



The Secret of the Totem: Religion and Society from McLennan to Freud

Robert Alun Jones

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

The Secret of the Totem: Religion and Society from McLennan to Freud

Robert Alun Jones

The Secret of the Totem: Religion and Society from McLennan to Freud Robert Alun Jones

Though it is now discredited, totemism once captured the imagination of Sigmund Freud, Émile Durkheim, James Frazer, and other prominent Victorian thinkers. In this lively intellectual history, Robert Alun Jones considers the construction of a theory and the divergent ways religious scholars, anthropologists, psychoanalysts, and cultural theorists drew on totemism to explore and define primitive and modern societies' religious, cultural, and sexual norms. Combining innovative readings of individual scholars' work and a rich portrait of Victorian intellectual life, Jones brilliantly traces the rise and fall of a powerful idea.

First used to describe the belief systems of Native American tribes, totemism ultimately encompassed a range of characteristics. Its features included belief in a guardian spirit that assumed the form of a particular animal; a prohibition against marrying outside the clan combined with a powerful incest taboo; a sacrament in which members of the totemic clan slaughtered a representative of the totemic species; and the tracing of descent through the female rather than the male. These attributes struck a chord with the late Victorian mentality and its obsession with inappropriate sexual relations, evolutionary theory, and gender roles. Totemism represented a set of beliefs that, though utterly primitive and at a great evolutionary distance, reassured Victorians of their own more civilized values and practices.

Totemism's attraction to Victorian thinkers reflects the ways in which the social sciences construct their objects of study rather than discovering them. In discussing works such as Freud's *Totem and Taboo* or Frazer's *The Golden Bough*, Jones considers how theorists used the vocabulary of totemism to suit their intellectual interests and goals. Ultimately, anthropologists such as A. A. Goldenweiser, Franz Boas, and Claude Lévi-Strauss argued that totemism was more a reflection of the concerns of Victorian theorists than of the actual practices and beliefs of "primitive" societies, and by the late twentieth century totemism seemed to have disappeared altogether.

 [Download The Secret of the Totem: Religion and Society from ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Secret of the Totem: Religion and Society fr ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Secret of the Totem: Religion and Society from McLennan to Freud Robert Alun Jones

From reader reviews:

Tamiko Harmon:

In this 21st one hundred year, people become competitive in each way. By being competitive currently, people have to do something to make them survive, being in the middle of the crowded place and notice by means of surrounding. One thing that at times many people have underestimated it for a while is reading. Yep, by reading a publication your ability to survive enhance then having chance to endure than other is high. For yourself who want to start reading any book, we give you this kind of The Secret of the Totem: Religion and Society from McLennan to Freud book as starter and daily reading reserve. Why, because this book is more than just a book.

Barbara Duty:

Spent a free the perfect time to be fun activity to complete! A lot of people spent their leisure time with their family, or their own friends. Usually they accomplishing activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic in the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your free time/ holiday? Could be reading a book is usually option to fill your no cost time/ holiday. The first thing that you ask may be what kinds of e-book that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the publication untitled The Secret of the Totem: Religion and Society from McLennan to Freud can be very good book to read. May be it could be best activity to you.

Margo Soares:

The Secret of the Totem: Religion and Society from McLennan to Freud can be one of your nice books that are good idea. We all recommend that straight away because this reserve has good vocabulary that can increase your knowledge in vocabulary, easy to understand, bit entertaining however delivering the information. The copy writer giving his/her effort that will put every word into satisfaction arrangement in writing The Secret of the Totem: Religion and Society from McLennan to Freud nevertheless doesn't forget the main point, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource info that maybe you can be one of it. This great information may drawn you into fresh stage of crucial considering.

Bryant Davidson:

A lot of publication has printed but it takes a different approach. You can get it by web on social media. You can choose the most effective book for you, science, comedy, novel, or whatever through searching from it. It is referred to as of book The Secret of the Totem: Religion and Society from McLennan to Freud. You can include your knowledge by it. Without causing the printed book, it can add your knowledge and make anyone happier to read. It is most essential that, you must aware about e-book. It can bring you from one destination for a other place.

**Download and Read Online The Secret of the Totem: Religion and Society from McLennan to Freud Robert Alun Jones
#C2IQFLZP0MB**

Read The Secret of the Totem: Religion and Society from McLennan to Freud by Robert Alun Jones for online ebook

The Secret of the Totem: Religion and Society from McLennan to Freud by Robert Alun Jones Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Secret of the Totem: Religion and Society from McLennan to Freud by Robert Alun Jones books to read online.

Online The Secret of the Totem: Religion and Society from McLennan to Freud by Robert Alun Jones ebook PDF download

The Secret of the Totem: Religion and Society from McLennan to Freud by Robert Alun Jones Doc

The Secret of the Totem: Religion and Society from McLennan to Freud by Robert Alun Jones Mobipocket

The Secret of the Totem: Religion and Society from McLennan to Freud by Robert Alun Jones EPub