cult That Continues to Vex Scholars

...

This is the first book to describe and explain all the major mystery cults of the



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ancient world, cult by cult, reconstructing the rituals and exploring their origins. It makes plentiful use of artistic and archaeological evidence, as well as ancient literature and epigraphy.

Mystery Cults in the Ancient World - Thames & Hudson  
Bowden's "Mystery Cults of the Ancient World" is comprehensive and well researched. He investigates what we know of the different mystery cults in Greek and Roman times and how they developed over time, from the hints left in literature as well as remains of temples and meeting places.

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The foremost historian of Greek religion provides the first comprehensive, comparative study of a little-known aspect of ancient religious beliefs and practices. Secret mystery cults flourished within the larger culture of the public religion of Greece and Rome for roughly a thousand years. This book is neither a history nor a survey but a comparative phenomenology, concentrating on five major cults. In defining the mysteries and describing their rituals, membership, organization, and dissemination, Walter

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Burkert displays the remarkable erudition we have come to expect of him; he also shows great sensitivity and sympathy in interpreting the experiences and motivations of the devotees.

Explores mysterious religious cults of ancient Greece and Rome, discussing the deity that each group worshiped, the initiation ceremonies, and how the cults' practices influenced early Christianity.

Written by an international team of acknowledged experts, this excellent book studies a wide range of contributions and showcases

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new research on the archaeology, ritual and history of Greek mystery cults. With a lack of written evidence that exists for the mysteries, archaeology has proved central to explaining their significance and this volume is key to understanding a phenomenon central to Greek religion and society.

Describes five ancient approaches to life, shows artifacts for a variety of early religions, and discusses each one's beliefs and rituals

Written by an international team of acknowledged

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experts, this excellent book studies a wide range of contributions and showcases new research on the archaeology, ritual and history of Greek mystery cults. With a lack of written evidence that exists for the mysteries, archaeology has proved central to explaining their significance and this volume is key to understanding a phenomenon central to Greek religion and society.

In Vergil's Aeneid, the poet implies that those who have been initiated into mystery cults enjoy a blessed situation both in life and after death. This collection

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of essays brings new insight to the study of mystic cults in the ancient world, particularly those that flourished in Magna Graecia (essentially the area of present-day Southern Italy and Sicily). Implementing a variety of methodologies, the contributors to *Mystic Cults in Magna Graecia* examine an array of features associated with such "mystery religions" that were concerned with individual salvation through initiation and hidden knowledge rather than civic cults directed toward Olympian deities usually associated with Greek religion. Contributors

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present contemporary theories of ancient religion, field reports from recent archaeological work, and other frameworks for exploring mystic cults in general and individual deities specifically, with observations about cultural interactions throughout. Topics include Dionysos and Orpheus, the Goddess Cults, Isis in Italy, and Roman Mithras, explored by an international array of scholars including Giulia Sfameni Gasparro ("Aspects of the Cult of Demeter in Magna Graecia") and Alberto Bernabé ("Imago Inferorum Orphica"). The resulting volume illuminates this

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often misunderstood range of religious phenomena.

The ancient Mysteries have long attracted the interest of scholars, an interest that goes back at least to the time of the Reformation. After a period of interest around the turn of the twentieth century, recent decades have seen an important study of Walter Burkert (1987). Yet his thematic approach makes it hard to see how the actual initiation into the Mysteries took place. To do precisely that is the aim of this book. It gives a 'thick description' of the major Mysteries, not only of the



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famous Eleusinian Mysteries, but also those located at the interface of Greece and Anatolia: the Mysteries of Samothrace, Imbros and Lemnos as well as those of the Corybants. It then proceeds to look at the Orphic-Bacchic Mysteries, which have become increasingly better understood due to the many discoveries of new texts in the recent times. Having looked at classical Greece we move on to the Roman Empire, where we study not only the lesser Mysteries, which we know especially from Pausanias, but also the new ones of Isis and Mithras. We conclude our

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book with a discussion of the possible influence of the Mysteries on emerging Christianity. Its detailed references and up-to-date bibliography will make this book indispensable for any scholar interested in the Mysteries and ancient religion, but also for those scholars who work on initiation or esoteric rituals, which were often inspired by the ancient Mysteries.

This book fills a gap in the study of mystery cults in Graeco-Roman Antiquity. Focusing on the visual language surrounding these cults, it aims to understand

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how images depict mysteries  
in different cults:

Dionysus, Mithras, Mother of  
the Gods, and Isiac cults.

The contributions to this  
book offer a broad vision of  
the relationships that were  
established between Greek  
Philosophy and the Mystery  
Cults. The authors centre  
their attention on such  
thinkers as Plato,  
Aristotle, and the Stoic and  
the Neoplatonist  
philosophers, who used - and  
in some cases criticised -  
doctrinal elements from  
Mystery Cults, adapting them  
to their own thinking. Thus,  
the volume provides a new  
approach to some of the most

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renowned Greek philosophers, highlighting the influence that Mystery Cults, such as Orphism, Dionysianism, or the Eleusinian rites, had on the formation of fundamental aspects of their thinking. Given its interdisciplinary character, this book will appeal to a broad academic readership interested in the origin of Hellenic thinking and culture. It will be especially useful for those eager for a deeper approach to two fundamental domains that attract the attention of many Antiquity scholars: Greek philosophy and religion.

The relative sophistication

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of the three major 'Oriental cults' of the Roman Empire, combining unfamiliar myth with distinctive ritual, enabled them, like Early Christianity, to offer a properly ethical salvation in the Weberian sense.

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