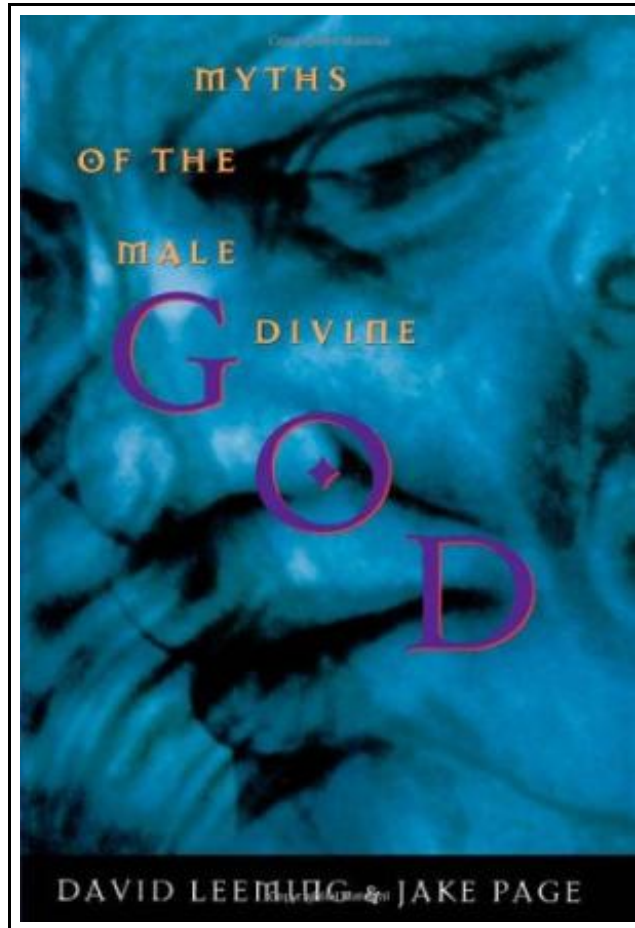


God: Myths of the Male Divine



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Reviews

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(Arnold Nienow)

GOD: MYTHS OF THE MALE DIVINE



Oxford University Press. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Hardcover. 208 pages. Dimensions: 8.9in. x 6.1in. x 0.8in. He has been a trickster, a shaman, a divine child; he has been a sacrificial victim, a consort of the earth goddess, a warrior, a sky king; and the creator, a distant and impersonal immensity. He is the male divine, seen in the many gods of myth, and his life story is told here in this graceful and illuminating account by David Leeming and Jake Page. Illustrating their points with materials ranging from the prehistoric cave paintings to the mystic Jewish Kabbalah, from the ancient Indian Vedas to tales of the North American Indians and other myths from around the world, Leeming and Page reveal the changing mask of the male divine. We see how that divinity emerged in some areas from cults involving animal masters (as in the Bear Man of the Cherokee Indians), sorcerers, and shamans who embarked on spirit journeys. God sometimes appeared as the trickster--as Loki of the Norse people, Legba of Africa's Yoruba, Raven and Coyote of North America, and Krishna of India--both creative and bedeviling. With the Neolithic age came the rise of agriculture and animal husbandry, of settlements and specialization in the roles of males and females--and a more sophisticated body of myths and rituals. Here the Mother Goddess was dominant, and the male God became her consort, ultimately dying in order that nature might be renewed. The authors illustrate this new stage in the male divine with tales of the Egyptian Osiris, the Canaanite Baal, and Wiyot of California's Luiseno Indians, among others. They describe the rise of a male sky God as the equal to, the true mate, of Goddess, who was still associated with Earth. In the Iron Age, the sky God became more aggressive,...



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