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978-1-107-04733-4 - Religion at Work in a Neolithic Society: Vital Matters

Edited by Ian Hodder

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RELIGION AT WORK IN A NEOLITHIC SOCIETY

This book tackles the topic of religion, a broad subject exciting renewed interest across the social and historical sciences. The volume is tightly focused on the early farming village of Çatalhöyük, which has generated much interest both within and outside archaeology, especially for its contributions to the understanding of early religion. The chapters discuss contemporary themes such as materiality, animism, object vitality, and material dimensions of spirituality while exploring broad evolutionary changes in the ways in which religion has influenced society. The volume results from a unique collaboration between an archaeological team and a range of specialists in ritual and religion.

Ian Hodder is Dunlevie Family Professor of Anthropology at Stanford University. He previously taught at Leeds University and Cambridge University. His main large-scale excavation projects have been at Haddenham in the east of England and at Çatalhöyük in Turkey, where he has worked since 1993. He has been awarded the Oscar Montelius Medal by the Swedish Society of Antiquaries and the Huxley Memorial Medal by the Royal Anthropological Institute, has been a Guggenheim Fellow, and has Honorary Doctorates from Bristol and Leiden Universities. His main books include *Spatial Analysis in Archaeology* (Cambridge, 1976), *Symbols in Action* (Cambridge, 1982), *Reading the Past* (Cambridge, 1986), *The Domestication of Europe* (1990), *The Archaeological Process* (1999), *The Leopard's Tale: Revealing the Mysteries of Çatalhöyük* (2006), and *Entangled: An Archaeology of the Relationships between Humans and Things* (2012).

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IAN HODDER

Stanford University



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This volume is dedicated to the memory of Alejandro Garcia-Rivera.

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Preface

This volume results from a seminar funded by the John Templeton Foundation that took place at the Neolithic tell site of Çatalhöyük in Turkey over three years (2009–2011). The processes of engagement that led to the volume are described in Chapter 1. At the end of 2010, one of our original group, Alejandro Garcia-Rivera (Professor of Systematic Theology, Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University, California), passed away at fifty-nine. This volume is dedicated to his memory.

Alejandro was mischievous, warm, brilliant, and creative, a wonderful mix of reverence and irreverence. He insisted that he and I should edit a “Journal of Irresponsible Archaeology,” and at the same time he came up with a whole series of wonderful ideas about Çatalhöyük that he had only begun to explore. With the permission of his wife, Kathryn, I have included as a postscript a note he sent me after his visit to the site in 2009. Preliminary as the text is, the writing is, on the one hand, remarkably prescient – picking up already the themes that have become dominant in this volume, such as vitality and the symbolic importance of flesh – and, on the other hand, his text shows what a long way we as a project have still to go. Alejandro was already well ahead of us and he raised issues and ideas, such as devotion and the dramatic horizon, that I hope others may be stimulated to pursue.

I am deeply grateful to the John Templeton Foundation for its long-term support of the Çatalhöyük research initiatives, and in particular to Paul Wason. I am also deeply indebted to all the many members of the Çatalhöyük team who have, with great forbearance and goodwill over



The project participants and friends at Çatalhöyük in July 2011. Clockwise starting at top left: Paul Wason, Ofer Bar-Yosef, Ian Hodder, Shahina Farid, Harvey Whitehouse, J. Wentzel van Huyssteen, F. LeRon Shults, Barbara Mills, Mary Weismantel, Nigel Goring-Morris, Victor Buchli, Peter Pels, Veysel Apaydin, Anna Belfer-Cohen, Kimberley Patton, Rosemary Beck, Rob Swigart, Anke Kameron, Stewart Guthrie, Çakan Tamdık, Serap Özdöl, Sadrettin Dural, and Banu Aydinogluğil.

the years, welcomed and engaged with the Templeton scholars. And finally I wish to thank the Templeton project members for making this such a pleasant and rewarding experience.

The John Templeton Foundation provided a grant in support of the project on which this book is based.