

The Treasures Of Darkness A History Of Mesopotamian Religion

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darkness divides and enlivens opinion some are afraid of the dark or at least prefer to avoid it and there are many who dislike what it appears to stand for others are drawn to this strange domain delighting in its uncertainties lured by all the associations of folklore and legend by the call of the mysterious and of the unknown the history of our attitudes toward darkness toward what we cannot quite make out in all its physical and metaphorical manifestations challenges the very notion of a world that we can fully comprehend in this book nina edwards explores darkness as both a physical feature and cultural image through themes of sight blindness consciousness dreams fear of the dark night blindness and the in between states of dusk or fog twilight and dawn those points or periods of obscurity and clarification taking us across the ages from the dungeons of gothic novels to the concrete bunkers of nordic noir tv shows edwards interrogates the full sweep of humanity's attempts to harness and suppress the dark first through our ability to control fire and later illuminate the world with electricity she explores how the idea of darkness pervades art literature religion and our everyday language ultimately edwards reveals how darkness whether a shifting concept or palpable physical presence has fed our imaginations

no one can plausibly deny that the religious development of the peoples of canaan and indeed of all the ancient world around the eastern mediterranean to the indus river were affected by the cultural and religious developments in mesopotamia the centre of the region and a fertile region second to none known in the world on a par with the Nile around which another major civilization arose this is a text of history of mesopotamia in its own right by the time history gets back this far the lines become very blurred rather like parallel lines intersecting on the horizon literature religion archaeology sociology psychology all of these disciplines become intertwined in jacobson's text as he looks at Sumerian society the book is organized with an introduction then according to time divisions of fourth third and second millennia then concludes with an epilogue into the first millennium during

which the bible as we know it and most ancient history such as is commonly known occurred came to be amazon com

the devil satan lucifer mephistopheles throughout history the prince of darkness the western world s most powerful symbol of evil has taken many names and shapes jeffrey burton russell here chronicles the remarkable story of the devil from antiquity to the present while recounting how past generations have personified evil he deepens our understanding of the ways in which people have dealt with the enduring problem of radical evil after a compelling essay on the nature of evil russell uncovers the origins of the concept of the devil in various early cultures and then traces its evolution in western thought from the time of the ancient hebrews through the first centuries of the christian era next he turns to the medieval view of the devil focusing on images found in folklore scholastic thought art literature mysticism and witchcraft finally he follows the devil into our own era where he draws on examples from theology philosophy art literature and popular culture to describe the great changes in this traditional notion of evil brought about by the intellectual and cultural developments of modern times is the devil an outmoded superstition as most educated people today believe or do the horrors of the twentieth century and the specter of nuclear war make all too clear the continuing need for some vital symbol of radical evil a single volume distillation of russell s epic tetralogy on the nature and personification of evil from ancient times to the present published by cornell university press between 1977 and 1986 the prince of darkness invites readers to confront these and other critical questions as they explore the past faces of that figure who has been called the second most famous personage in christianity

from vicious beginnings a civilization is born

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