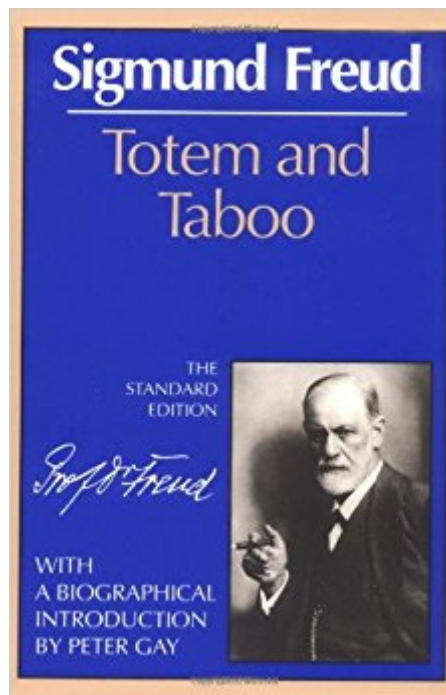




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Totem And Taboo (The Standard Edition) (Complete Psychological Works Of Sigmund Freud)



Synopsis

Totem and Taboo (1913), first published as a series of four articles between 1912 and 1913, is among Freud's most dazzling speculative texts. Adducing evidence from "primitive" tribes, neurotic women, child patients traversing the oedipal phase, and speculations by Charles Darwin, James G. Frazer, and other modern scholars, Freud attempts to trap the moment that civilized life began. It stands as his most imaginative venture into the psychoanalysis of culture.

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Customer Reviews

Text: English (translation) Original Language: German

Totem and Taboo (1913), first published as a series of four articles between 1912 and 1913, is among Freud's most dazzling speculative texts. Adducing evidence from 'primitive' tribes, neurotic women, child patients traversing the Oedipal phase, and speculations by Charles Darwin, James G. Frazer, and other modern scholars, Freud attempts to trap the moment that civilized life began. It stands as his most imaginative venture into the psychoanalysis of culture.

So he talks about totemism and taboo while saying straight out that he has no idea where they actually come from, so this is simply his theories based off other researchers at the time. He says totemism is basically a clan of people worshiping an animal and thinking they get traits from it etc. but doesn't go into much detail as to the psychological reasons why the primitive people did this.

He goes in to talk about how taboos were made around the totem animal because the primal people thought that they were protected by said animal, and didn't want harm to come to whatever this animal was as they were afraid if so it would mean trouble for themselves. He goes in to explain how there were rules on who you could have sex with based on totem, and various customs regarding mom/stepson daughter/dad etc relationships while one or the other were in courting (of a non family member) which usually involved avoiding of one another in hopes that they will not preform incestual acts. There is a ton of stuff to think about here so I would suggest it to read, however it does create more questions then the ones it answers.

Totem and Taboo was originally published (from 1912-1913) in the journal Imago as four essays. These essays are "The Horror of Incest", "Taboo and Emotional Ambivalence", "Animism, Magic and the Omnipotence of Thoughts", and "The Return of Totemism in Childhood". I am neither a psychologist nor a trained anthropologist. I came to this book after reading Frazer's The Golden Bough-- a friend of my suggested that it made a good counterpoint, both in terms of period and subject. As a lay person, I found it clear and interesting to read. I have enough familiarity with Freud's basic theses that I did not find that I was lost. I found the last essay, "The Return of Totemism in Childhood" to be the strongest. At least for me, it was the strongest in that it synthesized the ideas from the earlier essays and drew the broadest ideas and conclusions. The Peter Gay biographical introduction was a nice refresher, particularly for someone who is not a Freud scholar.

everything that had to be said and written is right here...a MUST

Even psychologig, a brillant and surprisingly clear anthropolologic picture of human being. Universal. Full of hard data that contextualizes deep day to day common questions.

Can't read anything! the letters are so small and half of the pages are blank, the publisher did a terrible job

Very interesting and it also offers some very interesting insights to christianity but what's most important is that Freud explains though a bit fragmented how the psychology of the masses and the individual are like two vessels pouring in to each other. I highly recomend this book!

A classic.

This book is amazing. It informs you about the culture of the primeval man and how things has changed from the very beginning to today. Freud of course is a great thinker, philosopher, psychologist and writer. His extremely admirable language is marvelous. I suggest this book for everybody who is curious about how people abandoned incest relationships and why is it a taboo now.

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