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## Mining, Metallurgy and the Meaning of Life

By Roger Swarder

Sophia Perennis et Universalis, United States, 2008. Paperback. Book Condition: New. American ed.. 229 x 155 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.Of all the crafts and professions other than the priesthood, none has been more closely connected with the religious traditions of Western peoples than mining and metallurgy. Not so long ago our ancestors would have found it incredible that people could not see the connections between mining, metallurgy, and the sacred, just as we now find it incredible that they could. What was a commonplace to the European mind for millennia has for us become a matter of the deepest obscurity. This is a matter of more than historical interest. It goes to the heart of how we think about work, about religion, and about the relations between people and nature. For our ancestors most forms of work were spiritual paths, disciplines that shaped those who engaged in them as powerfully as the ritual of church or temple. In many crafts and professions the stages by which the learner was inducted were initiations into substantial understandings of the spirit and of spiritual practice. The early chapters of this book consider how the smith...


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