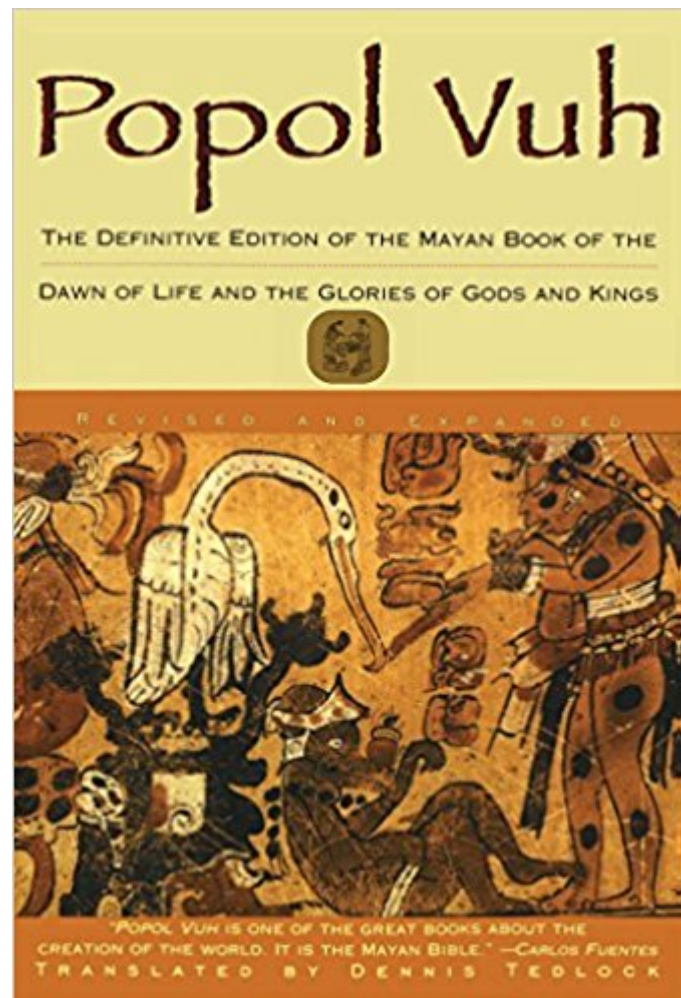


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Popol Vuh: The Definitive Edition Of The Mayan Book Of The Dawn Of Life And The Glories Of Gods And Kings



Synopsis

Popol Vuh, the Quiché Mayan book of creation, is not only the most important text in the native languages of the Americas, it is also an extraordinary document of the human imagination. It begins with the deeds of Mayan gods in the darkness of a primeval sea and ends with the radiant splendor of the Mayan lords who founded the Quiché kingdom in the Guatemalan highlands. Originally written in Mayan hieroglyphs, it was transcribed into the Roman alphabet in the sixteenth century. This new edition of Dennis Tedlock's unabridged, widely praised translation includes new notes and commentary, newly translated passages, newly deciphered hieroglyphs, and over forty new illustrations.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Carlos Fuentes Popol Vuh is one of the great books about the creation of the world. It is the Mayan Bible. Los Angeles Times The volume is required reading for everyone seriously interested in Native American literature or in Meso-American cultural history. Its publication is a major event. William Arrowsmith, Robert W. Woodruff Professor of Classics and Comparative Literature, Emory University Dennis Tedlock's splendid version...[is] the work of a brilliant anthropologist who is also a true "poet of performance," himself trained by a native Quiché master.... Superb notes and glossary... An event of quite exceptional importance. Vine Deloria, Jr. author of Custer Died for Your Sins Tedlock's translation is sensitive, precise, and illuminating. It will greatly help the Popol Vuh achieve its rightful place as a masterpiece of religious writing, familiar to all those who seek a

message that transcends ordinary concerns.

Text: English (translation)

AP World History Review: The Popol Vuh is the Mayan account of creation. This book is eloquently written, and has a similar style to Greek Mythology. The similarity is shown by both cultures focusing on ingenious and original characters which their stories are centered around. These Mayan stories are less known; however, therefore the stories can be difficult to follow, due to of the old phrasing and words. This book was not written through for modern day humans to be able to follow as we would a novel. The Popol Vuh serves the purpose of documenting Mayan oral culture specifically for those of Mayan descent. The authors completed their purpose in documenting Mayan beliefs well. The Popol Vuh was divided into five sections to better tell each portion of the creation story. The characters are constant through each section, and they all magnify the gods in different ways. There are also underlying themes within all the stories. Many of these themes deal with greed, sin, or justice. These are comparable with themes in the bible, and many of these stories also relate to biblical ideas. This correlation shows how the Popol Vuh possibly is the Mayan holy book, and the foundation for Mayan society.

The Maya Indians of southern Mexico, Guatemala, Belize and Honduras built one of the New World's great civilizations from the years 500B.C. to 900A.D. and made many exciting contributions to world culture (chocolate, anyone?). This book is a translation of their greatest religious document, the Popul Vuh, by a scholar named Dennis Tedlock, who has serious chops as a Maya historian and translator. The Popul Vuh discusses the world before there was Man, when the gods got together and created everything, and how they went about doing that. If you aren't familiar with Mayan mythology, this is a treat. The language of this book follows Mayan patterns, which are really different from, say, American patterns, and you know right away you're dealing with a markedly different world view, which is fun from time to time for a sense of perspective. There are stories about heroes who were born before Men were created (they were children of the gods) and how those heroes defeated monsters and prepared the world for the coming of people. Then the book goes on to the first humans who were created by the gods and what their lives were like, and from there on to famous leaders among a sub-tribe of Maya called the Quiche, who live in the mountains of Guatemala. The book thus covers thousands of years of mythical and legendary history and introduces you to a number of memorable characters. It reads like a set of adventure stories, and if

you want to know how at least one tribe of accomplished Indians made sense of their world, this is a great introduction to the subject.

Accurate and poetic translation of the only surviving "Bible" of the Maya Indians. Really wonderful when read aloud and the illustrations (taken from other scrolls, stela and pottery) take the place of the now missing illustrations that would have adorned an original codex. Cannot be recommended too highly.

Popol Vuh, the Mayan Bible. I bought this book for class and thought it was a nice choice. The book is very well translated into English, and very descriptive of life and belief for the Mayans. It tells of the imperfect Gods and their path to the creation of humans and what the humans did afterwards. The Popol Vuh sort of helped me acknowledge other cultures and beliefs. Before I thought that only the big belief systems mattered at all like the Bible, the Torah, the Quran, etc. After reading, I want to know about other, smaller cultures and their beliefs.

This book is great for students and leisurely readers alike. It gives you a great understanding on the Mayan culture. The book was in great condition and came on time!

Good book.

good

A great story told by a great author. I really like this story, and the whole lot of details explained in this book really help you to delve into the Popol Vuh. A great buy and a MUST if you're interested in knowing more about the mysterious Maya.

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