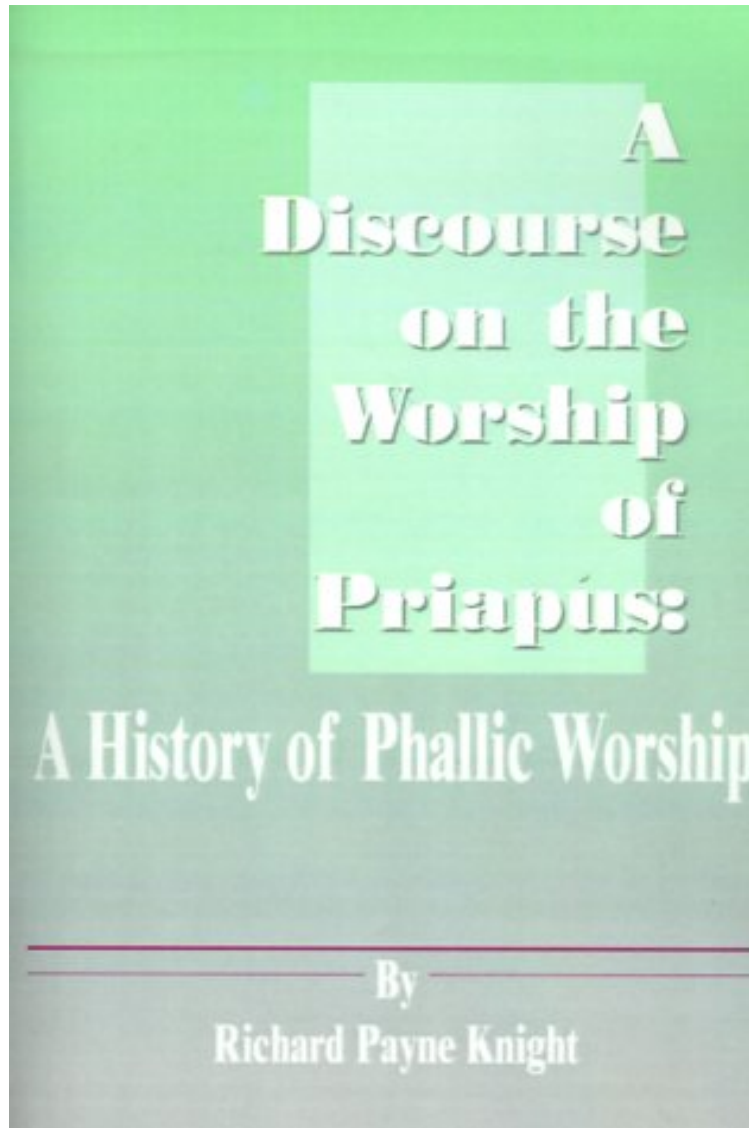


(Free pdf) A Discourse on the Worship of Priapus: A History of Phallic Worship

A Discourse on the Worship of Priapus: A History of Phallic Worship

Richard Payne Knight

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Richard Payne Knight : A Discourse on the Worship of Priapus: A History of Phallic Worship before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Discourse on the Worship of Priapus: A History of Phallic Worship:

6 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Excellent resource material...By Jason CooperTogether with Thomas Wrights, Worship of the Generative Organs in Medaevil Western Europe, an almost complete picture is drawn

displaying how much embedded religion can endure despite duress. I believe it is from this model, and that of Alexander Hislop, that Joseph Campbell built the foundations of his prolific career. The importance of symbols in ancient culture was absolute. To an illiterate populace, or one without written language for that matter, symbols of worship were a unifying commonality (as well, a method of control by those who interpreted those symbols) as much as language and media are to cultures today. The glaring question remains though. How could the widespread practice of one religion with exact means of worship occur considering the current stance of historians and anthropologists? If one were to weigh the evidence with the scales of scientific reasoning the balance would surely tip in favour of the opposition to the modern understanding of cultural derivation. Read it. Enjoy it. See its relevancy today. 3 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Great Book, but more of a primary source for its time than a good secondary source on ancient times. By Customer It never fails to mystify me that people will take a very old work of quasi-scholarship by an amateur and decide that it puts all later, more professional scholarship on it's head, simply because it tells them something they like. Put this book in the context of its creation and it's a fascinating view into late 18th/early 19th century views of the past, religion, the evolution of man, etc. Otherwise, your entire argument rests on the dubious notion that some person just happened to know something, some group of facts that no one else did or has since, and so they are speaking "truth" and all the many others, trained, practiced, and informed to a level unimagined by the amateur are somehow just deluded. Let's not forget the enormous amount of archaeological and linguistic data we have accumulated in the past 200 years, or the development of better methodologies for understanding one's own biases. And by the way, Joseph Campbell's career, if you will, had its genesis in Jung and a lot of reading in Sanskrit texts, not 18th and 19th century armchair social science. 6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A classic work. By A Customer A complete study of the practice of sexual superstition in ancient times and during the middle ages. A classic work.

"A Discourse on the Worship of Priapus" contains an area of human experience that has long remained forbidden territory: sexual symbolism. Of all the rites which belonged to ancient polytheism, none were more furiously inveighed against by the zealous propagators of the Christian faith than the obscene ceremonies performed in the worship of Priapus, the god of procreation. Even the form itself, under which the god was represented, appeared to them a mockery of all piety and devotion. Richard Knight hoped to discover the meaning of the widespread practice of phallic worship in the ancient world, and what relationship this might have to the theology of the ancients. He commenced with no theories, but was content to follow the facts wherever they might lead. Knight discovered that the forms and ceremonies of a religion are not always to be understood in their direct and obvious sense, but are to be considered as symbolic representations of some hidden meaning, which may be extremely wise and just. Such is the case with the rites and symbolic representation now under consideration, nothing of which could be more monstrous and indecent if considered in their plain and obvious meaning, but which will be found to be a very natural symbol of a very natural and philosophical system of religion if considered according to their original use and intention.