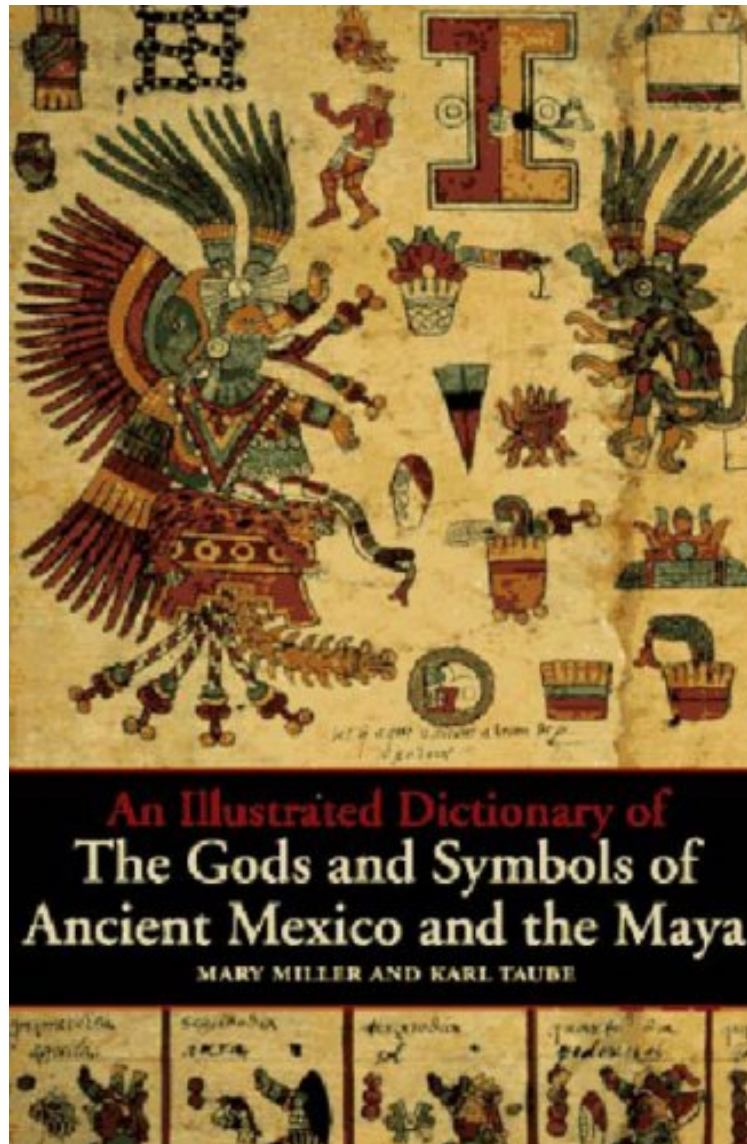


(Download ebook) An Illustrated Dictionary of the Gods and Symbols of Ancient Mexico and the Maya

An Illustrated Dictionary of the Gods and Symbols of Ancient Mexico and the Maya

Mary Ellen Miller, Karl Taube
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Mary Ellen Miller, Karl Taube : An Illustrated Dictionary of the Gods and Symbols of Ancient Mexico and the Maya before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised An Illustrated Dictionary of the Gods and Symbols of Ancient Mexico and the Maya:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The depth of detail, and the occasional mysteries that turn up, are fascinatingBy James KenneyAs a kid, I used to love paging through the dictionary, stopping here and there to read the

definition of an interesting word. You can do the same with this book, but it's a lot easier to find words you don't know. The depth of detail, and the occasional mysteries that turn up, are fascinating. You can't help but learn about ancient cultures of Mexico through reading this wonderful dictionary. Here's an illustration of what I mean, from the definition of calendar (which was only 260 days long!) concerning Venus: "In both Mexican and Maya records, Venus was recorded to appear for 236 days as the morning star, then to disappear for 90 days during Superior Conjunction, reappear as the evening star for 250 days, then briefly vanish into Inferior Conjunction before reappearing as the morning star. For reasons impossible to reconstruct, these calculations ignore the pattern of Venus that can be observed by the naked eye: roughly equal periods of 263 days for both morning and evening star, divided by disappearances of 50 and 8 days." WHY would such a people, who were very observant of the sky, describe the cycle of Venus so at odds with what anyone can see? This book is full of this type of information.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A thin book, just a little over 200 pages ... By Nico Vela
A thin book, just a little over 200 pages. However, it is packed with information on the various deities of Aztec and Mayan Religion.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Great place to start
By John M. Hooper
I just received this book a couple of days ago, so this is an early review. This "dictionary" is more like an encyclopedia and is an excellent and unique primer on Mesoamerican deities and symbology. I am not aware of any other similarly accessible books available for a popular or non-academic market. Overall, this is a very good book and a useful tool for beginning your research into Mesoamerican religion. I give it four stars instead of five because I would have liked the book to be stratified by culture area (e.g. a Central Mexico section, a Maya Section, etc.). As it stands now, deities, symbols, and concepts from across Mesoamerica are simply organized alphabetically.

The myths and beliefs of the great pre-Columbian civilizations of Mesoamerica have baffled and fascinated outsiders ever since the Spanish Conquest. Yet, until now, no single-volume introduction has existed to act as a guide to this labyrinthine symbolic world. *The Gods and Symbols of Ancient Mexico and the Maya* is the first-ever English-language dictionary of Mesoamerican mythology and religion. Nearly 300 entries, from accession to yoke, describe the main gods and symbols of the Olmecs, Zapotecs, Maya, Teotihuacanos, Mixtecs, Toltecs, and Aztecs. Topics range from jaguar and jester gods to reptile eye and rubber, from creation accounts and sacred places to ritual practices such as bloodletting, confession, dance, and pilgrimage. In addition, two introductory essays provide succinct accounts of Mesoamerican history and religion, while a substantial bibliographical survey directs the reader to original sources and recent discussions. Dictionary entries are illustrated with photographs and specially commissioned line drawings. Mary Miller and Karl Taube draw on their research in the fast-changing field of Maya studies, and on the latest Mexican discoveries, to produce an authoritative work that will serve as a standard reference for students, scholars, and travelers. Photographs and illustrations throughout

Well-written and comprehensive...the book has not left my desk. -- Latin American Antiquity
About the Author
Mary Ellen Miller is the Vincent Scully Professor of the History of Art at Yale University. Her previous books include *The Art of Mesoamerica*.
Karl Taube is Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of California at Riverside. Conversant in Yucatec Mayan, Professor Taube has conducted archaeological and ethnographic research in Yucatán, and is a leading scholar of Mesoamerican writing and iconography.