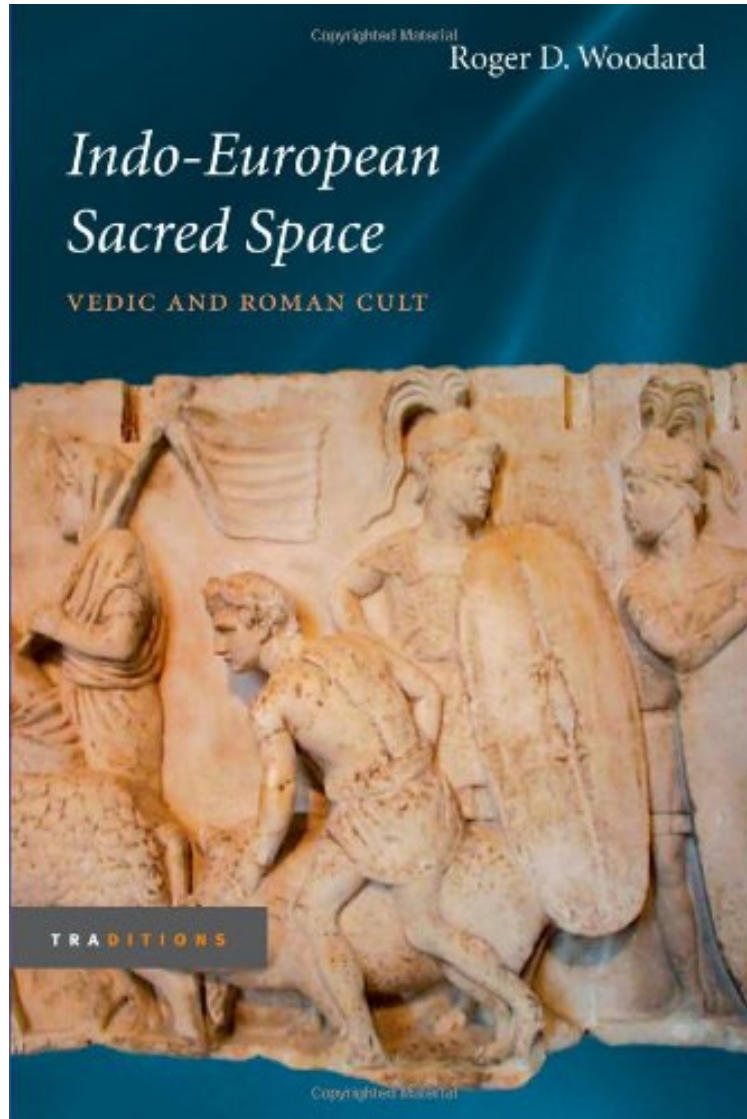


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Indo-European Sacred Space: Vedic and Roman Cult (Traditions)

Roger D. Woodard

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Roger D. Woodard : Indo-European Sacred Space: Vedic and Roman Cult (Traditions) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Indo-European Sacred Space: Vedic and Roman Cult (Traditions):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A must readBy Ra's al GhulA must read for those interested in all things Indo-European.2 of 6 people found the following review helpful. like pulling teethBy L. LutgensI bought this book because I was intrigued by its basic topic: sacred space in ancient Roman religion and Vedic practice. Sadly, this book is so scholarly that it's virtually unreadable. I'm slogging through because there are so many interesting tidbits on

Roman religion, but it's like pulling teeth. Woodard constantly writes an interesting paragraph and then rather than go on, he refers the reader to another chapter and another paragraph. There is interesting material in this book about the Ambarvalia and the Arval Brothers and also gods such as Terminus, but it takes self-discipline to get to it. Oh, and so far not much mention of goddesses except occasionally when men feature in their religious rites. To sum up, this book is disappointing, but I still intend to wade through to the end.³ of 3 people found the following review helpful. Excellent work on Sacred Space By Daniel The value goes beyond Roman, and is applicable to Germanic and Celtic scholars as well. I thoroughly enjoyed his defense of Dumézil. Further, I enjoyed his clarification on the comparative method; something that devotees of Joseph Campbell should take note of.

In *Indo-European Sacred Space*, Roger D. Woodard provides a careful examination of the sacred spaces of ancient Rome, finding them remarkably consistent with older Indo-European religious practices, as described in the Vedas of ancient India. Employing and expanding on the fundamental methods of Emile Benveniste, as well as Georges Dumézil's tripartite analysis of Proto-Indo-European society, Woodard clarifies not only the spatial dynamics of the archaic Roman cult but, stemming from that, an unexpected clarification of several obscure issues in the study of Roman religion. Looking closely at the organization of Roman religious activity, especially as regards sacrifices, festivals, and the hierarchy of priests, Woodard sheds new light on issues, including the presence of the god Terminus in Jupiter's Capitoline temple, the nature of the Roman *suovetaurilia*, the Ambarvalia and its relationship to the rites of the *Fratres Arvales*, and the identification of the Sabine god *Semo Sancus*. Perhaps most significantly, this work also presents a novel and persuasive resolution to the long-standing problem of agrarian Mars. Roger Woodard is Andrew V. V. University of Buffalo (The State University of New York). Among his many books are *Greek Writing from Knossos to Homer* and *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the World's Ancient Languages*, a volume in the *Traditions* series, edited by Gregory Nagy.