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978-1-108-01751-0 - Primitive Culture: Researches into the Development of
Mythology, Philosophy, Religion, Art, and Custom, Volume 2

Edward Burnett Tylor

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Anthropology

The first use of the word 'anthropology' in English was recorded in 1593, but its modern use to indicate the study and science of humanity became current in the late nineteenth century. At that time a separate discipline had begun to evolve from many component strands (including history, archaeology, linguistics, biology and anatomy), and the study of so-called 'primitive' peoples was given impetus not only by the reports of individual explorers but also by the need of colonial powers to define and classify the unfamiliar populations which they governed. From the ethnographic writings of early explorers to the 1898 Cambridge expedition to the Torres Straits, often regarded as the first truly 'anthropological' field research, these books provide eye-witness information on often vanished peoples and ways of life, as well as evidence for the development of a new scientific discipline.

Primitive Culture

Edward Burnett Tylor (1832–1917) was an English anthropologist who is widely considered the founder of anthropology as a scientific discipline. He was the first Professor of Anthropology at the University of Oxford from 1896 to 1909, and developed a broad definition of culture which is still used by scholars. First published in 1871, this classic work explains Tylor's idea of cultural evolution in relation to anthropology, a social theory which states that human cultures invariably change over time to become more complex. Unlike his contemporaries, Tylor did not link biological evolution to cultural evolution, asserting that all human minds are the same irrespective of a society's state of evolution. His book was extremely influential in popularising the study of anthropology and establishing cultural evolution as the main theoretical framework followed by anthropologists in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Volume 2 contains Tylor's interpretation of animism in society.

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Primitive Culture

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VOLUME 2

EDWARD BURNETT TYLOR



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RESEARCHES INTO THE DEVELOPMENT OF MYTHOLOGY, PHILOSOPHY,
RELIGION, ART, AND CUSTOM.

BY

EDWARD B. TYLOR,

AUTHOR OF "RESEARCHES INTO THE EARLY HISTORY OF MANKIND," &c.

"Ce n'est pas dans les possibilités, c'est dans l'homme même qu'il faut étudier l'homme :
il ne s'agit pas d'imaginer ce qu'il auroit pu ou dû faire, mais de regarder ce qu'il fait."

—DE BROSSES.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

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