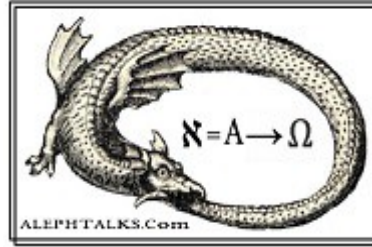


Mysticism: Where Science, Art and Religion Meet

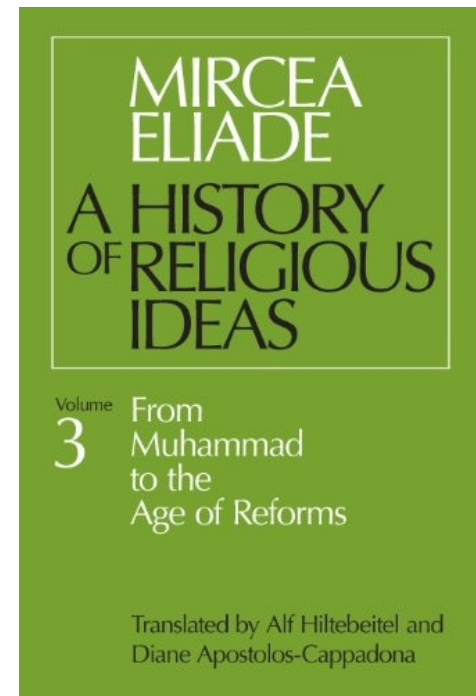
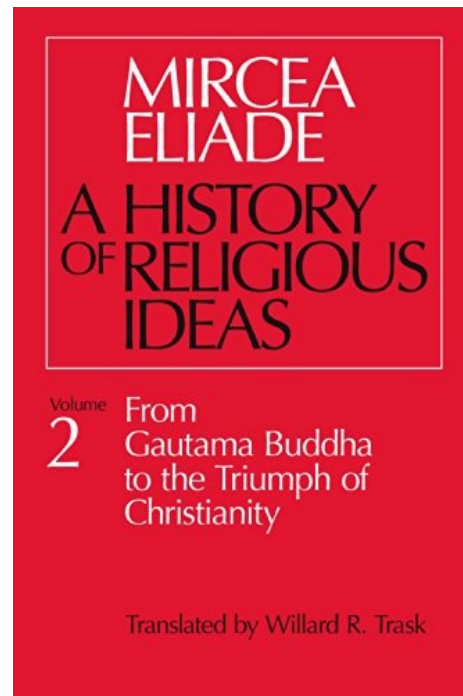
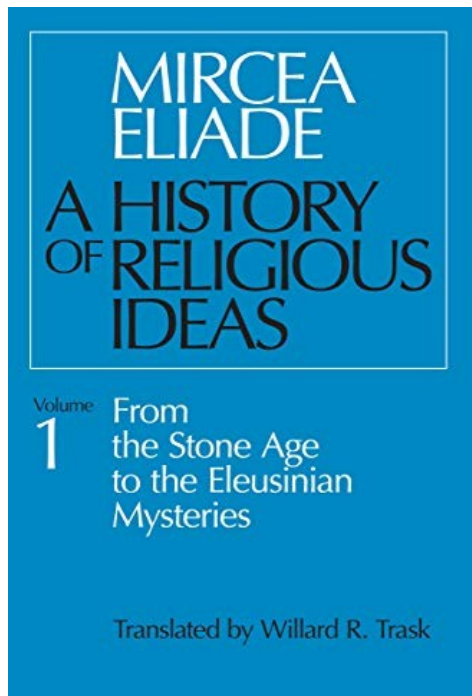


Subject Four Mysticism East and West From Stone Age to The Eleusinian Mysteries ©AlephTalks 2021 5 January 2022



Information Sources

- Wikipedia



Outline

- In the Beginning: Magico-Religious Behavior of the Paleanthropians
- The Longest Revolution: The Discovery of Agriculture—Mesolithic and Neolithic
- The Mesopotamian Religions
- Egypt
- Megaliths, Temples, Ceremonial Centers: Occident, Mediterranean, Indus Valley
- The Religions of the Hittites and the Canaanites

Outline Continued

- When Israel was a Child
- Indo Europeans: Vedic Gods and Religion
- India Before Gautama Buddha
- Zeus and the Greek Religion
- The Eleusinian Mysteries
- Zarathustra and the Iranian Religion
- The Religion of Israel in the Era of Kings and Prophets
- Dionysus or Bliss Recovered

In the Beginning: Magico-Religious Behavior of the Paleanthropians

- Tools to make tools. The “domestication” of fire
- The “opaqueness” of prehistoric documents.
- Symbolic meanings of burials.
- The controversy concerning deposits of bones.
- Rock paintings: Images or symbols?
- The presence of woman.
- Rites, thought, and imagination among the Paleolithic hunters

The Longest Revolution: The Discovery of Agriculture—Mesolithic and Neolithic

- A lost paradise
- Work, technology, and imaginary worlds
- The heritage of the Paleolithic hunters.
- The domestication of food plants: Origin myths.
- Woman and vegetation. Sacred space and periodical renewal of the world.
- Neolithic religions of the Near East.
- The spiritual edifice of the Neolithic
- Religious context of metallurgy: Mythology of the Iron Age.

The Mesopotamian Religions

- History begins at Sumer.
- Man before his gods.
- The first myth of the flood.
- Descent to the underworld: Inanna and Dumuzi.
- The Sumero-Akkadian synthesis.
- Creation of the world.
- Sacrality of the Mesopotamian sovereign
- Gilgamesh in quest of immortality.
- **Destiny and the gods.**

Egypt

- The unforgettable miracle: The “First Time.”
- Theogonies and cosmogonies.
- The responsibilities of an incarnate god.
- The pharaoh’s ascent to heaven.
- Osiris, the murdered god
- Syncope: Anarchy, despair, and “democratization” of the afterlife.
- Theology and politics of “solarization.”
- Akh-en-Aton, or the unsuccessful reform
- Final synthesis: The association Re-Osiris.

Megaliths, Temples, Ceremonial Centers: Occident, Mediterranean, Indus Valley

- Stone and banana.
- Ceremonial centers and megalithic constructions.
- The “enigma of the megaliths.”
- Ethnography and prehistory.
- The first cities of India.
- Protohistorical religious concepts and their parallels in Hinduism.
- Crete: Sacred caves, labyrinths, goddesses.
- Characteristic features of Minoan religion.
- Continuity of the pre-Hellenic religious structures.

The Religions of the Hittites and the Canaanites

- Anatolian symbiosis and Hittite syncretism.
- The “god who disappears.”
- Conquering the Dragon.
- Kumarbi and sovereignty.
- Conflicts between divine generations.
- A Canaanite pantheon: Ugarit.
- Baal conquers sovereignty and the Dragon.
- The palace of Baal
- Baal confronts Mot: Death and return to life.
- Canaanite religious vision.

When Israel Was a Child

- The first two chapters of Genesis.
- Paradise lost. Cain and Abel.
- Before and after the flood.
- The religion of the patriarchs.
- Abraham, “Father of the Faith.”
- Moses and the departure from Egypt.
- “I Am Who I Am.”
- Religion under the judges: The first phase of syncretism.

Indo-Europeans Vedic Gods and Religion

- Protohistory of the Indo-Europeans.
 - The first pantheon and the common religious vocabulary.
 - The Indo-European tripartite ideology.
 - The Āryans in India.
 - Varuṇa, primordial divinity: Devas and Asuras.
 - Varuṇa, universal king and magician: ṛta and māyā.
 - Serpents and gods. Mitra, Aryaman, Aditi
 - Indra, champion and demiurge.
 - Agni, chaplain of the gods: Sacrificial fire, light, and intelligence.
 - The god Soma and the drink of “non-death.”
 - Two Great Gods in the Vedic period: Rudra-Siva and Viṣṇu
- 1/5/22 From Stone Age to Eleusinian Mysteries

India before Gautama Buddha: From the Cosmic Sacrifice to the Supreme Identity Ātman-Brahman

- Morphology of the Vedic rituals
- The supreme sacrifices: aśvamedha and puruṣamedha.
- Initiatory structure of rituals: Initiation (dīkṣā), royal consecration (rājasūya).
- Cosmogonies and metaphysics.
- The doctrine of sacrifice in the Brāhmaṇas.

India before Gautama Buddha: From the Cosmic Sacrifice to the Supreme Identity Ātman-Brahman (continued)

- Eschatology: Identification with Prajāpati through sacrifice.
- Tapas: Technique and dialectic of austerities.
- Ascetics and ecstasies: Muni, vrātya.
- The Upanishads and the quest of the ṛṣis: How can deliverance from the “fruits” of one’s own acts be obtained?
- The identity ātman-Brahman and the experience of “inner light.”
- The two modalities of the Brahman and the mystery of the ātman captive in matter.

Zeus and the Greek Religion

- Theogony and struggles between divine generations.
- Triumph and sovereignty of Zeus.
- The myth of the first races: Prometheus, Pandora.
- The consequences of the primordial sacrifice.
- Man and destiny: The meaning of the “joy of life.”

The Olympians and the Heroes

- The fallen great god and the smith-magician: Poseidon and Hephaestus.
- Apollo: Contradictions reconciled.
- Oracles and purification.
- From “vision” to knowledge.
- Hermes, “the companion of man.”
- The goddesses. I: Hera, Artemis
- The goddesses. II: Athena, Aphrodite.
- The heroes.

The Eleusinian Mysteries

- The myth: Persephone in Hades
- The initiations: Public ceremonies and secret rituals.
- Can the Mysteries be known?
- “Secrets” and “Mysteries.”

Zarathustra and the Iranian Religion

- The enigmas.
- The life of Zarathustra: History and myth.
- Shamanic ecstasy?
- The revelation of Ahura Mazdā: Man is free to choose good or evil.
- “Transfiguration” of the world.

Zarathustra and the Iranian Religion (continued)

- The religion of the Achaemenids.
- The Iranian king and the New Year festival.
- The problem of the Magi. The Scythians.
- New aspects of Mazdaism: The cult of Haoma.
- Exaltation of the god Mithra.
- Ahura Mazdā and the eschatological sacrifice.
- The soul's journey after death.
- The resurrection of the body.

The Religion of Israel in the Era of the Kings and Prophets.

- Kingship and the monarchy: The apogee of syncretism.
- Yahweh and the creature.
- Job, the just man tried.
- The time of the prophets.
- Amos the shepherd. Hosea the ill-loved.
- Isaiah: “A remnant of Israel” will return.
- The promise made to Jeremiah
- The fall of Jerusalem. The mission of Ezekiel.
- Religious valorization of the “terror of history.”

Dionysus or Bliss Recovered

- Epiphanies and occultations of a “twice-born” god.
- The archaism of some public festivals.
- Euripides and Dionysiac orgiasm.
- When the Greeks rediscover the presence of the God.